

THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

Our Vision Statement: *Sharing Peace Faithfully

Our Mission: *To bring people into contact with the gospel, and help them grow in their relationship in God in Christ

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Oh, You Better Watch Out

You probably have heard the words to the song, Santa Claus Is Coming to Town. They include: "Oh, you better watch out. ...so be good for goodness sake!" Millions of kids around the beginning of December are going to try their best to follow the dictum. With modern help from the Elf on the Shelf, eyes are being trained on children to see who makes the cut for the good/nice list. And how successful are the kids at being good? The ones who were mostly good from January through November are probably going to be mostly good in December; and the ones who were trouble the rest of the year probably can only minimally improve in month number twelve.

What doesn't seem to change from the time we are children through adulthood is the concept that you better watch out. With people looking over our shoulders in school, at work, at home, on the internet, in stores while we shop, via red-light cameras, we clearly have reasons to believe that we better watch out. Someone is always watching, and the feeling we have is that the watching is to catch us being bad (or do you prefer "naughty"?).

Christmas is a time when God has something very different to say. Instead of watching to catch us, God has always been watching in love. When God sees us making mistakes in our lives, whether small or great, there is a sadness for what could be. When God sees us in turmoil because of the behavior and decisions of others, God seeks to bring peace. When God sees the impact of death, God speaks a word of hope and healing. Angels announced it to shepherds and through them to Mary and Joseph and through a baby and then a man to all of us, "Don't be afraid. Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people." The message of God among us is not just for the good people, but for all of us – who are sometimes good people and sometimes some degree of naughty. We expectantly can watch for *that* message, which brings freedom rather than a need to look over our shoulders, which always brings gifts and not a lump of coal.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Jodee Saenz, DuWayne Klapper, Charles Nemenski, the family of Bob Aschenbrenner, Billy, John Phillip, Pat Webb, the families of Shirley Bennett and Robert Bennett, Ron Fullriede, the family of Gerald Gerasch, Cathy Rumbaugh, Eleanor Harvey, George Renwick, Matthew, Lynda, Kit, Curtis B., Michelle Swanson, the Bertucci family, Jeff Howell, Ryan Jones, the family of Gerald Ott, Joanne, Sandi DeCamp, Dave Dralle, Trenton Kelley, Kelsey Brick, Marylynne Tyler, David Preston, Linda, Rosetta Maston, Nancy Trainor Smith, Pat Peters, Leah B., Marian S., Renee Wiedman, Darlene Terrell, Harold Brinegar, Denise Jones, George Huffman, the family of Vern Hurley, Jill Goeglein, David Hovi, Sophia & Jacob Campos, Dale & her daughter, Carl, Ann, Jimmie Esco's family, Billy Jackson's wife, Teira Neal, Coffee shop lady & husband, Barb & Jim Garbett, the family of Mary Ellen Coughlin, Joyce Tilquist, Nancy Bohl

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Claire Wilkens, mother of Claudia Cole.

Advent & Christmas Worship Services

Saturday, Dec. 23, at 5:00 p.m. -

4th Sunday of Advent service

Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4:00 p.m. -

Celebration service - including our invitation for children to bring bells to ring.

Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m. -

Candlelight Communion services.

Monday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m. -

Festival Communion service.

Thank You Very Much!

The list that follows is for those who have done something for the first time. (If we miss someone, please let us know!) We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen, even though their names don't keep getting mentioned here.

To:

Everyone who helped and/or provided food for Jerry Cavender's funeral luncheon

Joey Lundgren – lay liturgist

Kassidy Withers, Sydney Stockland, Zachery Stewart – lesson readers

Amelia Ciannella, Kayla Chiappetti, Alexa Hadley, Robert Kazlauskas, Jake Vanderkin, Jaiden Lawless, Mia Melde – acolytes

Brayden Lovell, Danny Gervase, Marc Larson, Jason Vondra – ushers

Danielle Schabes, Alexa Hadley – nursery

Anthony Ciannella, Megan Gerasch – communion servers

Cathy Arenz, Jamie Smith – bread providers

Grace Liszkiewicz – refreshments

Jason Smith – offering counter

Rangini Jaswanthkumar – Thanksgiving phone calls

The more than 70 people who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner, plus more who brought food!!! A total of 194 dinners were served here and 59 meals were delivered!

