Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

To Try

July 2026

https://www.livinglutheran.org/theology-beliefs/to-try/

In the story of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Spirit doesn't knock at the door. Instead, there is a "sound like a rush of a violent wind." It doesn't whip around aimless but fills "the entire house" where Jesus' disciples had gathered. Then, "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." At that point, each of them "were filled with the Holy Spirit." This meant that they "began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:2-4).

This last clause causes me pause. I find myself making a mental list of all the things for which I do not have ability: because of several early surgeries in my life, I cannot and do not play contact sports. My manual dexterity is compromised. I'm weaker on one side of my body. I have a lazy left eye, especially when I'm tired. My physical balance is in a steady state of tilt. A relatively recent stroke has rendered me more tired. The list of things I'm ill-suited for feels deep and wide.

When people learn that I'm a writer, some will sometimes say they could never do that. "I'm not creative," they might say. Or they tell a story about an unfortunate experience with some other creative expression—a failed art project in school, an unkind comment by

a teacher on an essay they once wrote, an inability to sing on key, a mishap in home repair, fixing a flat tire or even a bungled attempt at restoring a broken relationship. Over the umbrella of creativity, we pour out our experiences that have not gone as we had hoped. We judge ourselves unable to be creative in any sense of the word. We attempt to extinguish the embers of the Spirit's flame.

"I just can't do it," I said to a friend recently when I couldn't get my car to start. They came to me, opened the hood of my car, and suggested some possible ways forward. I marveled at how they diagnosed what might be wrong. They connected me with someone who towed my car to a local garage. The mechanic said they could look at my car and promised to fix what was wrong. They ran tests, realized what was wrong, and fixed it. I couldn't have done any of what my friend, the tow truck driver and the mechanic did to take care of my car. The only thing I could do was to ask for help. The only thing I could do was try.
In the waters of baptism, we are named and claimed as children of God. Each one of us is "sealed by the Holy Spirit forever." We are each given unique gifts. Or, as the author of Acts describes it, "as the Spirit gave them ability."

John's Gospel proclaims, "From [God's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (1:16). Grace is not a superpower we possess. It is a gift we are given. Made in the image and likeness of God, we are bearers of God's creativity in the fullness of our lives. The question is not whether we are creative or not. Rather, we are invited to consider the ways God has uniquely gifted us for creative expressions that bless and beautify the world God so loves.

We are invited to try—not to earn God's love, but because our lives already bear the blessing and beauty of God's Spirit.

I once turned in an assignment in which I wrote about a difficult time in my life. I apologized for what I had written. I was convinced that what I had made was not art, but a mess. I even said as much to my professor: "I'm sorry for this essay. It's not any good. I probably shouldn't call myself a writer because of it." The professor smiled, thinking I was being funny. Once he read the essay, though, he found me before the next class.
"This is *not* a mess," he told me. "It's much better than you think." I started to argue with him. He stopped me. "What you've written is an essay," he said. I knew this, but I didn't realize that the word *essay* comes from the French word *essayer*, meaning *to try*. What I'd done was to try writing about my life experience, using the gifts I had been given to invite others to reflect on their own lives.

This is creativity: to try, by God's grace, to use the gifts we've been given. It doesn't necessarily even need to be good. A mess is a creative expression all its own.

In the conversation we had together, standing outside the classroom I was about to enter, my professor also opened wide for me a door into understanding the creative process. “In creativity, nothing is lost,” he said.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Paul Lutter is an ELCA pastor, writer, father and husband. He lives in Plymouth, Minn.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Outdoor Worship Service: July 12th (Page 5)

Articles Due for August Tidings: July 23rd

Noisy Bucket Offering: July 26th

Last Day for School Supply Donations: August 2nd (Page 6)

Youth Pool Party at the Moore’s: August 15th (Page 5)

Peace Garage Sale: September 10th - 12th (Page 7)

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee recently participated in a second round of training with Bishop Julie and Pastor Scott to discuss what the interview process will look like moving forward. We are now beginning the next step in the call process, which includes preparing for candidate interviews recommended by the synod. The committee has begun developing interview questions so we are ready when potential candidates are received. We appreciate your continued prayers and support as we move through this important process in the life of our congregation.

