



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

October 2024

I don't think it's any surprise that I love music – even though I can't sing, and I can't play an instrument. There's no specific genre of music I prefer, but in the last years I find myself listening to more and more of the contemporary Christian music. Oftentimes the lyrics speak to me in ways I really need to hear.

There's one song in particular: Even If performed by Mercy Me.
The chorus goes like this:

*I know you're able, I know you can
Save through the fire, with your mighty hand,
But even if you don't, my hope is you alone.*

And it's that last line that hits me every time. I struggle with the words, “*but even if you don't.*” I always want to rewrite that one phrase. (Check it out at the end of this letter.)

It's a safe assumption to openly admit that we all pray. Many have told me the times dedicated to your prayer life – every morning, every night, driving in the car, as you listen to music, as you enjoy God's creation in your daily lives, Sunday worship – we all pray. Yet we are uncomfortable in admitting when we think God is not listening, that our prayers often, in our own minds, go unanswered. But do they?

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 11, verse 24, Mark writes: “***So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.***” Believe, and it will be yours! But do we do this, do we believe in it?

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11, verses 9-10, Luke writes: “***So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for every who***

knocks, the door will be opened.” Ask, search, and knock – it sounds like prayer to me. It’s easy to ask for something; yet another thing to go looking for it or knocking on a door unaware of what is on the other side.

In Jeremiah, chapter 33, verse 3, the prophet writes: ***“Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”*** The great and hidden things we do not know... yet. Maybe it’s not that God doesn’t answer our prayers; maybe it’s simply the fact we are afraid of what the answer might be.

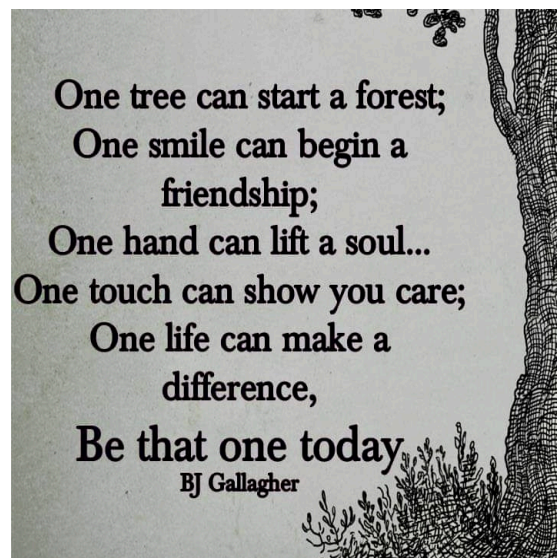
And finally, in 1st Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 16-18, it reads: ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*** Give thanks for all answers, for this is God’s will. On the spectrum from none to all, where do we place ourselves in giving thanks?

Based on these passages, and our faith in God, we trust that God is listening to us, and there is always an answer because prayer is never a ‘one-way street.’ So yes, I struggle with the last line of the chorus. I struggle with putting the blame on God when he has done what he promised. So if I were to rewrite it, perhaps the chorus would go something like this.

*I know you’re able, I know you can
Save through the fire, with your mighty hand,
But even if I can’t hear it, see it, feel it, my hope is always you alone.*

Why those words? Because we can’t or don’t always hear; we can’t or don’t always see; we can’t or don’t always feel his answers. Yet our prayers are always answered; perhaps not the way we want or like, but they are answered, just as God intends.

I’d like to see the day when we become comfortable in prayer, praying aloud for others to hear and pray along. It is true - prayer is a deeply personal connection and relationship with God and Christ Jesus; unique to you and God/Jesus, filled with trust, faith, and love. We can give examples of prayers, talk of our own prayer life, read prayers written by others but think about the impact it will on others to share your prayer as the situation calls for it, because it is a blessing to those who hear you, and a chance to share your faith with those around you. It is a chance to enter a time and space with God and one another.



The truth is that our hope, our trust, our faith is and always will be in God and Christ Jesus, and they to us, *Even If* we don't always recognize it.

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

CROP Walk: October 6th

Newsletter Articles Due: October 16th

Reformation Sunday: October 27th

Trick or Trunk: October 31st 6pm-8pm

Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, & Craft Show: November 8th & 9th



Men's Breakfast – October



NOTE the CHANGE IN LOCATION....