Dave Johnson – delivery of gifts & coats to Santa Cruz

From:

Together We Cope – for the quilts

Operation Care Package – To the Ruth Circle Quilters for the donation

Jodee Saenz – for the prayer shawl

Erich & Beverly Thiem, Larry Collier, Jason & Leo, residents of Joshua Arms – for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner

Address for Our Sponsored Missionary

If you would like to send Danielle Steinwart a note sometime this year, here is her address:

Danielle Steinwart

High House,

St. Swithun's School

Alresford Rd

Winchester SO21 1HA, United Kingdom

Babysitting List

The new Babysitting list is now available. You can pick up a copy on the table in the entrance area at church.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Jack Eugene Smothers was baptized on Nov. 25;

Camryn Grace Eaton was baptized on Nov. 26.

Congratulations

Joshua Kratovil & Meghan Grober on their marriage on Oct. 28;

Lauren & Clint Buetikofer, parents and Cindy & Don Hostert and Bob & Patricia Perschau., grandparents, on the birth of Carter Blaine Buetikofer on Nov. 12.

Addresses for Service Personnel

Mail for four of our members serving overseas in the military can be sent to:

MA 3Connor Wayne Baker

PSC 455 Box 173

FPO AP 96540-1070

Sgt Pafford, Devin

2714 S. Virginia Dr.

Apt. #36

Yuma AZ 85364

Daniel Treasure, EMFN, EE DIV

USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115)

Unit 100415 Box 1505

FPO AP 96694

Jacob Treasure

3749 Radcliffe Rd.

Abilene, TX 79602

Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for information and support? You are not alone.

There is an Alzheimer's Association Support Group meeting at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! If you would like more information, please contact Karin Knutson at karinknutson@hotmail.com.

GriefShare Ministry

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you heal after losing a loved one. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days. They meet weekly on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. The last date for this session is Dec. 11. If you would like more information, contact Janet, Margie, or Pat at griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Dec. 24**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call (815) 726-3377, ext. 228. For patient eligibility information: <http://willgrundymedicalclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Eligibility.pdf>.

* **Crutches and walkers available** – The church has received crutches and walkers from members. Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.

* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give the individual the names and telephone numbers of people who could be contacted and if possible, have the person meet these people. Give them the suicide prevention hotline. **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Let's remember to keep in mind to spread the word that no one is alone in a time of need. Suicide destroys everyone who cares! Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives. Crisis Line – (815) 469-6166, text line – 741741, and online – www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Meets each Monday at 6:30 p.m.

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of October), June – December 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call (815) 470-4104.

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping and other daily living services. The new website is an easy to use tool for potential residents and family members to learn about Joshua Arms, including eligibility and floor plans.

* **Thrivent members** – For those of you who have Thrivent dollars to donate, don't forget Peace is one of those choices.

* **Cleaning for a Reason** – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to: www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

* **Need Health Insurance?** – Open enrollment on the health care marketplace lasts until December 15 on HealthCare.gov. No matter if this is your first time getting covered or if you are returning, you must take action by December 15. Coverage could be more affordable than you think. With financial help, many can find premiums between \$50 and \$100 per month. Free help is available. If you have questions about signing up or want to talk through your options with a trained professional, free help is just a call or click away. Call 1-800-318-2596 or visit <http://localhelp.healthcare.gov>.

C.D.s & Podcast Available

Would you like a C.D. copy of a worship service? Look for the sign-up on the name tag table. Also, if you want to listen to a sermon you missed or want to hear one again, go to the link on our website www.peacenewlenox.org.

