



Tidings *Of Peace*

From the Pastor's Desk...

October 2022

We're off and running...another church year has begun. Thoughts, ideas, and plans begin anew. Looking ahead to the Advent, Christmas, and yes, even to Lent and Easter seasons. I feel an excitement in the air, a willingness to be a part of something much greater than ourselves. The kingdom, God's Kingdom, is moving and shaking – we are reaching others in our communities. It's a new day, and it is good!

For me, it's reminiscent of the creation story. With each new day, God saw something else to do, and He did it. Some see this as God's plan; others see it differently as do I. I like to believe with each new creation, God was excited, happy, filled with joy at its result – but something was missing. So, he added the land and sea, the sky and water, night and day. Each addition brought more excitement, more happiness, more hope. And it was good, always good.



That's what ministry is...God's good work through our hands and feet – bringing happiness, excitement, hope...and love to our small congregation, to our towns, to our world. Every time we make our presence known is a form of creation. Each ministry we conduct and participate in is another form of some new. Our discussions and ideas about who we are, and who we are called to be is creation. And it is good, always good.

As we begin this new year, I pray we can continue what you have started; I pray we are able to look ahead with the same willingness and commitment you have shared with me; I pray our involvement in our ministries continues to be the light of Christ in those who live in darkness.

Thank you, Peace Lutheran, for being who you are and who you are called to be. You are the movers and the shakers for God in his Kingdom on earth.

God's Blessings and Peace – sisters and brothers...

Pastor Neil

GATHER and GROW

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field..."

Matthew 13:44

From the Stewards Corner....

...Let us remember our Helping Hands ministry. Check out their bulletin board for information.

...Let us gather each Sunday in worship and prayer and again during Fellowship with one another.

...Let us celebrate our Lutheran heritage with our Reformation Sunday worship service. It's theme: God is our Refuge and Strength.

...Let us remember ministry requires more than our weekly offering. It requires time and volunteers and a willingness to increase our benevolence to the church so we can be the heart, hands, and feet of Christ Jesus.

...Let us continue to pray for one another and for God's continued presence in our lives; for healing in our country and world; for those in need; for our military, police, fire fighters, nurses, doctors, and first responders

Christians are like pumpkins

A woman was asked by a coworker,

"What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin."

"God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you.

"Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

"He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed.

"Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

"This was passed on to me by another pumpkin.

Now it's your turn to pass it to other pumpkins.

I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch."

– via Rev. Bud Frimoth
Portland, OR

Reformation Sunday - October 30, 2022

God is our REFUGE and STRENGTH

Please plan to join us on Sunday, October 30th for Reformation Sunday. Our worship service will explore the words of Psalm 46, the inspiration for Martin Luther's signature hymn, "A Mighty Fortress." The Psalm's image of a firm and sturdy fortification ties well with the solid tenets of the Reformation.

By grace alone, by faith alone, by Scripture alone...

We will not be moved.

Communications Team

The Communications Team for Peace Lutheran Church will be meeting on Wednesday, October 12th at 6:30pm at the church. The members are Barb Myckowiak, Sandy Brady, Susie Moore, and Kristin Shannon. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact Pastor Neil.

Men's Breakfast and Men's Night Out

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

Pastor's Conference

Pastor Neil will be attending a Continuing Education seminar in Mt. Pleasant beginning Sunday afternoon October 9th through Tuesday, October 11th. Please call the office for any pastoral concerns.

Book Club

Book club will begin on Wednesday, **October 5th at 7:00pm** at church. We are reading a novel titled *Paul* written by Walter Wangerin Jr. Let Pastor know if you are planning to join us or if you have questions on the book. Thanks.

Adult Bible Study

Our study of the book of Revelation will begin on **Sunday, October 23rd** after fellowship time. The schedule will be similar to last year's adult bible study. There is no book for this study; Pastor will provide handouts for our time together.



Rosalie Bazzett	Oct. 2
Coyne Gareiss	Oct. 3
Bruce Milke	Oct. 3
Cathy Clark	Oct. 3
Steve Clark	Oct. 7
Robert Leeser	Oct. 9
Russ Stolberg	Oct. 10
Harold Gray	Oct. 11
Doug Ehlers	Oct. 15
Lauralyn Gray	Oct. 17
Kris Peterson	Oct. 21
Chad Jobson	Oct. 25
Darlene Gareiss	Oct. 29

Tim and Kristin Shannon	Oct. 15
Mike and Carissa Hueter	Oct. 20

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please let Barb Myckowiak know so that it can be corrected.



Trick or Trunk returns!!!

