



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

May 2024

Time – the one thing in life in short supply and high demand. It has become the central focus of many, and at times, a source of frustration, disappointment, and anger. In reality, time (or the lack of) is the least consequential component of our day – or it should be.

Watches, clocks, cell phones, computers – and if you live in Charlotte – the weekly (Saturday at 1:00pm) testing of our tornado/storm sirens keep us on track. There are work hours – start and end; alarms to wake up to; favorite television shows; youth sports events and tournaments; breakfast-lunch-dinner; the start of church; meetings and deadlines; appointments; more appointments; the end of church; and so on and so on – all designed to fill our days with beginnings and endings, scattered about to add more chaos and more stress. The list is endless, but our time is not. And herein lies the problem. So what's the answer?



Recently during a conversation with a good friend of 50+ years, he jokingly said – “*but don't pastors and other religious leaders have all the answers?*” I assured him I did not – and neither does anyone else that I know. But I was wrong – not about me but about someone I know. And I'm sure you can guess who the “someone” is!

Thinking about the constraints on my time, and the overwhelming entries on my calendar, I find myself being drawn back to the following verse from Romans 12. Paul writes,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

I realize this is a struggle, for me and for you. The world and society in which we live does everything it can to throw hurdle after hurdle into the mainstream of life. The struggle is not in what is good and acceptable – we got this part. It’s the ‘perfect’ – and the question, what is perfect.

Here’s what I have on this – at this time and on this day. Perfect is making the conscious effort to set aside some time for ourselves – and **only ourselves**. Perfect is being in God’s presence if only for 5 minutes a day. Perfect is committing to taking that 5 minutes now, and growing it with each passing day, week, month. I certainly do not have all the answers; neither do any of us. But God does!

Let me close with this... continue to pray as we do now. Take some more time every day just to be in his presence – just to feel the awe and wonder that is God as we sit alone in his creation – just to walk with Christ Jesus, even if it’s just to the grocery store – just to listen to the comfort and peace the Holy Spirit gives all of us. Take a good look at the picture below – put yourself in that field and take some time just to be. Let us just take the time!

*God’s Blessings and
Peace*

Pastor Neil



Pastor’s Office Hours

Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm & Wednesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, May 9th at 8:30am**. Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

This is something most of us enjoy – so let's get together again on **Tuesday, May 28th at 6:00pm**. We will be gathering at the Texas Roadhouse in West Lansing (near the Menards). We can carpool over and back; Pastor Neil will get to the restaurant early to get our table. If anyone wants to go early with Pastor, just let him know. 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, May 22nd
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

"A Study of Martin Luther" has finished. Thank you to all who participated. It was fun and very informative. Our next study will begin in September.

Confirmation:

We are finished for the year. Looking forward to our camp in August and beginning our final year in the fall.





Live Stock for Lilies – Thank You!



We would like to thank all who donated to the *Livestock for Lilies*. Through your donations we were able to donate to ELCA's Good Gifts Program. The monies you donated are going towards the following: 3 goats, 4 honeybee colonies, 4 groups of 10 chicks, 2 shares of a cow, 1 piglet, 1 rooster, and providing a meal for 20 people in a soup kitchen. Not only will your donation help families throught the world we were able to decorate our Easter cross (and then some.) Thank you all ever so much.



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! As the new year begins, 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

The Community Action Team (CAT) is asking for your help to donate personal need items for clients of Helping Hands. We will begin collecting items for the “Blessing Bags” beginning Sunday, May 19th. The congregation will be invited to help assemble the bags on Sunday, June 30th after worship. The needed items are listed below:

Comb or hairbrush	Dental floss	Small packages of
Washcloth or small towel	Chapstick	Kleenex
Bar soap with baggie	Deodorant	Small packages of wet
Toothbrush	Band Aids	wipes
Toothpaste	Small hand sanitizer	

Items will be put into a gallon ziplock bag for distribution.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY
PROJECTS!**



Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

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.

Christmas Craft Event

The next Christmas craft event will be **Tuesday, May 21st at Peace at noon**. We will be making wine cork hot plate holders for the cookie walk/craft bazaar. Bring your stash of wine corks and join us on the 21st! **If you cannot attend but have wine corks to donate, please leave them on the island in the Gathering Space.**

The Ladies of Peace had a wonderful time showering Baby Isaac! Here are some pictures from our lovely day!






Have you always wanted to see the show Escanaba in Da Moonlight or have you seen it before and would love to see it again? Well, we at Peace Lutheran are planning an **outing to the Cornwell's Dinner Theatre to see Escanaba in Da Moonlight on Wednesday, July 31st**. We need to be there at about 11:30 am. The all you can eat Turkey Buffet begins at noon and the show starts at 2:00. Single tickets are \$65, but we have made a reservation for 12 so it will only cost \$52 each! If we have 20 or more, the rate drops to \$50. So, check your calendar and sign up to join us. The sooner the better!