Special Music

If you would like to provide special music (vocal or instrumental) during the worship services, please contact Kelly Muehlnickel at (815) 463-8836 or email her at bluestonebay@comcast.net.

Special Prayers for Healing – Jan. 13

As part of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday night service on Jan. 13, we will have an opportunity for people to come forward for special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.

Peace Buddies – Dec. 3 & 17

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. New Buddies are always welcome! You do not have to be a part of our church to join us. If you know someone, please invite them to come. We usually meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** For the Dec. 17 meeting we'll have a \$10 Christmas gift grab bag exchange. Please put the gift in a Christmas bag. Everyone bring a snack to share. Any questions, please see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Dec. 4 & 18

Quilting meets every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. **No experience necessary.** You just have to know how to have fun to join. And if that's not enticing enough, we always have snacks! Erika Fuhrmann will provide refreshments on Dec. 4 and on Dec. 18 we will have our Christmas potluck.. If you have questions, call Karen Dircks (815) 462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom (708) 479-7338

Men's Dartball – Dec. 12

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. No prior experience is needed (or helpful). Please join us! We finish up at 9:00 so you've got time for your bedtime ice cream, too. (Whose idea is that???)

Trailblazers – Dec. 19

Our Christmas luncheon will be on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at noon here at the church. We will cater the whole meal, so we need to know how many to expect. The cost will be \$10 each. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office to let us know how many will be attending. Be sure to invite a friend! Our menu will include turkey, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert and more!

Peace Page Turners – Jan. 7

Peace Page Turners next will be discussing *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore on Jan. 7, 2018. Join us for the discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We meet at 9:45 a.m. and all are welcome. We don't have extra copies of this book, so if you are interested and would like a copy or if you have questions, please contact Kathy Davenport (815) 545-2806 so she can arrange to get the book from the library.

Adult Fellowship Pizza & Planning – Jan. 20

January 20 at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall will be missing something if you're not there. That night is our annual excuse to eat varieties of pizza while we make plans for the Adult Fellowship Group's activities for the coming year. Adults of all ages and interests are invited; the more people/ideas the better our events turn out to be. The cost for the pizza is \$3 each, and beverages and dessert will also be provided. There will be childcare available for those who let us know in advance (also \$3 per child). Sign up in the bulletin or by calling the office.

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next events. We look forward to seeing you all soon! Any questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

3rd Annual Cookie Exchange

We will meet on **Sunday, Dec. 10**, after the 11:00 a.m. service for our 3rd annual cookie exchange and holiday sweater contest. Please use the sign-up.

AND MORE!!!! More great events in store for 2018 including:

Guitar music at Down Home Guitars in Frankfort; in-house retreat - it was so well attended we'd like to try again; a return to JJC Culinary school, now called Thrive and located at their Joliet campus. Your ideas are always welcome!!!!

Small Toys Needed

Jodie Brugler is creating a prize box for the children at the school where she works. If you have any small toys (McDonald's Happy Meal toys, dollar store toys, etc.) laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the box marked small toys in the narthex. Thank you!

Adult Class Topics...

Come to our Sunday ***weekly adult class***. It usually meets in the back of the sanctuary, starting about 9:55. Here are the scheduled topics for the coming month.

Dec. 3 - *Can Life with God Be Like Bread?* (Make it new all the time)

Dec. 10 - *With God, Nothing Is Hopeless*

Dec. 17 - *Can You Think of Yourself as a Rockefeller?* (the joy of generosity)

Dec. 24 - (no Sunday School or adult class)

Dec. 31 - *Finding God's Call for Life* (or even next year!) (Adult class only; no Sunday School)

Jan. 7 - *For Whose Expectations Are You Living?*

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we'll pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then those who are willing, write a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. December passage is Luke 2:8-15.

Evening Bible Study – Jan. 16

We will not be meeting in December, so our next meeting date will be January 16 at 7:15 p.m. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to benefit.

