

# ***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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## ***Losing Focus***

Have you ever been in a class or a meeting (or worship!), and found your mind had wandered? It might be that the presenter is boring; it might be the material doesn't interest you; it might be that you've had a fight with someone or had something go wrong that day and that's all you can think about. When our minds wander, we are missing something – and hopefully not something important.

December is a month when losing focus is particularly easy. Many of us pack all the normal things into our schedules, plus a dozen more. We have a to-do list (on paper or in our minds) that makes us wonder how we will ever get it all done. We fret over buying presents (augmented by wanting to get the perfect presents.) Our calorie count goes off the chart. Our sleep gets cheated and our tempers get shorter. Some have added concerts or parties or (and) family get-togethers. We hear about remembering to focus on what counts and to enjoy the season. Some days we pull it off, and some days we aren't even close.

The great news of Christmas is God's focus. Throughout the history of God's relationship with the people of Abraham, people frequently lost sight of God and God's plan for how to live. But God didn't lose sight of how God's love was the light to the world and of the world. Even when the leaders and people were so completely enamored with their own plan that God was just a voice to which they felt no need to pay attention, God found ways to stay focused on God's vision. At Christmas, in the birth of Jesus, we get to celebrate how that vision is fully implemented. God's love would not be distracted. What a gift!

No one is going to be fully focused on that gift, no matter how much we would like to be. But just like in a class where our minds have wandered, the goal is to keep returning to the subject at hand; to see how God's love can bless us and the whole world -- it is worth the effort to focus!

*Pastor Dave Hedlin*

## ***Prayers Requested***

Adam Kle, Mickie Nacker, Michael Alexander, Dorothy Horsley, Darlene Terrell, Rose McCauley, Don, Joyce, Patti, Jack, Beverly Decker, Carolyn, Penny, Korrin Giovengo, Kristin Carroll, Dennis Flynn, Ray Anglin, Connie & Beau Spirakes, Ryan Jones, the family of Marv Johnson, George Huffman, Ken Gatewood, Mark G., Sandy Losiniecki, Cindy Anderson, Heather, Mary Brouette, Lynn White

## ***Sympathy***

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Mike Breslan, father of Vicki Breslan-Golub.

## ***Congratulations***

David & Dana Van Dyke (Vincent & Francesca) on the birth of Luca James Van Dyke on Oct. 29;

Caroline & Sean Schrader, parents, and Chuck & Jan Wolske, grandparents, on the birth of Jaxson James Schrader on Nov. 12;

Emily Vietoris & Brian McGoldrick on their marriage, Nov. 17.

## ***Christmas Worship Services***

***Monday, Dec. 24, at 4:00 p.m. -***

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

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

Candlelight Communion services.

***Tuesday, 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:***

Kenneth George – lay liturgist  
Christian Knutson, Danielle Schabes, Lila Hadley,  
Emersynn Smith – acolytes  
Grace Farrell – nursery  
Emily Dotzenrod – communion server  
Max Heidenreich, Cameron Krause – greeters  
Christian Knutson – usher  
Marc D. Larson, Marc A. Larson – offering counters  
Rangini Jaswanthkumar & Marie Phelps –  
Thanksgiving phone calls  
The more than 70 people who helped with the  
Thanksgiving Dinner, plus more who brought food!!!  
A total of 185 dinners were served here, 6 carry outs and  
63 meals were delivered!

Jen & Peyton Arthur – delivery of food & coats to  
Santa Cruz

### ***From:***

Feed My Starving Children/LAMP – for help packing  
meals (132,192 meals were packed to feed 362 kids for a  
year!)

Cass Ott – to everyone who gave Halloween candy for  
our troops

Friends of Sunny Hill – for the donation of a basket  
for their silent auction

Operation Care Package – for the contribution of  
candy

Manhattan Quilters – for the use of our facility

## ***Do You Give Electronically or Want To?***

For those of you who give electronically and would like  
to put something in the offering plate, we have cards  
located on the counter you may use. If you would like to  
sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the  
office. Also, if you want to give on-line at any time, you  
can go to our website ([www.peacenewelenox.org](http://www.peacenewelenox.org)), click  
on the donate tab and then use the donate through Paypal  
tab. You can use most major credit cards.

