



# The Tidings of God's Peace

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Ready, set, go.... Summer is almost here. Thought to be a time of rest and relaxation, it's often seen as the opposite as we travel more, do more, see family and friends more – there's just more we want to get done during the beautiful weather.

Ready, set, go... these next months are exactly what is needed after the dark, the cold, and lately, the rainy seasons of the year. It's the time at church when some things slow down, but not for Peace. Not this year anyway. Recently our Council approved the "Planning Proposal" of our Strategic Planning Committee (a copy of this proposal appears in this edition of *The Tidings*). Action was taken, and now the planning begins. This summer we will be looking at several of the priority statements and goals with intent on implementing some of them in the fall. And as we all know and understand, it doesn't just happen. There is work to be done, and I am hoping that you will respond with an enthusiastic "what can I do to help."

June/July 2022



Ready, set, go... we will walk together these new few months: walk in God's way; walk in light and not darkness; walk by faith and walk in truth. And we will do all of this together for we are Peace Lutheran Church, God's people whose focus is centered on our mission statement.

Take a look at the following verses for they all speak to our ministries, and to us.

*"Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Joshua 22:5*

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*“...but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”* 1 John 1:7

*“...for we walk by faith, not by sight.”* 2 Corinthians 5:16

*“I was overjoyed when some of the friends arrived and testified to your faithfulness to the truth, namely how you walk in the truth.”* 3 John 1:3

Ready set, go... I pray for all of you as you set out to live these summer months, surrounded by God's creation and by one another; I pray there will be time for you to visit with friends and enjoy special times with families; I pray you are able to put yourselves first, even for just a short time – to be in your own presence, and to be in God's presence. Know your sisters and brothers pray for you as well, and trust in the knowledge Christ Jesus walks with you.

Blessings, sisters and brothers of Peace

*Pastor Neil*

### *Property Work Days*

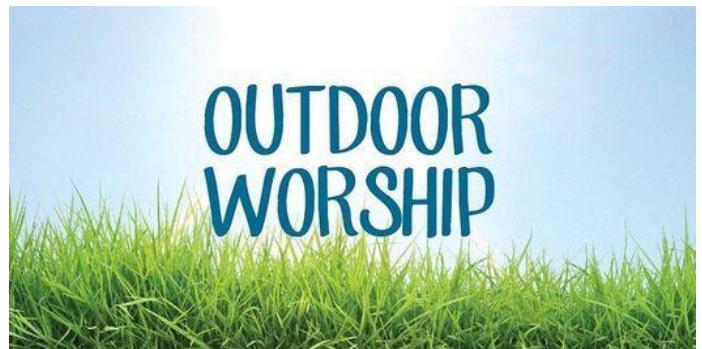
At their recent meeting, the property team decided on four (4) days over the summer to gather and work on the projects around our church (inside and outside) that need to be completed. We are hoping to have many hands available so that this work can finally be completed. Please join us and help keep the grounds and building beautiful. The dates are:

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

We plan to work from 8:00am until 11:30am on each day. Hope you can help out. See you there!

## Outdoor Worship Services

Many have asked, and suggested, we should have another outdoor service. And we are – we will be having outdoor services on June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting of course. These will be worship services with our usual fellowship following the service. We hope you will be able to attend and ask you to bring your chairs.



## Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday for Harrison Levi. This is a very special time in Harrison's faith walk and we invite you all to attend and celebrate with Harrison and his family.

Harrison Joseph Levi, son of Joe and Cathey Levi and brother to Logan will be a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Potterville High School in the fall. During his free time, Harrison enjoys playing baseball, playing video games, collecting Transformers and other toys, watching TV, and hanging out with his family and friends. Harrison has chosen the following Bible verse as his Confirmation verse:

*"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to my Father except through me.'" John 14:6*

What does this say to me: It sums up human nature right there. We can't just believe. We always have to see, touch, and/or hear it for ourselves."

Congratulations, Harrison, on a job well done and reaching this milestone in your faith journey.

God's Blessings and Peace to you.

This memory box is a gift from our congregation to Harrison, lovingly created by Scott Myckowiak.



## *Graduation Sunday*

On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring our graduates during our worship services. They are:

### **High School**



Ryan Hoesli, son of John and Amy Hoesli and brother to Johnny and Megan, graduates from Charlotte High School. He will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall.

### **College**

John Hoesli, son of John and Amy Hoesli and brother to Megan and Ryan, graduated from Albion College. He now works for Hanz Financial Services as a Financial Consultant.

Kimmy Leiby, daughter of Don and Stacy Leiby and sister to Michael, will graduate from Central Michigan University after completing her internship at Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids this summer. Her future plans will be to pursue employment in the Recreational Therapy field.

Congratulations to our graduates for a job well done. Your church family is very proud of you.