Coat Drive for People in Need

One Warm Coat is a community service effort assisting in the collection of clean, reusable coats and jackets for donation to local individuals free of charge. Peace Church is following in its mission to give away coats to people of all ages. Our Altar Guild helps with this, and invites you to help those in need with good warm coats. Items can be dropped off here at church. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots will also be accepted. Thank you for your continued support!

New Flower Chart

Each week people donate the cost of altar flowers (\$20 per arrangement). The process is very simple: There is a chart in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall. Sign your name and phone number for the week(s) you want to donate flowers. Someone from the office will call you to find out the reason (if any) for the donation. Envelopes for the cost are by the chart and are mailed the week following your selected week.

Looking Ahead...

Dec. 2 – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Gift Fair/Vendor Fair to Support Charities at Peace – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Program @ 5:00 p.m. (P3-2nd)

Dec. 3 – *Babysitting Event by Peace 360! 12-4p.m.*

Dec. 5 – *Committee Chairs Meet 7:30 p.m.*

Dec. 9 – *7th & 8th grade Christmas party 6-8p.m.*

Dec. 10 – *Blood Pressure Screenings between services Christmas Program @ 11:00 a.m. (3rd – 6th)*

Peace 360! Meeting at Church 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 16 – *Breakfast with Santa 9:00 a.m.*

Community Christmas Tree Event at Francis Field between 2-5 p.m.

Shortest Day/Longest Night Service 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 17– *Peace 360! Christmas at the Zoo 12-9p.m.*

Dec. 19 – *Trailblazers' Christmas Luncheon noon Church Council (note - 1 week early)*

Dec. 23 – *5:00 p.m. – Fourth Sunday of Advent worship*

Dec. 24 – *4:00 p.m. – Celebration service – including our invitation for children to bring bells to ring*

Dec. 24 – *7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion services*

Dec. 25 – *10:00 a.m. – Festival Communion service*

Jan. 15 – *Jr. & Sr. High Ski Trip 6:15 a.m.*

Jan. 20 – *First Communion Class 10:00 a.m.*

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Dec. 10

High blood pressure can start at any age and can cause catastrophic illness in our bodies if it goes untreated. Our next monthly screening date is Dec. 10, between the two services. Your pressure will be measured by health care professionals, and will be kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions, or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to be a part of the team, please contact Marylynn Tyler at 815-423-6407.

First Communion Class – Jan. 20

Each year we seek to prepare children in the fifth grade (and beyond) for receiving their first communion. We do it in a one-hour concentrated class. A parent/other adult (or two) should attend along with the child. The class will be offered on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 10:00 a.m.

Remember Our P.O. Box

Use P.O. Box 205 for mail addressed to Peace.

Deadlines for Christmas Gift Giving for Santa Cruz & Augustana Center Dec. 10

Just a reminder if you took gift tags, gifts for Augustana Center and Santa Cruz they are due back by Dec. 10.

Children's Christmas Programs

Our Sunday School has two programs. Children who are 3 years old - 2nd grade had their program on Dec. 2. Children in 3rd through 6th grades will have their program on Dec. 10 during the 11:00 worship.

Shortest Day/Longest Night Worship Service – Dec. 16

As a part of the 5:00 worship service on Dec. 16 we will have a special liturgy and emphasis. It will acknowledge that Christmas is not merry for everyone. This Shortest Day/Longest Night observance allows anyone who has felt any kind of loss (death, divorce, job, etc.) to come and recognize that each is not alone; each is also held in God's compassionate care. We encourage you to invite anyone who has experienced a loss or is struggling.

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town – Dec. 16

We hope you and your friends can join us for a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9:00 a.m. at church. This is a great chance to see a relatively uncrowded Santa, visit with friends, and get into the Christmas spirit! Whether you are naughty or nice, we'll serve you waffles, sausages, bananas, donut holes, milk, juice, and coffee (for a suggested donation of \$2.50 per person.) If you plan to attend, please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin and give us ages of children too. Let us know if you would be able to help with the set-up on Friday morning, clean-up, or help with serving.