## ***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.

## ***Welcome to the Lord's Family***

Kyle Edward Antoniazzi was baptized on Nov. 11.

## ***Our Missionary***

Louisa Ishida is from Villa Park, graduated from  
Valparaiso University, and will be serving in Swaziland  
in Southern Africa. Her blog address is  
<https://eswatiniexperience.wordpress.com/> so you can  
keep up to date on what is going on. Look on our  
bulletin board on the way into Fellowship Hall for more  
information. Her physical address is:  
PostNet Suite 30  
Private Bag X6  
Cascades  
3203  
South Africa

## ***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 on Mondays at 6:00 p.m.  
There will be no meetings Dec. 17, 24 & 31.  
Jan. 7 will be the final meeting of this session  
If you would like more information, contact Janet,  
Margie, or Pat at [griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com](mailto:griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com).

## ***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! For more information,  
contact Karin Knutson at [karinknutson@hotmail.com](mailto:karinknutson@hotmail.com).

## ***Addiction and Family Support Group***

Meets here at Peace each Tuesday night from 7:00 –  
8:30 p.m. 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.

## ***Quick Reminders***

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Dec. 23**. 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](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

### \* **Bereavement Support Groups**

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

(Will not be meeting Dec. 24 or Dec. 31)

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of March), December - June 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](http://www.joliethospice.org) or call 815-740-4104.

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

\* **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](http://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.

\***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](http://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.

## ***Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry***

We have an ongoing partnership with Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in Joliet. They have a food pantry & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. We have a list now of specific items they can use in their pantry. You can bring these anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall.

cereal (all kinds)	canned fruit
coffee (ground) all kinds	creamers (powdered)
ice cream cones (summer only)	juices
hand soap (bar & liquid)	toothpaste
dish soap	disposable diapers

## ***Golden Opportunities Books are back***

We are once again offering Golden Opportunity books. They're filled with savings coupons for many different types of places, from food to entertainment to carwashes. This year's edition has arrived and are \$25 each. (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) We hope this helps you get some good bargains!

## ***Donations for MorningStar Treasure Chest***

We are still accepting donations of clothing and household goods for MorningStar Treasure Chest. Place your donations in the basket marked MorningStar located in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall.

### ***Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Dec. 3 & 17***

Quilting meets every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. You just have to know how to have fun to join. On Dec. 17 we will be having our Christmas potluck. Questions, contact Karen 815- 462-9527 or Syndy 708-479-7338.

### ***Prayer Shawl – Wed., Dec. 12***

Come and prepare shawls for people who need to be wrapped in God's love. We meet every other Wed. at 6:00 p.m. We will not be meeting Dec. 26. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl 815-462-3089. If you know someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl, look for the request box on the narthex counter.

### ***Men's Dartball – Tues., Dec. 11***

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

### ***Peace Page Turners – Sun., Jan. 13***

The next meeting will be Jan. 13 at 9:45 a.m. We will be discussing *The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan. All are welcome. Join us even if you haven't read the book. Questions, contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

### ***Trailblazers – Tues., Dec. 18***

Our Christmas luncheon will be on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at noon here at the church. We will cater the whole meal, so we need to know how many to expect by Dec. 12. 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!

### ***Peace Buddies – Sun., Dec. 16***

For the December meeting, let's go see the movie *The Grinch*. The exact time will be determined. We'll email everyone who'd like to go....so if you're not already on our email list for Peace Buddies, be sure to let us know you'd like to join the group and get the information. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546.

### ***Ping Pong Club– Sun., Dec. 16***

The ping pong club meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please join us! The new format includes some singles and some doubles playing among whoever shows up.

### ***Adult Fellowship Soup & Planning – Sat., Jan. 19***

January 19 at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall will be missing something if you're not there. This year we will eat varieties of soup 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 soups 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 emailing or calling the office.

