



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

January 2025

The new year has begun... and with every new year comes a time for reflection – of our life, our vocations, our hopes and dreams, and our wishes for a bright and happy future. I'm not one for making resolutions – promises to self to make some changes that I know will not be accomplished. Perhaps it's time that I should.

Recently I was given a book by a friend to read. When I picked up the book to glance at it, the book opened to this page – so I read it. The author wrote a section he called “Ark Wisdom.” I believe the Holy Spirit wanted me to read it and God wanted me to hear it, and Jesus – well – he was with me as I read aloud the words printed on this page.

It was about the life lessons we could all learn from Noah's ark. There were 11 lessons listed but I narrowed it down to just a few, to those lessons I choose to make central in my life over the next year.

- When Noah built the ark, it wasn't raining.
- When you are stressed, float awhile.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



I could go on about what these three lessons mean to me, and what changes I may or may not make in my life to accomplish all three – but I won't. Why? Because they are deeply personal; they will change over time given what is happening; and well, my ark is just that – my ark. We each have our ark and within the confines of that ark are the life choices we make – individually and as church.

Let me just say this:

Being church is not easy, nor should it be. There is nothing that should, or could, change the mission to which we have been called.

Our faith is not easy, nor should it be. Faith calls us to be ever present in our life, to know we are not alone, to reassure us mistakes are made and forgiven, to always call upon Christ Jesus through God our Father in those times when the darkness has overcome.

Life is not easy, nor should it be. It presents us with multiple choices and decisions that must be made. These are personal and made within the context of our own lives. The ownership belongs to self and no one else. But we should not make them alone... God waits for the discussion, to hear and listen, and then we can receive.

It's a new year, and time to make "the choice" to continue in accepting God's presence in our lives, in walking with Jesus and owning those times when the darkness is too much, to let Jesus carry us when it is too much, and to give faith permission to help us in making those decisions and choices.

I begin this year praying for all of you that life will give you what we all want – a happy and bright future filled with good health, gratitude, love, and rainbows sent from God.



God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm & Wednesday: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Update on Pastor's Schedule

Sandy and I will be travelling to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and will be gone from **January 7th through January 11th**. Please direct all calls and inquiries to Kathy in the office. Thank you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pastor Traveling: January 7th – 11th

Newsletter Articles Due: January 17th

Annual Meeting: January 19th

Confirmation Class: January 26th



Men's Breakfast – December



We will meet at the **Big Boy on Lansing Road in Charlotte** for breakfast and fellowship on **Thursday, January 9th at 8:30am.** ... Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

Let's welcome the new year in by gathering on **Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00pm.** Let's plan on meeting at the **Eaton Place in downtown Charlotte.**



Peace Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 19th

Pregnancy Center

The pregnancy center is collecting **size 4, 5, and 6 diapers** for the month of January. Please place your donation in the basket under their bulletin board.

Confirmation



Class will be held on **Sunday, January 26th** beginning at **6:00pm**.
Thanks.

Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, January 15th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay



Thank you from your Pastor...

What a great, meaningful Christmas season... and there are many thanks sent to you. To Bryan, Scott & Barb, the Altar team, the Peace Choir, the Worship & Music Team, the Growing in Faith team, to Jim & Louise, Lorene & Joe... to all of you... my thanks and appreciation. It truly takes a "village" or in this case, a church family, to make Christmas was it was for all of us. On a personal note, thank you for the bountiful Christmas gift, for all the cards and well-wishes, and many texts. It is a privilege and honor to be your pastor.

Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of **January** we are collecting *soup*. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of their bulletin board for your donations. Thank you for your support.



When buying ink from Staples for you or your family please consider using Peace's phone number when checking out. Your purchase of ink can apply to Peace's Rewards program. The office uses the rewards dollars for supplies for our church.

Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull for Ronald McDonald House!



Pull tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing

They turn these tabs in to cash to help support the House. The House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical treatment.

This is a simple way to help support the House, just pull those tabs off the cans and **place them in the container at church** and Dar will see that they get over to Ronald McDonald House.

Peace “Help the Homeless” Ministry...

Last month the Community in Action team decided to begin a new ministry here at Peace. We are calling it “*Help the Homeless.*” Several months ago, Pastor Neil participated in a discussion/forum about the number of homeless encampments in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties – two of them here in Charlotte. As winter is here, the need increases. Together with ELCA-NWLM Synod Capital Conference congregations, the conference is launching a ministry aimed to assist the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) program that is currently being served through the Housing Services of Mid-Michigan.



The Peace “Help the Homeless” Ministry is going on now in January and will run through February. Items of great need include:

- Adult socks
- Hats
- Gloves
- Handwarmers
- Blankets
- Hand-held flashlights (pocket size)
- Batteries for the flashlights
- Trash bags – 13 and 30 gallon size

A display and collection box will be placed across from Pastor’s office.

Let’s make this our “winter priority” ministry so those facing uncertainty in their housing, and finding themselves homeless, may be protected from the elements during these winter months.

Worship Ministry January 2025

Date	Sunday 1/5	Sunday 1/12	Christmas Eve 1/19	Sunday 1/26
Altar Guild	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Rosalie Bazzett	Beverly Leffler and Bev DeFord	Bev Cahill	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Beverly Cahill	Dian Leckrone	Sharron Pridgeon	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Michael Leiby	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve Cook Joe Crigier	Steve Cook Joe Crigier	Steve Cook Joe Crigier
Worship Assistant	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cather Levi	Cathey Levi

Church Calendar – January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm AA Meeting	2 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00 pm AA Meeting	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	6	7 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	8 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 1:00 pm IT/Personnel Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	9 8:30 am Men’s Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6:00 pm AA Meeting	11
12 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	13	14 10:00 am Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon @ Faye’s Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	16 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Articles Due for the February Tidings 6:00 pm AA Meeting	18 10:30 am Women’s Bible Study
19 ANNUAL MEETING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	20	21 6:00 pm Men’s Night Out	22 6:00 pm AA Meeting	23	24 6:00 pm AA Meeting	25
26 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 6:00-7:30 pm Confirmation Class	27	28	29 6:00 pm AA Meeting	30	31 6:00 pm AA Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Pastor’s Office Hours Tuesday 10:00-2:00 Wednesday 10:00-1:00 </div>

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon
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*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your
neighbor as yourself.*



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