Peace Church Christmas Ornaments

On behalf of the New Lenox Historical Society, Peace Lutheran Church Christmas ornaments are now available for purchase. If you would like one (or more), please look for the display on the counter in the narthex. The cost is \$8.50 per ornament. (There's an envelope available by the ornaments to place your cash or check made payable to Peace Lutheran Church).

Christmas Offering

Each year the money we receive in our Thanksgiving and Christmas special envelopes is given away to others. This year it will be divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal (which includes direct help for the victims of the floods, earthquakes, and other disasters), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church that serves so many people in need, especially as state funding is so short), mission churches (Santa Cruz in Joliet and Resurrection in Channahon – Pastor Ben's church), and local ministries that help others (Groundwork, Daybreak, Trinity Services, and Morningstar Mission.)

Thinking about Christmas Gifts?

Give your loved one a goat. What!? Through the ELCA's Good Gifts, you can find all kinds of alternative Christmas giving ideas. In short, someone who needs something, such as livestock, receives the actual animal, and your loved one knows that his or her gift is helping someone in need. Check out these and many other good gifts at <https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>.

Community Christmas Tree Event –Dec. 16

The Village of New Lenox has eliminated the community Christmas trees from their events, but Nick DiSandro, a youth commissioner didn't want to see it die. So, the new location will be at the Francis Field Youth Foundation on Francis Rd. The decorating date is planned for Saturday, Dec. 16, and Peace's tree will be there for you to add any "natural" items between 2:00 & 5:00 p.m.

American Legion Band - Sounds of Christmas – Dec. 10

The award-winning Joliet American Legion Band will perform their 35th annual Sounds of Christmas concert at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet for a 2:00 p.m. performance on Dec. 10. Tickets are free (but food items will be collected at the door). Please use the sign-up slip by Dec. 3 to reserve your spot.

Blood Drive – Feb. 24

Thank you to everyone who donated in December. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Feb. 24 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
This past week in adult education class we talked about making a checklist for a happier life. We came to the conclusion that each person's list is different and that it might be more helpful to make a list of the things that you do that don't make you happy and then work towards eliminating those from your life. My list might then say things like worrying about disappointing people, doing more than my body can physically do, eating dinner at 9 o'clock at night. I'm sure you too could easily make a list for yourself. As we begin the holiday season there is a temptation to add a lot more tasks to our to do lists. I invite you to ask yourself each time, does this add to my happiness, or the happiness of my family, or does it take away? It might lead to less shopping in crowded malls and more providing for experiences. Like, instead of buying my niece and nephew the newest and greatest toy that I'll have to search for and fight for and pay ridiculous prices for, I am knitting them each a blanket (which I love to do and makes me happy) and buying a special movie for them and scheduling a movie and cuddle night with me (which they love and makes them happy). You see happiness is a gift from God but it is not always about material things and is often about relationships with those we love, with our self and with the God who loves us. This holiday season take some time to invest in those relationships and in the things that provide happiness rather than distract from it.

A blessed Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas,

Deacon Shari

Opiate Recovery Group

An Opiate Recovery Group meets here at Peace each Tuesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Are you or a loved one struggling with heroin or opiate dependence? Addiction is a family disease, because everyone in the family suffers if someone is addicted to or abusing drugs. The good news is people can and do recover, and lead happy and productive lives. Please join us! This support group meeting is for those struggling, those who love someone struggling, or those who just want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and prescription pain medications in our community. For more information, contact Tom Moore at 815-354-3195.

Questions Kids Ask

All kinds of people give gifts at Christmas. Have you thought about giving one to a child who loves to read, or who is inquisitive, or who maybe even is unchurched? Our Questions Kids Ask About God book (and companion coloring book) are great options. Kids want to read this book, and kids love to have adults read it to them. They are available in the church office (and a sample is on the counter in the entrance area.)