Monday, October 31, 2022 from 6-8 pm. There is a signup sheet in the gathering area. We need many helpers for this fun event. It will be held in the gathering area. Please see Karen Jorgensen if you have questions!

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





CAN WE ANSWER THE QUESTION 'WHY'?

August 5, 2022

Once for continuing education I signed up for an introduction to philosophy course at the community college. I was a music education major in college and never had any philosophy courses. Since philosophy and theology are so closely related, I thought it was about time that I became better acquainted with the Western philosophical tradition. So off I went to learn how the great philosophers have addressed the questions of human existence.

It was an interesting experience. As we marched through the centuries of Western philosophy, it seemed that the philosophers changed the approach to addressing the “big questions”—meaning, transcendence, suffering, the role of the will. The whole process was led by a professor who described himself as a lapsed Mormon who, I believe, never quite made it

out of the protest milieu of the 1960s.

This convergence of a professor working through the rejection of his tradition and the philosophical systems that paid more attention to “how” versus “why” was uncomfortable. I didn’t buy into determinism, especially when one student used it to explain a rather unfortunate choice that involved drinking and driving (no one was injured). What was a Lutheran girl to do?

My chance came when the professor assigned a paper to be written about our understanding of any of the philosophies covered in class. I dove in. This was an extra credit assignment designed to give a second chance to those who were in some danger of not passing the course. As I was not in that category, I immediately became one of “those students” (I’m sure my classmates used earthier language).

If we can’t answer this question clearly and with conviction, I don’t see a lot of change for us.

I titled my paper “How or Why: Newtonian Mechanics vs. A Quantum Metaphysics.” Pretty much over the top, but I was on a mission. I wanted to make the point to my professor that there is more in life than the “how” of things, that there is meaning and transcendence even if we can’t by reason or human understanding perceive it. I wanted to give witness to my conviction that there is more going on than a life of just mechanics and technique on the way to some deterministic conclusion. And I wanted to point to the truth I had experienced—that there is a loving and relational being who cares about us and about the creation.

Needless to say the professor was mystified by the amount of effort I put into the project, and he did take five points off because I used a contraction. But the point then, as it is now, is that we as a culture and a church have become proficient at talking about the “how” of things. For the church this means “how” has become the question that determines where we focus, how we live, where we allocate resources. We have developed programs—beautiful programs—on how to do Christian education, worship, stewardship, advocacy, justice, evangelism, global ministry and youth ministry. Don’t neglect any of these.

(Continued from page 5)

But can we, as a church, answer the question *why*?

As we engage in conversation about the [future direction](#) and priorities of this church this year, this is the question we must answer. If we can't answer this question clearly and with conviction, I don't see a lot of change for us.

In the [Small Catechism](#), Martin Luther gives us some direction: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally."

This is [most certainly true](#).

A monthly message from the [presiding bishop](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The bishop's email address: bishop@elca.org.

Altar Flowers



The Worship and Music team would like to encourage you to sign up to sponsor altar flowers again.

The arrangement will be in a vase that is easy to take home after the service, just remember to bring the empty vase back to church when you are finished with it.

The cost is still only \$25. You can specify if it is in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or other special event or in memory of someone. This will be noted in the Sunday bulletin on your chosen day. The sign up sheet is in the gathering area on the bulletin board.

We are once again enjoying fellowship in the gathering area after the worship service. If you would like to host the coffee hour, there is a signup sheet (you guessed it) in the gathering area. The main thing is making and serving the coffee. If you would like to also bring a snack of some kind, that is fine.

Just remember **KISS** (keep it simple sweetie). It doesn't have to be brunch. :)



Reformation - A Special Message

(Adapted from the prepared worship service – God: Our Refuge and Strength)

Grace, mercy and peace be to you, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we prepare to celebrate the Reformation, we turn our minds back to over 500 years ago when a young monk named Martin Luther lived in a much different world than we do today. In his time there was only one church, not the many church bodies we have today, and in his time the people did not participate much in worship or the workings of the church. Since a majority were illiterate, most people knew only what the clergy told them about the Bible. They had no other way of knowing what the Scriptures said.

Unfortunately, this led to corruption within the church leadership. They decided to sell pieces of paper called indulgences that they said would rid people of their sins. As we know, Martin Luther became so angry about this practice that he decided to write 95 theses or statements for discussion on the matter. You see, he was actually reading the Bible at the time as a part of his life as a monk and he knew from Scripture itself that forgiveness came only through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for us, not from any piece of paper.

