



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

March 2025

Right now, as I compose this letter, we are experiencing a warming trend in our weather. The sun is out, the breeze is cool, and the snow is melting. Mother nature is giving us a false sense of security in our weather patterns. We live in Michigan where anything can, and usually does, happen. Enjoy, my friends while it lasts.

Much like our weather, the church also has trends and Peace is no different. As we look to the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 5th at St. John's Episcopal Church beginning at 7:00pm. I'd like to see all of you there!) our trend seems to be heading toward a decreased attendance on Sunday mornings. All of us have things to do, people to see, and just want to "stay at home." Even your Pastor has those days! But we cannot afford to allow it to happen.



I have had a lot of time to reflect on patterns, comments, suggestions, and yes, even negative comments about the Sunday morning worship service. Your Worship and Music team does a phenomenal job of making changes, etc. to keep our worship services more meaningful overall. I can count on one hand in the last four years how many individuals have commented on my messages, good or bad. We have a dedicated music team who gather each week to practice and prepare for Sunday worship. We participate in the meal every week. We gather as family to give thanks for the blessings of our lives, yet there is something missing. Our "tree of life" is shedding its leaves!

Much of today's discussion about church trends today indicate the missing component is people, and not programs and ministries. Experts agree

churches are missing the blending of faith, trust, commitment, and spirituality, and the fulfillment of baptismal covenants. There's no getting away from it; church attendance across the board is on a dramatic decline. Peace is no different. Just this month we filed our annual report which shows our "confirmed" membership in our congregation is 119, and the average attendance in 2024 for in-person worship attendance is a mere 47. That's a difference of 72 members who aren't attending worship in our sanctuary. And I will state once again: *All of us have things to do, people to see, and just want to "stay at home."* *Even your Pastor has those days! But we cannot afford to allow it to happen.*

Personally, I wish I had an answer, but I don't. What I know is our door is always open; and the gate swings freely as we are ready to welcome all. Maybe some of you have ideas and suggestions and comments as to how we can turn this trend around within our congregation. If you do, please let one of our council members know, or feel free to speak with me. I would love to hear from you.



Until then, I leave you with this...

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs."
Psalm 100:1-2*

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Schedule for March 2025

As of today, my schedule "in-office" will be: **Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm**. Of course, I will be attending team meetings, and I am available throughout the week. Please call me or text me at 419-303-7718. Thanks.

Pastor's Schedule ...

I will be out of state from March 11th through April 2nd (as of today.). I will be taking Sandy to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for testing, procedures, and finally a clinical trial. Please keep Sandy in your prayers. I will be in contact with Kathy Cook during the trip so please contact her with pastoral concerns. I am still available by phone or text or email.

Also, in case you have not heard, we have sold our home in Charlotte – the amount of time and effort to keep up the house and outside work became more than I wanted at this stage of my life. We have moved to Holt. The new address is: 1625 Red Willow Drive, Holt, Michigan 48842.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Ash Wednesday: March 5th

Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study Start: March 13th

Pastor Out of Town: March 11th – April 2nd

Newsletter Articles Due: March 24th

Confirmation Class: March 9th



Men's Breakfast – March



NOTE: CHANGE IN LOCATION

We will meet at **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on...
Thursday, March 13th at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

Let's gather on Tuesday, **March 25th at 6:00pm**. Let's plan on meeting at the **Applebee's in Charlotte**.



Confirmation



The final class will be held on **Sunday, April 27th** beginning at **4:00pm through 8:00pm**. Pastor Neil will buy dinner for parents and youth. If you haven't already, please remember the bible verse for Confirmation Sunday and the picture. Thanks.

Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, March 19th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay



Helping Hands Ministry

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

Pregnancy Center

The pregnancy center is collecting **size 4 diapers and size 3t and 4t pull ups** for the month of March. Please place your donation in the basket under their bulletin board.