Blackhawks Game – Feb. 15

AUTUMN! What excites you about fall? Colorful leaves? Halloween? Thanksgiving? Christmas preparation? What about snow and sub-zero temperatures on the horizon? Maybe all of these? But for some, high on the list is Blackhawk hockey! We have 9 tickets left. They are in rows 6 & 7 of the upper deck and are \$95 each. We will also have transportation available for those who would like it. please use the sign up slip in the bulletin or call the church office to reserve yours now. Join the excitement! Hawk ticket make a great holiday gift for that hard to buy for person!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Dec. 13 & 27

We will be meeting every other Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. If you already know how to stitch, or would like to learn, come and join us. We have members teaching crocheting or knitting if you want to learn. You can bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Any questions, please contact Cheryl Gamen at (815) 462-3089.

Prayer Shawls to Be Given Away

Do you know someone who is in need of being wrapped in prayer, who would benefit from knowing that they are being prayed for, or someone going through difficult times? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry would love to create a prayer shawl for you or someone you know. A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation. In the entrance area, you will find a plaque for the ministry along with a request box. Please put in your requests and you will be contacted when your shawl is ready for pickup. Make sure to include your contact information, the recipient's first name (last name optional) and prayer concern. You may also contact the office directly for a shawl.

God's Work in Action

As one of this year's goals in our Long-Range Plan, we want to highlight at least 10 people from church who are volunteering outside of Peace. God's work gets done by you in so many different ways; we want to celebrate how you take your gifts from God and apply them! This month's contribution is from Dave & Kay Johnson.

When senior citizens become eligible for Medicare they often have many questions. Too often they don't know whom to ask for help. Sometimes they don't even know that they have choices about their drug plans or supplemental insurance policies which may save them considerable amounts of money. Five years ago my wife, Kay, and I were asked by Senior Advantage, a branch of Riverside hospital in Kankakee dedicated to helping senior citizens, to volunteer to help. We attended a week of classes led by a representative from SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program), a branch of Illinois Department of Aging. After our training we took an exam to certify our understanding of the issues we had trained for. For the past 5 years we each spend a half a day a month counseling Medicare enrollees.

We educate new enrollees, give advice on Part D or drug plans and supplemental insurance, assist those who might not be able to afford the drugs they are taking, and help solve problems where patients are billed incorrectly. During open enrollment for Medicare patients we work many hours entering patient information into a computer program so we can offer advice about which drug plan is most economical for the drugs a patient is taking. We are fortunate to be working with a Riverside employee who is enthusiastic and knowledgeable. She continues to educate us at monthly meetings regarding new and upcoming issues.

We are part of a group of 10 volunteers, many who trained with us, and we have come to appreciate their individual contributions and strengths. Our monthly meetings have drawn us closer to these hard working, dedicated people. Our training has made us aware of the rules and regulations of Medicare which in turn helps us as Medicare consumers. We often follow the new legislation proposed to regulate Medicare payments. We have been able also to help many friends and family members. We feel fortunate that we are able to assist so many people, often saving them considerable sums of money. Their gratitude is rewarding and makes us feel good. We are so pleased that we were called to help and made the choice to be SHIP counselors.

~ Dave Johnson

The Hope Fund

If your child(ren) would like to participate in a youth event but the cost involved is keeping him/her/them from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. The Hope Fund has been established through the generous donation of a Peace Lutheran Church family. Just talk to Deacon Shari or Pastor Dave – and no one else will know.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

How do I get into the spirit when my life around me is so stressful that I can't even think straight? How do I put on a smile to family and friends when my heart is aching? How do I find quiet moments to keep my sanity? How can I put myself first when my loved one is in decline? As a caregiver, it is with great love that we continue to care, but it is of greater importance to keep ourselves healthy. How do I do that? Connect with God. Ask for help. Take one day at a time and know that you are not alone. Reaching out can and will make a difference in your life and for your loved one. Let the Spirit move you. *(For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex and don't forget to borrow a book from the bin.)*