Luther's words written in the *95 Theses* ran like wildfire through Europe and opened people's eyes to the grace of God, which saves us, not because of anything we have done, but because of what God has done in Christ. Our faith in Christ assures us that we have a place with God in heaven when we die, and nothing on this earth can change that.

To help bring the message of the Gospel home to people in his day, Martin Luther wrote hymns that explained the theological tenets found in the pages of God's Word. Luther most well-known hymn even to this day is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." It is a hymn based on the words of Psalm 46.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea. God will help her when morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!

Luther was drawn to the concept of a refuge, a fortress, a stronghold, a fortification, hinted at in Psalm 46:1. People in that day lived in places where forts and castles and high towers were common or at least known. People knew that such buildings were places of strength and might and authority. People who dwelt within the walls of fortresses were known to be safe and secure and were seen as well protected and highly important.

The metaphor of God being a Mighty Fortress, therefore, was a meaningful one. Think about the confidence the following words from Luther's signature hymn would bring about:

He helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.

But for us fights the valiant One whom God himself elected.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,

We tremble not, we fear no ill: They shall not overpower us.

He's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.

In every battle we may face spiritually, we have a place to go, Luther says: a Mighty Fortress who is our God. He fights for us. He rises victorious over every enemy of the soul, over sin, death, and the devil. We can always escape to his safe space, surrounded by the thick walls of his love and care, which protect us from any slings and arrows of evil shot toward us.

When Luther himself was in hiding from his enemies in the church who had declared him an outlaw and heretic, he spent 300 days in Wartburg Castle in 1521-1522. He used his time behind these fortified walls to translate the New Testament of the Bible into German. He felt safe to immerse himself in the Word here, and the Germans were glad for it.

This experience of Luther's reminds us that we are called to use our time protected by the Mighty Fortress of our God to read, learn, and inwardly digest Scripture without any fear or worry about what we are taking part in. Our life with our Mighty Fortress allows us the freedom to pray to him with abandon and with no question about what exact words we should use. We only need to speak from the heart

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

about what is on our minds and in our souls to say.

Luther wrote secret letters to friends during his time in Wartburg Castle, using the moniker Knight George. His actions within these fortress walls help us to remember to communicate to our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith even when we are staying close beside our Mighty Fortress. Think about what you would like to write or text or tweet to loved ones this week about the greatness of our God you have experienced.

Once out of hiding from the castle, Martin Luther went about teaching and preaching about the saving grace of Jesus from town to town, very much in the line of Jesus himself in his ministry. Our purpose as people of the faith is to fan out into all the world, too, and share the Good News of God's love in Jesus to those who have not yet heard the powerful truth of being saved by grace. With Luther we say as we witness, "Here I stand. I can do no other."

We, unfortunately, live in a world that still to a high degree believes that there is something we must do to earn eternal life. It is our goal to tear down that perception and build up the proclamation that the battle is done, the victory is won. Christ has conquered all our foes for us on the cross. Nothing more needs to be done by us to gain heaven. He has opened the way to heaven on our behalf.

There we will be strong and secure in the dwelling place of God forevermore. Amen.

Signs and wonders

Sign outside Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church:

"Be the kind of person
your pet thinks you are."

– via Rev. Harry Mahoney
Dedham, MA

Sign outside St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile, MI:

"Tweet others as you want to be tweeted."

– via David Hartwell
Grosse Ile, MI

Sign outside Lititz (PA) Moravian Congregation:

"ASAP
Always say a prayer."

– via Rev. Dean R. Jurgen

Sign outside S. Seminole Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL:

"The Golden Rule never tarnishes."

Sign outside Morley (IA) First United Methodist Church:

"HONK if U love Jesus.
TEXT while driving if you want to meet Him."

– via Rev. Dale Schoening
Madrid, IA



Reformation Sunday is October 30, 2022

Remember to wear red.

After our worship service we will enjoy coffee and Lutheran trivia time at 10:30 followed by a **German-themed potluck** at 11:00.

YAY — potlucks are back!!!

There will be **no** signup sheet (it worked before!) So dig out your favorite recipes (German or otherwise). Like Pastor Neil said, if we have 12 desserts and 1 salad, no problem. :)





Annual Cookie Walk/Crafts Event!

Friday November 4

9 am—2 pm

Saturday November 5

9:30 am—12:30 pm

Our annual Cookie Walk/Craft event will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th. We'll need dozens of cookies, a variety of baked goods and craft items from the congregation, to make this event a success.

Cookie containers will be available during the coffee hour after church in October; they're great for storing and freezing cookies as you make them. Watch for cookie, baked goods and craft item sign up sheets in October. Please consider signing up for a two hour shift on Friday or Saturday. It's a great opportunity to gift shop and volunteer at the same time:).

