



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

August 2024

Throughout my life, I've always been drawn to new experiences, new places, and new people. Last week was no different, even though I visited NOLA years ago, with another youth group. The theme – Created To Be; more details of our trip can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. For me, I'd invite you to read the following words, and then read them aloud one more time. These words run through the notes that I took while listening to the speakers at the Mass Gatherings.

*called, free, Jesus, life, disruptive, kingdom,
injustice, Spirit, perfect, sent, seen, burden, loved, mistake,
God, scars, alone, glimpse, precious, truth*

There was one particular speaker, with their huge heart, along with their wit, humor, sincerity, honesty, and confidence that spoke volumes, said something to all the youth – and it resonated with me.

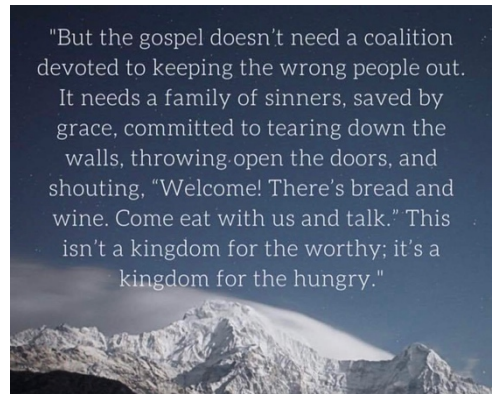
***“The Spirit of God is asking
‘who do you want to be?’”***

Who do you want to be? On our way out of the venue, in the droves of teenagers, I overheard several conversations with youth asking each other the same question. But it wasn't in the context of what do you want to do when you grow up. It was an honest – who do you want to be... as a person. I thought to myself, I hope this type of conversation is happening across New Orleans in the hotels as the groups gather together to discuss the day's events. And I pray the discussion and answers were like the speaker, open and honest, with humor and wit.

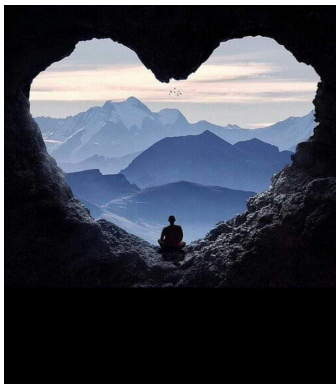
As I look back on the week, and reflect on these new experiences, I've asked myself that same question multiple times. In the context of the Gathering theme – Called To Be – we

should all be asking ourselves the same question, “Who do you want to be?” Which of those words listed above can be used to describe you? And how do they identify the person you have been called to be?

One of those words has been frowned upon by our society, our communities, and thus, most of us have come to shy away from being just that – *DISRUPTIVE*. In listening to the speakers at the event, as well as some of the youth from around that venue, I believe it is time to embrace the word... and the action... along with the consequences. It is time for us to become disruptive in our responses (or lack thereof) to the “isms” in our nation. You all know of which I speak – all you have to do is read the newspaper, watch cable news and even the major news network. Things have spun out of control, and the time has come for all to speak out, to be disruptive, with a respectful tone and willingness to listen. Through words and actions, just like Jesus, we can begin to change the world. We can decide to live into the kingdom of God, to become true disciples of Christ Jesus.



I am an ordained minister in the church of Christ, called to speak out against things happening that aggressively challenge the Word of God. As pastor, I choose not to speak publicly from the pulpit on these issues because it is not the time nor the place. But I can be in conversation, in discussion, and in prayer as we, God's children together, find our way. I choose to be respectful and honest when speaking out against the injustices I believe are taking place in our communities and across our nation; I would expect others to do the same. Are we willing to add the word '*disruptive*' to the list of words that describe who we are?



We are church – we are children of God. We believe in God's greatest commandment – to love one another, without reservation and without qualifiers. It doesn't say we have to always agree, nor does it say there's only one way. It just is!

So let us now go back. The Spirit of God is asking, “Who do we want to be?” I pray we want to be children of God, called to be – in this kingdom and the next.

Let me close with a prayer, using all the words listed above.

*Father Creator, **God of truth** in and through Christ **Jesus** and all of us, we give you thanks for giving us a **glimpse** of your **kingdom**. We know you have **called** us to be yours in this **life**, **precious** in your sight. We come to you in prayer knowing we are not **perfect**, complete with our **scars** and our **burden** only you can see. Remind us that we are **sent** and **free** to serve you, called to be **disruptive** when it comes to **injustice**, and confident we are not **alone** for the **Spirit** guides and protects us. Allow us to be **seen** as your children, trusting that we are **loved** and not a **mistake**. In his name, we pray. Amen*

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pastor Out of Town: August 4 – August 9

Packing the Backpacks: August 8 @ 10:00 am

Articles due for The Tidings: August 16

Loads of Love: August 17, 8:00am-noon

Pure Winds Concert: August 18 @ 3:00 pm

August Outdoor Worship Service + Noisy Offering: August 25

September Outdoor Worship Service: September 15



Pastor Neil will be gone....



From **Sunday afternoon, August 4th through Friday, August 9th** to attend his mother's funeral/memorial service in Philadelphia. **Any pastoral concerns should be directed to the church office**, and Kathy will contact him.