### ***Faith Discussion Group – Thurs., Dec. 20***

Our small group meets once a month to discuss various topics, to deepen our faith and build relationships within the group. We welcome anyone to join - men and women of all ages - you do not have to attend all meetings! The next is on Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Janet Stoller's home. If interested, please email her at [jlstoller2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jlstoller2000@yahoo.com). P.S. we have great snacks!

### ***Peace Women's Group – Fri., Dec. 14***

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next events. Questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786. Friday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m. - We're getting together for some warm winter fun. We will have warm drinks, cookies, and we will be crocheting warm winter scarves for the homeless. Both experienced and novices are welcome! If you have them, bring 1/5.5mm crochet hooks. Yarn will be provided.

### ***Advent Devotionals***

Please pick up a copy of an Advent devotional booklet (adult's & children's) located on the table in the narthex.

## ***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. 2** - *The Burdens We All Carry* (and how to help others)

**Dec. 9** - *Promises Broken or Kept?* (Not a political slogan - but how it relates to what God has done, and the our own record.)

**Dec. 16** - *Toxic People Can Take the Fun out of Life (and Christmas)* (Includes tips for how to deal with them & how Jesus' dealt with them.)

**Dec. 23** - *Be Not Afraid - For Us, Too* (Hear the angels afresh)

**Dec. 30** - *What Does G-O-D Spell for You?*

**Jan. 7** - *What Should We Think about (This New Year & Beyond)?*

## ***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's passage is: Mark 1:1-8.

## ***Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Dec. 9***

Our next monthly screening date is Dec. 9, between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to help, please contact Marylynn Tyler at (815) 423-6407.

## ***Blood Drive – Feb. 2***

Thank you to everyone who donated in December. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Feb. 2 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

## ***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>.

## ***Looking Ahead...***

**Dec. 4** – *Committee Chairs Meet 7:30 p.m.*

**Dec. 8** – *7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Ice Skating Event 2 p.m.*

**Dec. 9** – *Blood Pressure Screenings between services 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Christmas Program 11:00 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Holiday Party 4-6 p.m.*

**Dec. 14** – *Women's Group 7:00 p.m.*

**Dec. 15** – *Breakfast with Santa 9:00 a.m.*

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

**Dec. 16** – *Peace Buddies Movie time TBD*

*Peace 360 Babysitting Event 12-4 p.m.*

**Dec. 18** – *Church Council (note - 1 week early)*

**Dec. 24** – *Church Office Closed*

*4:00 p.m. – Celebration service – including our invitation for children to bring bells to ring 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion services*

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

**Jan. 1** – *Church Office Closed*

**Jan. 7** – *Final GriefShare of the session 6:00 p.m.*

**Jan. 12** – *Special Prayers for Healing 5:00 p.m.*

**Jan. 13** – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

*5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sky Zone Event 12p.m.*

**Jan. 19** – *First Communion Class 10:00 a.m.*

*Peace 360 Lock – In 5:00 p.m.*

**Jan. 20** – *NYG Youth Led Worship Service 11:00 a.m.*

**Jan. 21** – *7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade MLK Service day 10:00 a.m.*

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

**Feb. 9** – *Genealogy Group 10:00 a.m.*

## ***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.)

## ***Special Prayers for Healing – Jan. 12***

As part of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday night service on Jan. 12, 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.

## ***From Deacon Shari Trotter***

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

It's Beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. What does Christmas mean to you? This time of year can be a challenge to decipher where we should place the emphasis. Do we spend our time preparing for Christmas by spending endless hours in shopping malls searching for the perfect gift? Do we stress out over decorations and other's opinions of how our homes look? For me, I just want to strip it all away. I want to put Christmas carols on the radio and sing at the top of my lungs. I want to gather with my family and laugh and share all that has happened throughout the year. I want to worship in a pure and simple way. I want to sing Silent Night and hold a candle and marvel in the single small light that has come into the world to destroy the darkness. This year my heart is aching. This year has been hard, not only personally but for our country and world as well. There are people who don't have a home to decorate due to severe storms and fire. There are people who don't feel safe due to prejudice. Some families will not gather because they have chosen sides in the divisive political debate. Some families will not gather because they have been ripped apart while seeking a better life. What can we do this Christmas? Can we lift the purest parts of Christmas and focus on how those might heal our world? Christmas in its purest form is about light that came into the world. It is about peace amid fear and danger. It is about love. May we have time to honor the purest parts of Christmas. May we take time to pray for those whom this Christmas will be unbearable and be encouraged to do our part to make their lives a little better with the love Christ has brought to us. May the light of Christ find a place in our life this Christmas and may it be shared with others.