Wednesday, **March 5th** is **Ash Wednesday** @ St. John's Episcopal

Thursdays March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 @ Peace

5:30 pm **Soup Supper/Bible study** and discussion @ Peace
from the Life Guide Bible Studies "Questions God Asks"

Sunday, **April 13**, 9:30 am **Palm Sunday** Worship Service @Peace

Thursday, **April 17**, 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday** @ Peace with Holden Evening Prayer service

Friday, **April 18**, 7:00 pm **Good Friday** Service @ St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday, **April 20**, 8:00 am **Easter breakfast** @ Peace
9:30 am **Easter Sunday Worship** Service @ Peace

Please note that the midweek services are going to be on **Thursdays** again this year instead of the usual Wednesday night. Look for signup sheets to volunteer to bring soup and/or bread for Thursday nights.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

For over two decades, Jim and Louise Bradley have been keeping our church looking great. Every week they took out the trash, swept the floors, wiped off tables, cleaned the bathrooms and so many more tasks. So, now they would like to step back from this responsibility. The Property Team, and the whole church, would like to thank them for their many years of service!!!

There is no easy way to fill the shoes of Jim and Louise, but the Property Team is proposing that we all chip in and help clean the church. So, to that end, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Gathering area for you to sign to clean the church for the week. Along with the sign-up sheet will be a check list of what needs to be done and when, and the approximate time it should take to do the work. There will also be a list of supplies and where to find them. The Property Team will be happy to be with you on your first time. Please prayerfully consider helping with this endeavor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joe Crigier, Jim or Louise.

Again, we want to express our gratitude to Jim and Louise for their exceptional service to this church for these last 20+ years!!



A Huge Thank you to you at Peace Lutheran



Thank you to all who donated to Poinsettias for Hunger this past Christmas, 2024. With your donations we were able to provide the following to those in need through ELCA Good Gifts.

Three goats
Three shares of a cow,
Three Honey bee colonies
Three groups of chicks

Two Roosters
One piglet
Warm meals for 20 people

Know that your gift to this activity is GREATLY appreciated. Thank you!



Lenten Midweek Soup Supper and Bible Study



Lenten midweek soup suppers and Bible study will be on **Thursdays** again this year beginning on **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm**. There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area where you can sign up to bring soup or bread or dessert. We'd like one vegetarian soup and one non-vegetarian soup if possible. As always, coffee or tea will be provided. Any questions, ask Pastor Neil or anyone on the Worship team. Looking forward to our time together to enjoy fellowship and Bible study.

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.



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.

PEACE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE MANUAL

The Peace Standard Operating Manual (SOP) is located in the Church Office. The Peace Constitution and Bylaws are first in the SOP. Followed by information on the responsibilities of the Pastor, Church Council, Treasurer, each Team, the office manager, and Treasurer.

Each month I will provide information on the procedures, starting with the Index.

Beverly Leffler, Chair
Personnel/IT Team

2025 OUTREACH EVENTS OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The following is a list of Outreach Projects and Events that Peace sponsors each year. These one-time projects have a time commitment of about 1-6 hours including meetings. The list is impressive and Peace is proud to hold these events, but members' time and contributions are essential to continue. **The Community Action Team is asking members to prayerfully consider helping with one or more of these events.** We thank you for supporting these projects and look forward to your continued participation in the future.