Because of You and Your Gifts

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria pummeled Puerto Rico with devastating wind and rain. Weeks after the storm, most of the island's residents remain without power or running water, making each day a struggle. Lutheran World Relief is working with a local partner, Casa Pueblo, to provide assistance in the inland, mountainous community of Adjuntas, which has received little aid. LWR is providing cash vouchers to the neediest families, particularly those with young children and the vulnerable elderly, so they can meet their most immediate needs. LWR is also supplying refillable water filtration units so families no longer have to rely on drinking water from unpredictable bottled water distributions and unsafe sources like streams, as well as solar lanterns. These are some of the stories of the people of Puerto Rico, who despite their hardships, forge ahead in a way they capture in a simple phrase: ¡Vamos Adelante! ("Let's go ahead!")

Discussion Starters for Families

Search Institute has identified five essential actions in Parent-child relationships that help children and teens grow up well. Here is one of the discussion-starter questions that can help you talk with your children and teens about different parts of your relationship. The goal is not to get the right answer, but to share each person's experiences, feelings, and beliefs so you get to know each other better. Ask these questions when people are not rushed or distracted. Start with just one question. Then try others as long as people are interested and available. Have fun discovering new things about each other and your family and watch the newsletter for more discussion-starter questions.

Challenge Growth: Focuses on the ways we encourage, inspire, or influence each other to try to new things, take risks, or overcome obstacles

Use these discussion starters to talk about it together.

- How has someone inspired you to take on a new challenge? What was inspiring to you about it?
- How does challenging other people to grow either strengthen us or hurt your relationship? How does having a strong relationship make it easier or harder to push people to learn and grow?
- What are some challenges we have faced together in our family? In what ways did we grow in the midst of those challenges?

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

The asset for the month of December is:

Positive Communication

Young person and his/her parents communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek parent(s)' advice and counsel.

December quote of the month:

"Seek first to understand, then to be understood."

~ Stephen Covey

Youth Announcements

7th & 8th grade/ HS Ski Trip – Jan. 15

We will be going on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 15, 2018. **ALL FORMS, INCLUDING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY FORM AND MONEY ARE DUE BY JANUARY 6, 2018.** Forms can be found at the end of the table in the Narthex. Meet here at 6:15 a.m. & we will be returning approximately 10:30 p.m. The cost is: lift ticket only \$55.00 (includes transportation), lift ticket & rental (either snowboard or skis) \$ 75.00 (includes transportation) and this includes a lesson as well. Also, for an extra \$8 you can get the ski lodge meal deal (you receive a voucher worth \$10). If you would like the meal deal, please include \$8. Please bring extra money for your dinner on the way home, or if you prefer, you may bring a sack lunch with you for either or both meals. If you have questions, or you can't find the forms needed, call the church office at (815) 485-5327.

High School

Peace 360 Meets Sundays at 6:00 p.m.!

Attention all high school youth! Have you ever wished that there was a place that you could hang with your friends (from church and elsewhere)? We have that place for you... Peace 360! We will meet most weekends on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. If you can't make it every week, that's okay. Whenever you can be here you'll be a welcome addition!

Dec. 10 –meeting at the church

***Dec. 17 – Christmas Celebration at the Zoo
12:00-9:00p.m.***

Peace 360! Christmas Celebration at the Zoo – Dec. 17 noon

Come and join us at Brookfield Zoo to see some amazing Christmas lights. Price is the cost of admission and bring money for a fast food dinner on the way home.

Confirmation:

7th Grade – Dec. 6 **6:30 p.m.** – Pizza before class
 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class
8th Grade – Dec. 13 **6:30 p.m.** – Pizza before class
 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

7th & 8th grade Christmas Party – Dec. 9

On Saturday, December 9 at 6:00p let's play games and so a fun service project! We are going to make dinner so please bring \$3 to contribute to dinner. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin, sign up sheet in your classroom, or contact the church office, to let us know if you will be joining us.