Bring your cookies, baked goods and crafts to the Gathering Space prior to the set up, which will be **Thursday, Nov. 3rd** in the afternoon.

Shopping times

Friday: 9 am to 2 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Last year this event brought in almost \$1900. We sent \$200 to Charlotte's Crosswalk Teen Center and the remainder to our new furnace and air conditioning fund. It takes a team effort to surpass last year's totals, but together we can make it happen!

We welcome your suggestions and support.

Co-Chairs: Bev DeFord, Susie Moore

Compassion Corner

What To Avoid in Letter Writing: Cultural Insensitivity

Writing to a child in a different culture is super interesting — but also a little tricky! Here are some tips and tricks to avoiding any confusion when writing the child you sponsor!

Written by Brandy Lovelace

Local Conflicts

You've probably received emails at some point about things like local conflicts and natural disasters in the countries where you sponsor. **Asking your child how they're doing after a hurricane is one thing. But asking them to weigh in on conflicts in their country is another.**



Even if the child you sponsor is older, in many countries it is not appropriate to say anything that may seem critical of the decisions or actions of the local government. **While you may acknowledge your child is facing a challenging situation, refrain from commenting on the nature and details of the conflict.** And be sure not to criticize any of the parties involved in the conflict.

Try this instead: Simply let them know that you're praying. **Express to them that although you don't exactly know what they're going through, you're thinking of them.** Encouraging words and Bible verses remind them that they're not alone — and that you're thinking of and praying for them often.

Culture Isn't Right or Wrong

One of the reasons Compassion has chosen to run its programming exclusively in partnership with local churches is that we believe in the power and beauty of the cultures of each country where we work. **We are not trying to Americanize the children in our programs — instead, we are celebrating those cultures!**

So while it's just fine to share about your own culture, and the unique "culture" of your family, do not present it as "right" or the child you sponsor's culture as somehow "wrong."

Try this: Ask your child to share about their culture by asking questions about food, holidays and games. Don't make assumptions, and seek to learn about favorite subjects in school or what they want to be when they grow up.

[Write to the Child you Sponsor Today!](#)

Schedule of Worship Volunteers

October 2022

Date	Sunday 10/2	Sunday 10/9	Sunday 10/16	Sunday 10/23	Sunday 10/30 REFORMATION SUNDAY
Acolyte	Corbin Lincoln Carson Clark	Payton Jobson	Carson Clark	Kendall Jobson	Corbin Lincoln
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke
Choir Direc- tor	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak
Fellowship					Potluck
Lector	The Myckowiak's	The Myckowiak's	The Myckowiak's	The Myckowiak's	The Myckowiak's
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	Jim & Louise Bradley	Jim & Louise Bradley	Jim & Louise Bradley	Jim & Louise Bradley	Jim & Louise Bradley
Worship Assistant	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel

Bloopers that gnash the teeth

In a church bulletin:

"The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility."

– via Howard R. Macy

Newbert, OR

October 2022

Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 1:30 pm CROP WALK at Bennett Park	3	4 10:00 am Worship and Music Meeting 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	5 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 1:00 am Personnel/IT Team Meeting 7:00 pm Book Club	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Pastor at Conference through Tuesday	10	11 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 6:30 pm Communications Team 7:00 pm Book Club	13 7:00 pm Finance Team Meet- ing 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:00-Noon Confirmation	17	18	19 7:00 pm Book Club	20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Bible Study 10:45-Noon Sunday School	24	25 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	26 6:30 pm Property Team Meeting 7:00 pm Book Club	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship w/ Noisy Offering 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	31 6-8 pm Trick or Trunk					

God is a God of laughter

Methodist Pastor Karl R. Kraft of Dover, DE, found this passage in Catherine Marshall's book, *A Man Called Peter*, a biography of her husband, the great Presbyterian preacher Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, from one of his sermons:

*"God is a God of laughter, as well as prayer,
a God of singing, as well as of tears.*

God is at home in the play of His children.

He loves to hear us laugh.

*We do not honor God by our long faces,
our austerity.*

*We must try to make the distinction
between worship and work and play less sharp.*

*If you can't take God into your recreation,
there is something wrong with the way you play.*

*If God, for you, does not smile
there is something wrong with your idea of God."*

Catherine Marshall added this comment: "Jesus Himself demonstrated to us, at times like the wedding feast in Cana, that Christianity can be fun, that fun can be Christian, and that it is the King's joy to share our good times."

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.***