Please join us after worship for a reception to honor our graduates.

## *Communications Team*

We are forming the NEW Communications Team for Peace Lutheran Church. Members include Barb Myckowiak, Sandy Brady, and Kristin Shannon – so far. We would love to add one more person to this team. If interested, please contact Pastor Neil. The description for this team will be written by its' members at the first team meeting.





## *Men's Breakfast and Men's Night Out*

We will continue to get together during the summer months. Please check out the calendar for dates. Details will be published in our bulletin as well.

### *Vacation*

Pastor Neil and Sandy will be taking a vacation from June 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> to enjoy some time up in the Tawas area. Pastor Dave Augenstein will be leading our worship services on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.



### *GATHER and GROW*

*"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share..."*

1 Timothy 6:18

From the Stewards Corner....

### **...ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

...continue to pray for one another and for yourself, and for God's continued presence in our lives; for an end to this pandemic; for healing in our country and world; for the victims and families of the mass shootings across our country; for the victims and families of the Gaylord tornado and the entire community; for the people of Ukraine; for our military, police, fire fighters, nurses, doctors, and first responders

# Tax-free IRA Giving Options at Peace Lutheran Church

You have been part of our legacy; now be part of our future!

You can now make a **yearly gift** to Peace Lutheran Church (or other charitable organizations) using a direct transfer from your IRA. And you don't pay taxes on the amount you give!

## Here's How It Works:

You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift

The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Peace Lutheran Church

If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, this IRA qualified charitable distribution can satisfy all or part of that requirement

While this charitable distribution is not deductible, it is also excluded from your income, so you benefit even if you do not itemize

Your IRA distribution can total up to \$100,000 annually

## The benefits for making tax free IRA gifts:

Since it comes directly from the IRA, you do not report the amount as income, pay no tax on those funds, and do not owe additional taxes.

Check one item below:

I/we would like more information about making a tax-free gift from my/our IRA

I/We have included Peace Lutheran Church in my/our estate plan

I/We would consider including a gift to Peace Lutheran Church in my/our will or other estate plan. Please contact me/us directly to discuss.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please see Jim Bradley or Harry Moore for assistance and answering any questions/concerns you may have.**



## WE HAVE A CHOICE

May 6, 2022

Browsing through my work journal recently, I noticed the date when my entries stopped: March 19, 2020. The next week the Chicago-based church-wide staff began sheltering in place. I remember moving the magnets on the Office of the Presiding Bishop's attendance board to "out" for all of us, wondering when or if we would all return.

In the early days of the pandemic there was confusion, uncertainty and some fear. But there was also a sense of adventure as I stocked up on dry goods (no flour or yeast) and laid in a supply of dried beans and lentils (which I still have—I wonder if I can use them for pie weights). How long could this

last? It was like a global snow day. Until it wasn't.

Pretty quickly reality began to set in. The numbers of infections, hospitalizations and deaths started to rise. Hospital staffs were overwhelmed. We all worked to "flatten the curve," hoping to keep enough of us out of the hospital so there would be enough beds and ventilators for the sickest. Personal protective equipment was scarce. Space in morgues was filled, and refrigerated trucks had to be brought in to meet the grim demand.

Large gatherings were discontinued. Our congregations had to adapt to online formats. I was concerned that three Sundays in a row without in-person worship would force many of our congregations to close. How would we stay connected? What would our worship look like? We have congregations where dial-up is the only way to connect to the internet—if there is internet at all.

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After two years of pandemic precautions, the effects of isolation, chronic anxiety, loss and grief have taken their toll.

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I thank God for the creativity and resilience [shown by our congregations](#). I thank God for the dedication and faithfulness of our pastors and deacons who have been stretched to the limit. They quickly adapted to make sure that the gospel was proclaimed and found ingenious ways to care for their communities. People checked on the homebound in their congregations and in their neighborhoods. Hunger ministries continued providing food. Bible studies and prayer circles dwelt in the word. We started a [COVID-19 Appeal](#) to shore up outdoor ministries,

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increase bandwidth, and provide technical assistance and equipment for worship. The church wasn't closed as some insisted. We had moved to another platform. We know that online attendance, even if for only for five minutes, was greater than in-person attendance and that people who had never set foot in our churches were hearing the gospel. We were all in this together. Until we weren't.

"Essential workers," many of whom had low-paying jobs, couldn't work from home. The inequity of our health care system had deadly consequences. Communities of color suffered disproportionately. People were out of work. Businesses closed. The country came to a moment of racial reckoning after the [murder of George Floyd](#). We went through a divisive election. Masks, social distancing and vaccines were politicized. We withdrew into smaller and tighter groups of like-minded people.