1. **BLESSING BAGS FOR HELPING HANDS:** Items are collected by the congregation, such as hair brush/combs, hand sanitizer, tooth brushes and toothpaste etc. and are given to Helping Hands to distribute to the homeless and needy. Contact Jim Bradley. This project is held as items are needed.
2. **HELP FOR THE HOMELESS:** In cooperation with ELCA-NWLM Synod Capital Conference, Peace is collecting hats, gloves, blankets, hand warmers, etc. during the months of January and February and again in May and June. The items will be given to Housing Services of Mid-Michigan for distribution.
3. **LOADS OF LOVE:** In cooperation with Quality Dairy, we will be offering free laundry, 3-4 times this year. Four to six volunteers are needed per event. Contact person Joe Crigier. First event is Feb. 15; 2nd event is June 21st; the third has not been scheduled at this time.
4. **PROJECT SUCCESS:** A collection of food items is organized to support students in the alternative education program at Charlotte High School when they are on breaks. Contact person Cathey Levi. Collections as needed.
5. **EARTH DAY:** Earth day will be celebrated this year on Sunday April 27th.
6. **COMPASSION SUNDAY:** A chance to financially support a child in need. To be held, Sunday May 4th. Contact person Barb Myckowiak.
7. **FAIR TRADE:** By purchasing Coffee, Chocolate and Olive oil from the display in the gathering area, we are supporting farmers in 3rd world countries to get a fair price for their products. Contact person Barb Myckowiak. This is a year round event.
8. **HELPING HANDS PANTRY:** Each month different items are collected and donated to Helping Hands. Check the bulletin board in the gathering area for the item for the month. Contact person Jim Bradley. Ongoing.

9. **CHURCH PICNIC:** A potluck picnic after service. Another chance to have fellowship. Contact ?. **Summer**
10. **BACKPACKS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN:** Collection of school supplies/backpacks for area students in need. Contact person Louise Bradley - July/August
11. **GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS:** A Loads of Love project to be scheduled for September or October. Contact person Joe Crigier
12. **CROP WALK:** Walk and/or sponsor a walker to raise funds for world hunger. Contact person Stacy Leiby. October 5th.
13. **TRICK OR TRUNK:** Halloween celebration with decorated stations in the church and candy distribution. Contact person Karen Jorgensen. October 31.
14. **THANKSGIVING DINNER:** Preparing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for anyone in the community at the Eaton Senior Center. Preparation times on Wednesday and dinner served on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27th. Contact person Amy Hoesli.
15. **COOKIE & CRAFT SALE:** Specialty cookies and baked items for sale along with some crafts. A percentage of the sales help a local charity. Contact persons Susie Moore & Bev DeFord. December 6th.
16. **CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** In an effort to support the homeless and needy in the community, Peace will be collecting items to donate to Siren Eaton Shelter. Contact person Louise Bradley. Collecting gifts after Thanksgiving until mid-December.

Members of the Community Action Team:

Jim & Louise Bradley, Joe & Lorene Crigier, Dian Leckrone, Cathey Levi, Barb Myckowiak,

Worship Ministry March 2025

Date	Sunday 3/2	Sunday 3/9	Sunday 3/16	Sunday 3/23	Sunday 3/30
Altar Guild	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	The Augenstein's	Volunteer Needed	The Cahill's
Flowers	Mike and Carissa Hueter	Dian Leckrone	The Augestein's	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Susie Moore	Kristin Shannon	Carissa Hueter	Susie Moore	Carissa Hueter
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Dave Augenstein
Ushers	The Bradley's	The Bradley's	The Bradley's	The Bradley's	The Bradley's
Worship Assistant	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak

Church Calendar – March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	3	4 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	5 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ St. John's 6:00 pm AA Meeting	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00 pm AA Meeting	8
9 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class	10	11 10:00 Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 6:00 pm AA Meeting	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Soup Supper and Lenten Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6:00 pm AA Meeting	15
16 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	17	18 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	19 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	20 5:30 pm Soup Supper and Lenten Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:00 pm AA Meeting	22
23 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	24 Articles Due for the April Tidings	25 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	26 6:00 pm AA Meeting	27 5:30 pm Soup Supper and Lenten Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 6:00 pm AA Meeting	29
30 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering	31	<p><i>Pastor Neil is out of town from 3/11/2025 to 4/2/2025. Please contact Kathy Cook with any emergencies/ Pastoral concerns.</i></p>				

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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Peace Lutheran Church**