Outdoor Worship Service!

We will have an outdoor worship service on **July 12th**! We invite you to dress very casually and please bring your own chair

Men's Breakfast

We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on… **Thursday, July 9th at 8:30am.**
Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

We will meet for dinner and fellowship on **Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 pm**

Ladies Luncheon

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

Poolside Fun in August!

All kids, parents and Sunday School teachers are invited to the Moore's home for swimming and hot dogs on **Saturday, August 15th** from **3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. Come at the time that works for you. We'll serve food around 4:30; bring a friend for twice the fun! Drinks, hot dogs and paper products will be provided; just bring your swim suit, towel and a dish to pass — which could be as easy as potato chips:).

Just let Susie or Harry Moore know you are coming, so we'll have an idea of how many hot dogs to grill. Hope to see you on August 15th!

The Pregnancy Center

The center has a specific need for size 4 and 5 diapers. Please place your donation in the basket in the Gathering Area.

Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of April, we are collecting **Cereal**. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of the Helping Hands Ministry bulletin board to place donations. Thank you for your support!

We are gearing up for our back-to-school supply ministry for the year. This ministry provides backpacks and basic supplies to children in need. With the help of teachers and school staff these filled backpacks get to students that might not have one without our help. We have set a goal of 105 filled backpacks that will be delivered to 3 Charlotte schools, Olivet and Potterville.

Items that are needed:

- Backpacks
- #2 pencils
- Skinny Crayola markers
- Glue sticks
- Pink erasers
- Pencil Boxes
- Spiral notebooks wide rule
- Pocket folders with prongs
- Crayola color pencils 12 ct

Mark your calendars:

- Collection of supplies **July 1 – August 2 (sales have already started)**
- Packing of backpacks **August 6 at 10:00 am**
- Blessing of backpacks **August 9**

If you are someone who doesn't like to shop , there will be a canister on the collection table for donations.

Thank you for your support in this much needed ministry

Community Action Team

WANTED: ITEMS FOR PEACE GARAGE SALE

When:

Thursday	**September 10th**
Friday	**September 11th**
Saturday	**September 12th**

Please NO clothing.

Donated items can be priced in advance if desired, but not necessary.
10% of the proceeds will be tithed.

See Karen Jorgensen or Lorene Crigier for questions.

We welcome anyone who is able to volunteer their time to help set up or help the days of the sale.

Thank you in advance for donations of items and/or time!!

CHURCH CLEANING SERVICE - UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that a new cleaning service has been hired and started the week of April 27th. **Her name is Jen** and she will be doing the basic cleaning of the church on a weekly basis. As we have done in the past, **we are looking for volunteers to pay for her services on a bi-weekly basis.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering area for you to use.

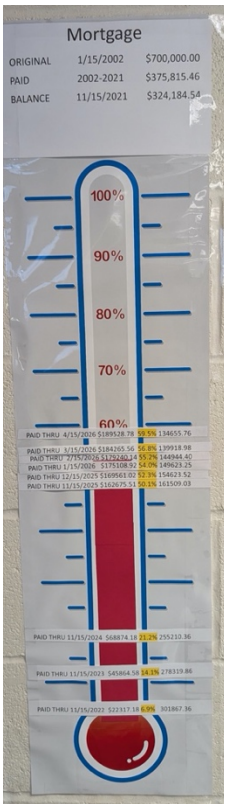
If you have any questions, please contact Joe Crigier of the Property Team.

Follow Peace Lutheran Now on Instagram!

Find and follow using this QR code or search @peacecharlottemi.

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.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS??