After two years of pandemic precautions, the effects of isolation, chronic anxiety, loss and grief have taken their toll. Research shows that we are angrier, more depressed and less patient. We are all experiencing unprecedented and extended trauma. Frayed relationships take effort and time to mend. There is no quick fix. Care must be taken now so that actions and decisions aren't born solely or mostly out of reactivity. How we deal with real and critical issues now will have consequences in the future.

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

We have a choice—we can be conformed to this world and remain isolated and reactive, or we can live as the new creation in Christ and be a witness to the world of the reconciliation we have received from God..

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).



Cathey Levi	June 08
Joe Crigier	June 09
Ryan Hoesli	June 09
Char Ehlers	June 10
Cecilia Anderson	June 10
Burt Peterson	June 12
Elena Stolberg	June 12
Sara Jobson	June 18
Del Leffler	June 20
John Hoesli	June 28
Christian Gareiss	June 30
Bryan Guarnuccio	July 04
Elaine Sobleskey	July 10
Harrison Levi	July 11
Alex Stolberg	July 12
Linda Meyer	July 28

Marv and June Sommer	June 08
John and Barb Thiel	June 19
Gordon and Cindy Edgerton	July 01
Russ and Lauren Stolberg	July 05
Jim and Louise Bradley	July 11
Terry and Karen Jorgensen	July 14
Jack and Beverly DeFord	July 18



The late humorist Msgr. Arthur Tonne, a long-time JN consulting editor, told this story:

A preacher was once asked to explain the doctrine of election. He said, "Well, it is this way: the Lord is always voting for the person, and the devil is always voting against. Then the person himself votes, and breaks the tie."



**Peace Lutheran Church  
Strategic Planning Committee Proposal  
Council Presentation – April 12, 2022**

**ACTION ITEM**

The Strategic Planning Committee met on 4 occasions to discuss proposals for congregational growth. Below are 3 priority statements with corresponding goals. The committee unanimously approved the following for action/implementation by Church Council in the short-term.

The committee members include:

Sara Jobson, Cathey Levi, Matt Lincoln, Alex Lambert, Kathy Cook, Kristin Shannon, Susie Moore, and Pastor Neil Brady.

All are willing to speak to these priority statements and goals and will avail themselves (as needed) to church council and the ministry teams for further discussion and clarification.

**YOUTH**

Priority Statement:

Increase youth involvement by providing opportunities to participate and contribute, establishing their value as members of Peace Lutheran Church.

Goals:

- Afford more opportunities for youth to participate in worship and music
- Create more youth-focused and youth-driven events
- Provide a wide range of faith-based learning opportunities

**COMMUNITY**

Priority Statement:

Improve and expand communications.

Goals:

- Increase internal awareness of Peace Lutheran Church ministries through a variety of media
- Expand our social media presence
- Encourage congregational engagement with Peace Lutheran Church social media
- Promote the ministries of Peace Lutheran Church in the surrounding communities

**PROPERTY**

Priority Statement:

Revitalize and utilize our facility to its full potential, reflecting who we are as Peace Lutheran Church.

Goals:

- Promote the availability of our facilities to community organizations
- Evaluate and update grounds to increase visibility, and facilitate outdoor worship
- Look at interior space to evaluate/improve visual aesthetics and usage of rooms



## Did Jesus sing?

(JN Consulting Editor Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, a Methodist pastor in Dover, DE, contributed the following article.)

By Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft

I'm not sure why the question popped into my head, but it did anyway. I wondered if Jesus ever sang.

He certainly knew the psalms, and, while they were written many years prior to his arrival, it's not inconceivable that the melodies to some of them, anyway, were still being sung by Jesus' time. Did he hum a psalm-tune as a teen-ager in Joseph's carpenter shop? Were some of David's compositions used in worship so that Jesus might have picked up on a few of them as he grew up?

Rev. Dr. Kraft

Singing has been part of the biblical story from the earliest times. Exodus 15 contains what scholars believe is the oldest song in recorded biblical history, Moses' victory song after the Israelites safely crossed the Red Sea and the Egyptian army was drowned: *I will sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!* So Jesus would have been included in a long line of musical history by the time of his arrival on earth.

I don't mean to get snarky here, but do you suppose that, on those nights when Jesus and his twelve cohorts sat around a fire at night, they had a psalm-sing? Maybe someone played a lyre or harp as they sang, much as there are those who play guitar around a modern-day campfire (although I don't ever remember hearing about any of the disciples having instrumental musical ability).

If Jesus did sing, I wonder for what part his voice was suited. Was Jesus a tenor? A baritone? A bass? Of course, that leads to the question of what parts the disciples might have sung. Were they a group like Little Anthony and the Imperials ("Jesus and the Dozen Disciples") where Jesus sang lead and had a choir of 12 singers backing him up? OK, I'm getting a little silly.