Outdoor Worship Services

Our outdoor worship services have been scheduled. Pastor Neil is 0-2 as far as weather so let's pray for good weather for the next two months. We invite you to dress very casually, and please bring your own chairs.



The dates are:
August 25th, September 15th

Loads of Love



We have a great opportunity to serve our community coming up on **August 17**. We will be hosting our Loads of Love at Quality Dairy where we will be putting the quarters in the machines for those who come to do laundry. It's a great chance to show members of the community that we really care.

Please plan to help. **Watch for the sign up sheet.** It's only 2 hours on a Saturday morning.
Community Action Team

Men's Breakfast - August



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

Men's Night Out

This month we are lucky to have been invited to a cookout at Steve Clark's house on **Tuesday evening, August 27th** beginning at **6:00pm**. Burgers and brats will be provided. There will be a **sign-up sheet as to what to bring to share**. Please **plan to bring your own beverages**.



This is something most of us enjoy – so 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!



Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, August 21st
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

Our Fall study will be: *Encountering Jesus*. This is the study selected by the group last spring. **Sign-up sheets will be available this week**, along with a copy of the study guide we will be using for you to preview.



Confirmation:

Calendar coming soon.

Four Winds Quintet Concert at Peace

Please invite all of your family and friends to this **FREE** concert, featuring our favorite musician, Bryan Guarnuccio! His woodwind quintet will present an amazing concert of music of the 20's from several decades! There will be a reception after the concert so that you can meet all of the musicians.

This is a fundraiser to support the **Helping Hands Food Pantry** and all donations will go to them.

Copies of this flyer will be available for you to hand out to all of your friends and family!
We need a big crowd!!



Join us on **Sunday, August 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm**
for a free concert by Pure Winds, an award-winning
woodwind quintet based in Lansing, Michigan
to benefit the **Helping Hands Food Pantry**

The concert theme will be Timeless Tunes: 20's through the centuries!

All are invited to this free concert at
Peace Lutheran Church, 830 N. Cochran Ave., Charlotte, Mi.
Donations will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Helping
Hands Food Pantry in Charlotte, Michigan





CAT invites you and a friend to enjoy a casual round of golf on **Friday, August 16th at 10:00am at Maple Brook golf course**. There are no special rules. Just put a foursome together and enjoy each other's company. Afterwards, we'll meet in the clubhouse for a beverage and more fellowship.

If interested or have any questions, please contact Joe Crigier.



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.

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.

Blessing Bags for Helping Hands

Many thanks to all who helped make this project a great success. Not only did we collect items for the bags, we also had help from the Charlotte Moose Lodge and a Thrivent Action grant. We were able to complete over 60 bags and with additional supplies that will be used by Helping Hands to complete more bags as needed. These bags will be given out to people that are in unhoused situation or escaping domestic violence. These Blessing bags give a sense of hope in turbulent times.

Community Action Team



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

SEVEN IMPORTANT THINGS LUTHER SAID (and one funny one) AND WHAT THEY MEANT

- 1. “When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said, ‘Repent,’ (Matthew 4:17) he called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”** Ninety-five Theses (1517)
Luther meant that faith and its Christly acts of love and service are never to be separated from real life. Faith isn’t just a hobby. It’s an entire way of life!
- 2. “The Law says, ‘do this,’ and it’s never done. Grace says, ‘believe in this,’ and everything is already done.”** Heidelberg Disputation (1518)
This statement highlights how important Martin Luther believed it to be that Christians understand the difference between God’s law and the gospel. A life free to serve others begins with this. No matter how well you keep the law, only the free gift of the gospel can save you.
- 3. “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”** The Freedom of a Christian (1520)
Be careful though; if you see someone is beginning to shut down, set the topic aside and wait for another time.
- 4. “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason, I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”** Speech at the Diet of Worms (April 15, 1521)
With this bold and defiant statement, Martin Luther drew a line in the sand and started an age of reformation for the Christian Church.
- 5. “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.”** Letter to Philip Melancthon (August 1, 1521)
Jesus came to save sinners. There's no point in denying you're a sinner. But more importantly, knowing you're a sinner will bring you closer to Jesus Christ, the one person who can save you from death and sin.

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6. “This is most certainly true.”

Small Catechism (1529)

The freedom God declares through Jesus Christ can be fully believed and should not be doubted. Luther wanted the word *Amen* to be spoken with complete confidence.

7. “It’s true. We’re beggars.”

Luther’s last written words (February 16, 1546)

This is Luther’s final testimony to humankind’s total dependence on the grace and mercy of God and to life’s character as an absolute gift.

8. “Your manure cure didn’t help me either.”

Letter to Katie Luther (1537)

Medieval home remedies for skin rashes weren’t always what they were cracked up to be. Luther tried one of his wife’s, and apparently it didn’t work.

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 Apostles’ Creed. It is listed, along with Martin Luther’s explanation – taken directly from the Small Catechism.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Introduction

Our Father in heaven.

What is this?

Answer: With these words God wants to attract us, so that we believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children as their loving father.