A very blessed Christmas to all of you,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

## ***Genealogy Group – Sat., Feb. 9***

Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 10:00 a.m. if you are interested in working on genealogies. Some of you are veterans of this work and can share with those who would like to start. We have had a great response so far!

## ***Shortest Day/Longest Night Worship Service – Sat., Dec. 15***

As a part of the 5:00 worship service on Dec. 15 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.

## ***First Communion Class – Sat., Jan. 19***

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. 19, at 10:00 a.m.

## ***Deadlines for Christmas Gift Giving for Santa Cruz & Augustana Center Dec. 9***

Each year we have gift tags on a tree for those who wish to help people in need. Some are for people at Santa Cruz, our mission partner in Joliet. Some are for Augustana Open Arms Center. Some are for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Please follow the instructions on the tag and return the gifts and tags by **Dec. 11** for the first two, and by Christmas for the ELCA ones.

## ***Children's Christmas Program***

Our Sunday School has two programs. Children who are 3 years old - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade had their program on Dec. 1. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades will have their program on Dec. 9 during the 11:00 worship.

## ***Santa Claus Is Coming – Sat., Dec. 15***

We hope you and your friends can join us for a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 15, 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.

## Youth Announcements

### High School

#### **Peace 360 Meets Sundays at 4-7 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 4:00 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. 2** – Meet at Church at 12:30p.m. to enjoy the Madrigal singers. Bring snow gear, if it is still snowy out, we will go sledding after. Grilled cheese and soup for dinner.

**Dec. 9** – Christmas Party and games.

**Dec. 16** – Christmas babysitting Event Noon- 4p.m.

**Dec. 23** – Christmas Caroling telegram. Dinner is pizza and hot chocolate.

**Dec. 30** – No Meeting

### Teen Bible Study- Wednesdays

High school age youth are invited to a new Teen Bible study with Deacon Shari. We will meet at church on Wed., Dec. 5 & Dec. 12 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will cover in-depth, yet compact and easy to understand Bible lessons while covering topics relevant to teens.

### Confirmation Schedule - Wednesdays

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade confirmation Dec. 5 & Jan.16** Pizza 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade confirmation Dec. 12 & Jan.23** Pizza 6:30p.m.  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Kid & Adults Feb. 6** Hot dogs 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jan. 9 & April 24** Pizza 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### Bible Buddies

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Jan. 23 & April 24**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Ice Skating – Sat., Dec. 8**

On Sat., Dec. 8 we will meet at church at 2p.m. and go to the Arctic Ice Arena to go ice skating. Cost of this outing is \$10 for admission and skate rental. Open skate is from 2:30 to 3:30. Pick up youth at church at 4p.m. Please let us know if you can join us. There is an online sign up on our church website, use the signup sheet in the narthex, or the sign up in the bulletin. Parents if you would like to drive/chaperone please let us know.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party – Sun., Dec. 9**

Please join us on Sun., Dec. 9 at 4p.m. for some holiday fun! We will play games, eat some food and do a service project. Pick up youth at 6p.m. Please let us know if you will be joining us. There is an online sign up on our church website, use the signup sheet in the narthex, or the sign up in the bulletin. Parents if you would like to chaperone please let us know.

### ***Building assets in youth and community***

Our asset this month is Positive Values: Resiliency. Here are some suggestions for how to help this asset happen at home, at school, in the community, and in church or public organization.

#### ***At home:***

Help your children understand the difference between what we can and cannot control and how to deal with the latter emotionally, as well as practically.

#### ***Teachers at school:***

Talk with students about times when they felt powerless and times when they have felt powerful. Give students choices whenever possible.

#### ***In the community:***

Train adults who work with youth to affirm their abilities and give them choices whenever possible. Include problem solving skills in job training for teen workers.