We will meet at the **Big Boy on Lansing Road in Charlotte** for breakfast and fellowship on **Thursday, October 10th at 8:30am.**

... Hope to see you there!



Ladies Luncheon
Wednesday, October 16
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

Men's Night Out

This month the men will meet at on **Tuesday, October 29th** beginning at **6:00pm**. We will meet at Eaton Place in downtown Charlotte. Let's get together again it's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

Our Fall study continues **Sunday mornings through November 10th**. We meet around **11:00am** in the big classroom. All are welcome to attend, even if you haven't signed up or attended before. Each week is a new topic, so please join us



Confirmation:

We are off for our final year together. **Next class will be on Sunday, October 27, 2024 beginning at 6:00pm.**



Volunteers Needed!

There are many opportunities available to host Fellowship, provide flowers for the altar, and usher during worship in the coming months. See the sign-up board in the gathering area for available dates!

Trick or Trunk!!

Thursday, October 31, 2023 from 6-8 pm.

We need many helpers for this fun event. Please see Karen Jorgensen to learn how you can volunteer and participate



Please sign up to help! It's a great community event!



Helping Hands Ministry

The Community Action Team is collecting donations to support Helping Hands, our local food pantry. For the month of **October, we are collecting Stove Top**. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of their bulletin board for your donations. Thank you for your support.



Our annual cookie walk/bake sale/craft show is less than 2 months away! The dates and times are:

Friday, November 8th 9 am to 2 pm
Saturday, November 9th 9 am to noon

In addition to the items we've had in the past, we have many new hand crafted items this year – many with a holiday theme!

We will need volunteers to provide cookies, mini pies, breads and cinnamon rolls, and all the wonderful handmade items we have had in the past. We will also need helpers to wait on clients and weigh the cookie boxes. **Sign up sheets for volunteers will be circulated in October.**

We plan to set up early in the week before the cookie walk; **watch for an announcement with the day and times.**

There will be at least 2 raffle items this year. When you buy a raffle ticket you put it in the tote for the item you'd like to win. The ticket donation will be: 1 ticket for \$5.; 5 tickets for \$20.

Proceeds from this event will be tithed to a local charity; the remaining money will go in our Capital Fund to be used for projects at Peace.

It's time for a lot of PEACE...

It is time... for PEACE! In this year, may we all come together in our prayer lives – as we pray for so many things in our lives -the good and the not so good. But let us add another prayer to our time with God – and ask him to bless our world with peace – throughout the world, in our country, in our state and communities, in our families and among our friends.

It is time for PEACE! It is time to put our differences aside and learn to live in harmony with one another; it's time to name society's injustices for what they are; it's time to relabel our political party affiliations, and agree that we are first and foremost, Americans.

It is time for PEACE! It is time for goodwill among all people; it is time for making God a priority in our lives and spend a part of our every day in his presence.

It is time... for PEACE! Let this be the focus of our prayer lives – and our time together.

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.

Did you know... from *The Lutheran Handbook*...

The Top 10 BIBLE MIRACLES and what they mean

1. CREATION

God created the universe and everything that is in it, and God continues to create and recreate without ceasing. God's first and on-going miracle was to reveal that the creation has a purpose.

2. The PASSOVER

The Israelites were enslaved by Pharaoh, a ruler who believed that people belonged to him, not to God. In the last of 10 plagues, God visited the houses of all the Egyptians to kill the first-born male in each one. God alone is Lord of the people, and no human can claim ultimate power over us.

3. The EXODUS

God's people were fleeing Egypt when Pharaoh dispatched his army to force them back into slavery. The army trapped the people with their backs to a sea, but God parted the water, and the people walked across to freedom while Pharaoh's minions were destroyed. God chose to free us from all forms of tyranny so we may use that freedom to serve God and each other.

4. MANNA

After the people crossed the sea to freedom, they complained that they were going to starve to death. They even asked to go back to Egypt. God sent manna, a form of bread, so the people lived. God cares for us even when we give up, pine for our slavery, and lose faith. God never abandons us.

5. The INCARNATION

The immortal and infinite God became a human being, choosing to be born of a woman. God loved us enough to become one of us in Jesus of Nazareth, forever bridging the divide that had separated us from God.