This thermometer is a visual look at the church mortgage. The original mortgage was in January of 2002 for the construction of the new sanctuary, pastor's office, narthex and bathrooms as an addition to the existing building. The mortgage was for $700,000. It took almost 20 years to pay the first half of the mortgage. In November of 2021 the remaining balance of $324,000 was refinanced for 15 years with a 5 year balloon payment due in November of 2026.

The balance as of April 2026 is $135,000. This huge reduction in the balance was accomplished by several large one-time payments on the principal along with some members of the congregation also making monthly or annual donations toward the principal. With the current vacancy of a pastor, it was decided to use some of the funds which would be used to pay a pastor to help reduce the balance even further. The mortgage will be reviewed with the bank in the second half of 2026 for any changes needed for the remaining 10 years on the mortgage. The more we can reduce the balance before this review the better position we will be in.

Serve God and Others in Worship

Each week it takes many of God's people working together to make worship happen-and there is a place for you! Join the ministry of worship by serving as an usher, reader, worship assistant or serve on the altar guild. You may want to be a Gathering Host. **Sign up sheets are located in the Gathering Area.** You are welcome to join any of the teams at Peace. The teams are the Caring Team, Community in Action Team, Finance Team, Growing in Faith Team, Personnel/IT Team, Property Team and the Worship Team. Please contact the office if you are interested in this ministry.

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

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.

Property Team Update

During the summer, the Property Team will be working on several projects and will be looking to you for help. Some of the projects will be filling the cracks in the parking lot, trimming bushes and painting the wood exterior of the church.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to mow the lawn this spring and summer. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. The mowing takes about 1 ½ to 2 hours. If you are interested but want more information contact Steve Clark, Terry Jorgensen, Harry Moore or Joe Crigier.

I know this sounds like a lot, but as the old saying goes "Many hands makes light work." This is your church and how it looks reflects on us. So, please help us make the best impression.

Thank you in advance for YOUR help in Sprucing-up our church!

VISITATION MINISTRY

The Caring Team is asking for help with a Visitation Ministry in reaching out to our members. We need volunteers to visit people in the congregation that have difficulty in getting to church on a regular basis. Visitors would go out in teams of two and would be making one visit per month. Each month you would be visiting a different member, and your visiting partner might change. You will receive a schedule of who and what week to visit and who is your visiting partner. Your responsibility is to get with your visiting partner and contacting the member to set up a visitation time. Then to go and enjoy learning more about one of our members.

After making a visit you will realize that you are the one that have been blessed. This is a ministry where you receive more than you give.

Please contact Char Ehlers if you are interested in this ministry.

Worship Ministry
July 2026

Date	Sunday 7/5	Sunday 7/12	Sunday 7/19	Sunday 7/26
Altar Guild	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore
Audio/ Visual	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	The Bradley's	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**
Flowers	Beverly Leffler	The Jorgensen's	Dian Leckrone	Linda Meyer
Lector	Sara Jobson	Kristin Shannon	Susie Moore	Carissa Hueter
Pastor	Pastor John Burrow	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor John Burrow	Pastor Dave Augenstein
Ushers	The Bradley's	The Augenstein's	The Augenstein's	The Augenstein's
Worship Assistant	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby

Church Calendar – July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	2	3	4 Happy 4th Of July
5 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering Pastor John Burrow	6	7 10:00 am Worship and Music Team Meeting	8 6:00 pm AA Meeting	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	10	11
12 9:30 am **Outdoor Worship Service** 10:30 am Gathering Pastor Dave Augenstein	13	14 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15 11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon@Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering Pastor John Burrow	20	21 1:00 pm SOP Team Meeting 6:30 pm Communications Team Meeting 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting	22 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	23 Articles Due for the July Tidings	24	25
26 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering Pastor Dave Augenstein	27	28 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	29 6:00 pm AA Meeting	30	31	

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon gore.kristin88@gmail.com

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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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