#### ***In the church or public organization:***

Give youth a say in planning activities for the youth program. Within your youth group, explore healthy ways to handle stress and setbacks.

### ***Building Assets in our Youth and Community***

**The asset for the month of  
December is:**

**Positive Values: Resiliency  
December quote of the month:**

“Resilience means you experience, you feel,  
you fail, you hurt.  
You fall. But you keep going.”

*-Yasmin Mogahed*

## ***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).

## ***Peace 360 Babysitting Event***

Our High school youth group, Peace 360, is setting aside some time to baby sit on Sun., Dec. 16, from 12-4p.m. here at church (ages 2 years old and up). Free of charge! Maybe you would like time to go out shopping, make other preparations for Christmas, or just take some time for yourself. Let us know if you would like to use our services by using the sign-up in the narthex or contacting the church office. First come, first serve.

## ***New Ticket Options***

Our ever-vigilant Fellowship Committee has been scouting the various upcoming shows, and here are their latest offerings. Use the sign-up, call the office, use our email to reserve your seats. First-come, first-served.

*The Producers* - Sat., Feb. 9, 3:00 p.m.

Only Mel Brooks could come up with a musical based on how to create a failure on Broadway. This fast-paced comedy takes on stereotypes with some very witty exchanges. (It is suggested for people over 18 years old.) Once again, we have main floor seats, center section at the Paramount in Aurora with a deep discount price of \$37 each! We have 15 tickets available.

*The Ultimate Queen Celebration Starring Marc Martel* - Sat., Apr. 27, 8:00 p.m.

The lead singer was hand-chosen by Queen to be the star of their tribute band. He is also the lead singer for the new movie! Wow! This show is at Governors State's Performing Arts Center. Our seats are 8 rows from the stage. Our discounted tickets are \$36. We have 20 seats reserved.

*August Rush* - Sat., May 18, 3:00 p.m.

Paramount Theatre is producing this brand new musical for the first time. Based on the movie, follow the journey of 11-year-old Evan on his search to find his parents. The story-line and music alone would be worth the price – deeply discounted at \$37 each. We have reserved 15 main floor seats at the Paramount, center section.

## ***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.

## ***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!

## ***Questions Kids Ask***

November was a very busy month for QKA! Carol Hedlin presented our ministry in southern California and Sue Lafferty presented our ministry in Florida. In both cases, regional meetings for the Women of the ELCA were the forum, and the response and affirmation of the book were so encouraging. By now some of these women had already gotten the book at the national gathering of the ELCA and could tell their own stories of what a difference this book can make. If you're looking for a Christmas gift or stocking stuffer, consider the hardcover book (\$14) or the coloring book (\$1).

## ***Caregiver Tip of the Month***

Keeping yourself healthy on a daily basis is so important and an even greater challenge now during this busy time of year. While you prepare for visitors, dinners, gatherings, parties, shopping and more shopping, the 'to-do' list will become endless and long. What 'to-do'? Keep the list short. Prioritize. Ask for help. Breathe. Pray. Know that after the last guest has left and the lights have been turned off, your loved one is still at peace because of your care. Your 'to-do' list will always be there and what you have 'to-do' today, is to continue 'to-do' for you! (*For 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***

Dare to Love More Food and Resources at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio, is a place where families find nourishing food, warm clothes and an equally warm welcome. The idea for this ministry came from an unlikely place, a hospice room. Established in 2017 and serving 75 families per month, this ministry is “invaluable” and allows people to “feel seen, heard and loved.” This important work is supported in part by a Domestic Hunger Grant from ELCA World Hunger. Your offerings matter!

## ***Recyclable & Craft Donations for Frankfort Kids Work Museum***

In order to have a cost-effective craft area for the children who visit the KidsWork Museum in Frankfort, they rely on donations of clean, recyclable materials. **Please make sure your items are clean before dropping them off.** They are in need of egg cartons, toilet paper & paper towel tubes, and yogurt containers. Crafty items like full sheets of felt, buttons, sequins, pipe cleaners and googly eyes would all be appreciated.