But, seriously, I recall no reference in scripture that specifically mentions Jesus' singing. I can't think of an occasion or event that Jesus attended where singing would have been expected and in which he may have taken part (with the very slim, but still possible, exception of the wedding in Cana in John 2: 1-12).

**Certainly Jesus' followers sang. Matthew 26: 30 mentions their singing specifically. Since Jesus was present for the occasion, this may be the strongest evidence that he sang. It was the Last Supper, when Jesus explained the bread and wine as symbolic of his body and blood. Matthew says that when the meal was over, "they (at least the disciples, but why not Jesus?) sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives."**

And Paul refers to singing (and praying) while he and Silas were in prison (Acts 16: 25). So, singing was undoubtedly common among Jesus' followers. But Jesus himself? I do wonder why no writer – Gospel or otherwise – mentions it if, in fact, Jesus was given to breaking out in song.

One thing can almost definitely be assumed: when Jesus was dying on the cross and the words of Psalm 22 came from his lips, it was almost assuredly a recitation, not a musical solo. Psalms, being primarily poetry, lend themselves as much to reciting as they do to singing, and so Jesus' using the words of Psalm 22 as poetry would have been very familiar to those who could hear his voice.

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Let me say that the idea of Jesus enjoying a good melody and singing as fervently as the most exuberant soloist in Christian music today appeals to me. If “music is the language of angels,” then certainly our Lord would have wanted in.

Have we become so inured to melancholy paintings of a sorrowful, crucified Christ that maybe it's too difficult for us to imagine a joyful, smiling, triumphant, resurrected Jesus singing robustly as he is ascending to Heaven to be reunited with his Father on that First Easter?

## June 2022

### Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting	2 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 Confirmation Sunday Pentecost Sunday  9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	6	7 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	8 8:00 am Property Team Work- day	9	10	11
12 Graduation Recognition Sunday  9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	13	14	15 Pastor's Vac-a- tion through June 22nd	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	17	18
19  9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	20	21 6:00 pm Ladies Night at Eaton Pub	22 Pastor back in office	23	24	25 Building Rented from 1-4
26 Outdoor Worship Service/Noisy Offering  9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	27	28 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	29	30		

# July 2022

## Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	11	12	13 10:00 am IT/ Personnel Team Meeting	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out -TBD	20	21 8:30 am Men' Break- fast	22	23
24 9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service "Helping Hands"	25	26 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	27	28	29	30
31 Noisy Offering Sunday  9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering						

## Schedule of Worship Volunteers

June 2022

Date	Sunday 6/5 Confirmation Sunday	Sunday 6/12 Graduation Sunday	Sunday 6/19	Sunday 6/26 Outdoor Worship Service
Acolyte	Payton Jobson	Payton Jobson	Payton Jobson	Outdoor Worship Service
Altar Guild	Nancy Holtz	Nancy Holtz	Nancy Holtz	Nancy Holtz
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke
Choir Director	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak
Fellowship	Confirmation Leffler/DeFord	Graduation Reception		
Lector	The Leiby Family	The Leiby Family	The Leiby Family	The Leiby Family
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Neil Brady
Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Ushers	John and Barb Thiel	John and Barb Thiel	John and Barb Thiel	John and Barb Thiel
Worship Assistant	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi

PHILLIP'S FLOCK By Doc Goodwin



Sign on the lawn of a Florida house:

"Life is short.  
If you can't laugh at yourself,  
call me. I will."

– via George Goldtrap  
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

Sign seen outside a public storage in Cheswold, DE:

"Remember when the Lone Ranger was the only man who wore a mask?"

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft

**Schedule of Worship Volunteers**

July 2022

Date	Sunday 7/3	Sunday 7/10	Sunday 7/17	Sunday 7/24 Outdoor Worship Service	7/31 Noisy Offering Sunday
Acolyte	Payton Jobson	Corbin Lincoln			
Altar Guild	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke	Scott Lambert Phil Lemke
Choir Director	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak
Fellowship					
Lector	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Ushers	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook
Worship Assistant	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby



## Church Basement Ladies

**Book by Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke, Music and Lyrics by Drew Jansen**

**September 8 – October 29**

A celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there! From the elderly matriarch to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, we see them handle a record-breaking Christmas dinner, the funeral of a dear friend, an Easter fund raiser and hot July wedding. With good, clean laughs and memorable characters, Church Basement Ladies is heavenly fun!

We invite all the ladies of Peace to join us on **Friday, September 23rd** at noon to attend this dinner/theater near Marshall, Michigan at Cornwell's Turkeyville. We have re-served 12 tickets. If we have 12 going it will be \$46 each which includes the meal and the show. So please let Kathy Cook know if you would like to go. We will meet at the church at 11:00 and carpool down there. Should be lots of fun!

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Barb Myckowiak — bmyckowiak911@att.net

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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.*