(Luther added this explanation to the Small Catechism in 1531, when his oldest child was five years old.)

The First Petition (the word *petition* means “request.”)

Hallowed be your name.

What is this?

Answer: It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

How often does this come about?

Answer: Whenever the Word of God is talked clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it. To this end, help us dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches, dishonors God's name among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father!

Bible Reading: Acts 13:13-47

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The Second Petition

Your kingdom come.

What is this?

Answer: In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask this prayer that it may also come to us.

How often does this come about?

Answer: Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's Holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

Bible Reading: Luke 15:8-10

The Third Petition

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

What is this?

Answer: In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How often does this come about?

Answer: Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will of the devil, the world, and our flesh that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom. And God's will comes about whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.

Bible Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

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The Fourth Petition

Give us today our daily bread.

What is this?

Answer: In fact, God gives us daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

How often does this come about?

Answer: Everything our body needs such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Bible Reading: John 6:8-10

The Fifth Petition

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

What is this?

Answer: We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins or deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we sin daily and indeed earn only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and do good gladly to those who sin against us.

Bible Reading: Matthew 18:23-35

The Six Petition

Save us from the time of trial. (The version of the Lord's Prayer used by Luther employed the word *temptation* in place of "the time of trial.")

What is this?

Answer: It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gained the victory.

Bible Reading: Matthew 4:4-11

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The Seventh Petition

And deliver us from evil.

What is this?

Answer: We ask this in prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil, affecting body or soul, property or reputation, and at the last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end, and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

Bible Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Conclusion

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

What is this?

Answer: That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for God himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. “Amen, amen” means “Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this.”

Some later editions of the catechism, printed after Luther’s death, add this conclusion, commonly called the Doxology. Although found in Erasmus’s editions of the Greek New Testament and in Luther’s translation of that into German, Luther himself consistently followed the medieval practice and omitted it.

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.

CALLED TO BE

2024 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

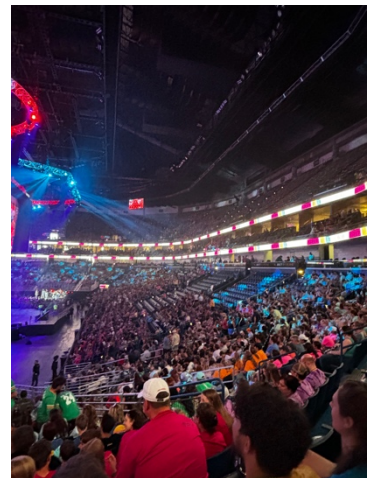
July 17th – July 21st

New Orleans, Louisiana

What a great trip it was – there were lots of things to do, events to attend, sights to see. And there was a LOT of walking.



Each evening we attended the Mass Gathering where all the groups, totally over 16,000 youth and chaperones, came together for 3 hours of music (DJ and live band), motivational speakers, dancing, fun, and a lot of singing. On Saturday morning, we gathered once again for our final worship experience, as well as an inspirational message delivered by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.





Throughout the week we met other youth, people who worked in New Orleans, and lots of people of the street.



We spent more than four hours on a scavenger hunt throughout the French Quarter, enjoyed a beignet at Café DuMonde along the river, and some of us even tried some local food fare.



On Thursday our group went on a tour of one of the nation's oldest cemeteries, and on Friday, we thoroughly enjoyed an airboat ride that took us through swamplands – and even met some alligators.





Our Servants Day experience provided us with the opportunity to watch and learn about one of New Orleans fast growing ministries for the “street” kids – marching bands.



All in all, it was a fantastic trip, one for the memory books and one that both Harrison and James will never forget. We would like to thank our church family for their support, their donations, their prayers which allowed us to attend this year's Gathering.



May God richly bless you and keep you; may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may he look upon all of you with favor and grant you all his love and peace.

Harrison, James, and Cathey

WHERE NEXT?

2027 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

July 14th – July 17th

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Worship Ministry August 2024

Date	Sunday 8/4	Sunday 8/11	Sunday 8/18	Sunday 8/25
Acolyte				
Altar Guild	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley	Louise Bradley
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Bev DeFord	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	The Augenstein's
Flowers	Volunteer Needed	Dian Leckrone	Beverly Leffler	The Crigier's
Lector	Susie Moore	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	The Bradley's	The Bradley's	The Bradley's	The Bradley's
Worship Assistant	Michael Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby	Stacy Leiby

Church Calendar – August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	5 1:30 pm Growing in Faith Team Meeting	6 10:00 am Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	7 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Pack the Back Packs	9	10
11 Blessing of the Back Packs 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	12	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 1:00 pm IT/Personnel Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	15	16 10:00 am Golf Outing @ Maple Brook Golf Course Articles Due for the Tidings	17 8:00-Noon Loads of Love @ Quality Dairy
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 3:00 pm Pure Winds Concert @ Peace benefitting Helping Hands	19	20 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	21 11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon 6:00 pm AA Meeting	22	23	24
25 Outdoor Worship Service Noisy Offering 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	26	27 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	28 6:00 pm AA Meeting	29	30	31

Pastor Neil's Office Hours
Tuesday-Wednesday
10:00 am-3:00 pm

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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