6. JESUS HEALED the Paralyzed Man

Some men brought a paralyzed friend to Jesus. Jesus said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5). This means that Jesus has the power to forgive our sins – and he does so as a free gift.

7. JESUS CALMED the STORM

Jesus was asleep in a boat with his disciples when a great storm came up and threatened to sink it. He said, “Peace! Be still!” (Mark 4:39). Then the storm immediately calmed. Jesus is Lord over even the powers of nature.

8. The RESURRECTION

Human beings executed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead on the third day. Through baptism, we share in Jesus’ death, so we will also share in eternal life with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ conquered death.

9. PENTECOST

Jesus ascended from the earth, but he did not leave the church powerless or alone. On the 50th day after the Jewish Passover (*Pentecost* means 50th), Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to create the church and take up residence among us. The Holy Spirit is present with us always.

10. The SECOND COMING

One day, Christ will come again and end all suffering. This means that the final result of the epic battle between good

Luther's Small Catechism **(a refresher course)**

Many have asked about reviewing Luther's Small Catechism – especially the information covered in our confirmation classes. Continuing with each month, we will review in our newsletters things our confirmation students are required to know and understand in and from Luther's catechism.

This month, we continue with the Confession. It is listed, along with Martin Luther's explanation – taken directly from the Small Catechism.

1. What is Confession?

Answer: Confession consists of two parts. One is that we confess our sins. The other is that we receive the absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God himself and by no means doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

Which sins is a person to confess?

Answer: Before God one is to acknowledge the guilt for all sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. However, before the pastor we are to confess only those sins of which we are aware and which trouble us

Which sins are these?

Answer: Here reflect on your place in life in light of the Ten Commandments: whether you are father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy; whether you have harmed anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted, or injured anything.

2. How to confess your sins and receive forgiveness?

Answer: Confession is an "office of the keys" belonging to all baptized persons, that is, anyone may confess and any believer may pronounce the word of forgiveness. A declaration of forgiveness is permanent and binding because it comes from Jesus Christ himself.

- a. Make a mental list of your offenses
- b. Locate a fellow Christian
When appropriate, confess your sins to another person.
- c. Resolve to confess of your own free will
Don't confess merely because someone else wants you to do it. Make your confession voluntary.
- d. Make your confession fearlessly.

Confess the sins that burden you, and then confess the sins of which you are not aware or can't remember.

e. Avoid making up sins.

More important than the facts and figures is a spirit of repentance in your heart.

f. Receive forgiveness as it is given, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

God forgives you fully. Make the sign of the cross to help you remember.

g. Resolve to live joyfully and penitently.

With absolution comes new life in the freedom of God's grace.

Worship Ministry October 2024

Date	Sunday 10/6	Sunday 10/13	Sunday 10/20	Sunday 10/27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>
Acolyte	Payton Jobson	Carson Clark	Logan Levi	Volunteer Needed
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed	Rosalie Bazzett Kathy Cook	Bill and Bev Cahill	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Volunteer Needed	Rosalie Bazzett	Beverly Leffler	Steve and Kathy Cook
Lector	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Worship Assistant	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel

Church Calendar – October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	2 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	3 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00 pm AA Meeting	5
6 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 2:00 pm CROP Walk	7	8 10:00 am Worship and Music Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	9 1:00 am Personnel/IT Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 6:00 pm AA Meeting	12
13 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	14	15 7:00 pm G/F/S Team Meeting	16 Articles for the Newsletter due 11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon 6:00 pm AA Meeting	17 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00 pm AA Meeting	19 10:30 am Women's Bible
20 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	21	22 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	23 6:00 pm AA Meeting	24 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 6:00 pm AA Meeting	26
27 REFORMATION Sunday 9:30 am Worship w/ Noisy Offering 10:30 am Gathering 11:00 am Bible Study Confirmation Class	28	29 1:30 pm Growing in Faith Meeting	30	31 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Trick or Trunk	<p><u>Pastor Neil's Office Hours</u> Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm</p>	

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

Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

830 N. Cochran Ave.
Charlotte, MI 48813

517-543-1503

peacelutheran.charlotte@gmail.com

www.PeaceLutheranCharlotteMi.org

*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.*



**Scan this QR code for online giving to
Peace Lutheran Church**