The poster for "Escanaba in Da Moonlight" features a central image of two silhouettes of people holding a drink under a full moon. The title "ESCANABA in Da MOONLIGHT" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below the title, the dates "June 27 - Aug 3" are written in a large, bold, black font, followed by "by Jeff Daniels" in a smaller font. A paragraph of text describes the plot of the show. At the bottom, there is a small logo for "Cornwell's PROFESSIONAL DINNER THEATRE" and the website "TURKEYVILLE.COM".

**ESCANABA
in Da
MOONLIGHT**

June 27 - Aug 3
by Jeff Daniels

When the Soady clan reunites for deer season at the family's Upper Peninsula camp, 35-year-old Reuben Soady brings with him the infamous reputation of being the oldest Soady to never to bag a buck. In a hunting story to beat all hunting stories, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* spins a hilarious tale of humor, horror and heart as Reuben goes to any lengths to remove himself from the wrong end of the family record book.

269.781.4293  TURKEYVILLE.COM

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

LUTHER'S SEAL

Martin Luther wrote this letter from Colburg Castle on July 8th, 1530 describing his seal, aka Luther's Rose.

“Since you wish to know whether my seal is well done, I shall gladly comply with your request by communicating to you the thoughts I originally desired my seal to embrace as indicative of my theology.

First there is a cross, black on a heart in red, as its natural color. This is to remind me that faith in the Crucified saves us: for if one believes with the heart, one is justified. Now although it is a black cross, although it mortifies and is designed to inflict pain, it nonetheless allows the heart to keep its color, it does not destroy its nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. (For the just lives by faith, but faith in the Crucified.)



Such a heart is to be centered on a white rose in order to indicate that faith yields joy, comfort, and peace and straightway beds one on a white, pleasing rose. Nor does faith yield the peace and joy of the world. Therefore the rose would be white and not red, because white is the color of the spirits and of all the angels.

This rose is on a field tinted with the hues of heaven to indicate that this joy in the spirit and faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy, a joy which, to be sure, is even now present in faith and embraced by hope but is not yet revealed.

And around this field runs a ring of gold to show that the blessedness of heaven endures forever and ever and is more precious than all pleasures and possessions of earth, as gold is the most precious and the noblest metal.”

Luther's Small Catechism

(the beginning of a refresher course)

Many have asked about reviewing Luther's Small Catechism – especially the information covered in our confirmation classes. Beginning this month, we will cover in our newsletter everything our confirmation students are required to know and understand in and from Luther's catechism.

This month, we begin with the Ten Commandments. They are listed, along with Martin Luther's explanation of each – taken directly from the Small Catechism.

The Ten Commandments

The 1st Commandment: You shall have no other gods.
What is this? We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.
• Bible Reading: Exodus 32

The 2nd Commandment: You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the
 Lord your God.
What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse,
 swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name,
 but instead use that very name in every time of need to
 call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.
• Bible Reading: Leviticus 24:10-16

The 3rd Commandment: Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.
What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise
 God's Word or preaching, but instead keep that Word
 holy and gladly hear and learn it.
• Bible reading: Luke 10:38-42

The 4th Commandment: Honor your father and mother.
What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise
 nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead
 honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.
• Bible reading: Luke 2:41-52

- The 5th Commandment: You shall not murder.
 What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.
- Bible reading: Genesis 4:1-16
- The 6th Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.
 What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.
- Bible reading: 2 Samuel 11
- The 7th Commandment: You shall not steal.
 What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor cheat them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals to obtain it for ourselves, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.
- Bible reading: Joshua 7:1
- The 8th Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray, or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.
- Bible reading: Luke 22:54-62
- The 9th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

The 10th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is this? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and remain loyal to our neighbors.

What does God say about all of these commandments?

God says the following: "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments."

What is this? God threatens to punish all who break the commandments. Therefore we are to fear his wrath and not disobey the commandments. However, God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep these commandments. Therefore we are to love and trust him and gladly act according to his commands.

Worship Ministry May 2024

Date	Sunday 5/5	Sunday 5/12	Sunday 5/19	Sunday 5/26
Acolyte	Carson Clark	Payton Jobson	Corbin Lincoln	Volunteer
Altar Guild	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	The Clarks	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Volunteer Needed	Barb and Scott Myckowiak	Dian Leckrone	Volunteer Needed
Lector	The Levi Family	The Levi Family	The Levi Family	The Levi Family
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers
Worship Assistant	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln

Church Calendar – May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	2 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	6	7 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	8 6:00 pm AA Meeting	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 Synod Assembly
12 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	13	14 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15 6:00 pm AA Meeting Pastor on vacation	16 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Pastor on Vacation	17 Pastor on Vacation	18 9:00 am –Noon Loads of Love @Quality Dairy Pastor on Vacation
19 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	20	21 12:00 Noon Craft Event 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	22 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	23 Articles Due for the May Tidings 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering	27	28 6:00 pm Men's Night Out@ Texas Roadhouse	29 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	30 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	31	

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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