

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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Trees Need Roots

Do you have a “real” Christmas tree in your home? If you do, you are very much in the minority (18%.) For many of you, all you have ever known is the artificial variety. For those of us who grew up with the real deal, the ritual consisted of trying to find one that seemed “good,” bring it into the house, cut the base to fit the stand, perhaps try to get it to stand up straight, keep it watered, and then, at the end, remove it without losing all the needles. Is it any wonder so many of us opted for the “fake” ones?

The reality of all trees is that they need water to live, which they get through their roots. Those same roots are what absorb nutrients and keep the trees anchored in the ground. When a major windstorm comes and topples a large tree, the force that can pull up soil and roots and all is quite impressive, but also marks the end of the tree’s life.

For many of us, December is a month where our lives easily can get separated from our own roots. We are scattered by how many things there are to do. We get frustrated by how much time and money we will have spent on people who don’t end up appreciating those efforts (at least not enough.) Sometimes we feel trapped by the expectations of others. Sometimes our own dreams of how the season is supposed to turn out and feel are terribly inaccurate, and the letdown makes us sad and or angry.

Even with all those working against us, we also can get nourished by our roots at this time of year. The simple message of God coming to earth to love us from the inside can give us life. The no-holds-barred actions of God and the support of the community of faith can supply us with a strength to deal with life as it really is, and a perspective on how even in the places of smelly sheep and overcrowded inns, meaningful life can be found. It is possible to hear again words of peace (and experience it!)

You have wonderful, God-given and God-giving roots in your ecosystem. Trust them, no matter what December or the other months bring, to outlast all perils and challenges and to nourish you with meaning in your own life and in the lives of others.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Pam Ensley, Emily Burnson, Raymond Standard, Pam Salutric, Bob Britton, Mary, Teresa, Barb Decker, Mark Krysiak, Jake, Mason Mena, Josh, Cindy Chubb, Roger Bentley, the Kraii family, Mel Stromberg, the family of Morgan Palley, Joe Schultz, those with disabilities and those who advocate for them, Diane Sprandel, Katie Fanning, Bill Horsley, Sallie, Nancy Bohl, the family of Gabriella Adamo, Frank Brixius, Janet Stoller, Lynn McGuire, the family of Nancy Reedman, Courtney, Betty, Karen, Gloria, Lisa Brooks, Alexis Flynn, Kerrie Flynn, Josilyn, Rick Davis, Andrew, Drew, Suzanne & Steve, Menke, Sonja Muehlnickel, Matthew, Nolan, Tammy Hoehn, Jackie, Sharry, Ken Barker, Marty Rodey, Julie Haas.

Congratulations

Sandy Moriarty, grandmother, Adalyn Jane Swanson on Oct. 24.

Welcome to the Lord’s Family

Joseph Dennis Pisciola was baptized on Nov. 10.

Christmas Worship Services

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

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

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

Candlelight Communion services.

Wednesday, 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:

Jack Rimkunas, Brenna Lovell, Emersynn Smith,
Amelia Rogers, Miranda Melde – acolytes
Julie Kinsel, Amanda Muehlnickel, Molly
Muehlnickel – communion servers
Beth & Johnny Russler – nursery
Hailey Smith, Matthew Muehlnickel, Morgan
Barlow – ushers
Lori Kooi & Rangini Jaswanthkumar – Thanksgiving
phone calls

The more than 102 people who helped with the
Thanksgiving Dinner, plus more who brought food!!!
A total of 185 dinners were served here, 5 carry outs and
62 meals were delivered!

From:

Operation Care Package – for our contributions
toward military care packages
Feed My Starving Children & Catholic Charities –
for our support
ELCA World Hunger – for the donation
All kinds of people – for our Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Sponsored Missionary

Our Young Adult in Global Mission is Benjamin David
from Chicago (member of Lebanon Lutheran) in
Argentina. Below is his email address. When he finds a
way to receive mail at his permanent housing, we will
add it here. Email: btdavid94@gmail.com
Also, please feel free to follow the “YAGM Argentina-
Uruguay” page on Facebook.
The link is: [https://www.facebook.com/YAGM-
Argentina-Uruguay-538939472824198/](https://www.facebook.com/YAGM-Argentina-Uruguay-538939472824198/)

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn PO Box # 12989 Annapolis, MD 21412	Sgt. Pafford, Devin PO Box 1351 Eglin AFB, FL 32542
MA2 Baker, Connor 5600 Shorewood Lane Norfolk, VA 23502	2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 947 Burr St. Apt. E Fort Benning, GA 31905

Golden Opportunities Books are Back

The Golden Opportunity books are filled with savings
coupons for many different types of places (\$25.) A
portion goes to support youth related ministries,

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.

Addiction and Family Support Group

An Addiction & 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.

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), click
on the donate tab and then use the donate through Paypal
tab. You can use most major credit cards.

Recycling Items

The following items can be dropped off in the basket in
the narthex: DVD players, Game Boys, digital cameras,
laptops, tablets, cell phones, most printer cartridges
(including Epson), chargers and cables.

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.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Dec. 29**. 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.

***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* – Not currently meeting – please watch the newsletter.

- *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 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. 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. You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners.

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 in the hallway leading 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

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.

Follow Us on Social Media

Snapchat: [plutheranchurch](#)

Instagram: [peacechurch1062](#)

Twitter: [peacechurch1062](#)

Facebook: [Peace Lutheran Church](#)

Deacon Shari will be updating Facebook each month and the youth will be keeping up with the other three.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Dec. 2 & 16

Quilters meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. You just have to know how to have fun to join. Questions, contact Karen Dircks 815-462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom 708-479-7338.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Dec. 11

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. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl Gamen at 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. 10

Dartball meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday 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 Buddies – Sun., Dec. 15

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older that meets on the third Sunday of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** You do not have to be a part of our church to join us.

Ping Pong Club – Sun., Dec. 15

The ping pong club meets on the third Sunday of the month at noon. If you think you may want to join them, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders.

Women's Christmas Craft Event – Sat. Dec. 14

Females of all ages above 12 are getting together once again to do a holiday craft. As we did for Easter egg decorating, there will be choices of potential projects to make. The options will be on display in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall. Sign up for the project(s) you would like to do, with your email address, and Syndy Lindbloom will send you the supply list. Please call or text her with any questions at 708-623-9742. The date is Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1:00 p.m., at church.

Trailblazers – Tues., Dec. 17

Our next meeting will be our usual day: Tues., Dec. 17, at noon here at church. But there will be nothing usual about our event: It is our Christmas dinner! We will cater in the full meal, and ask for a contribution of \$10 each. We need a firm count of who is attending by Dec. 11. If you have questions, contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Trivia Night – Sat., Jan. 11

Come and join the fun as we have our first ever general trivia contest on Sat., Jan. 11, at 6:15 p.m. We intend to have teams of approximately six players. Each is an expert at something, right?!?! You can assemble a team of your own. (Don't have six people? No problem! We will place everyone who wants to play on a team.) For young parents who want to make this a date night, Peace will be providing childcare. (All we ask is a heads up on how many children may be coming.) Although walk-ins are welcome, please help us by signing up now. Let us know your team or partial team or yourself, whether you will need childcare, and if you would be willing to bring a food item. (Kathy Davenport will be coordinating that portion.) You can sign up at church, email or call the office, or by emailing Al Davenport at al.davenport@comcast.net. (Think of a team name, too, or we'll give you one.) Mark your calendars now!

Adult Fellowship – Trivia Night – Sat., Jan. 11

Yes, we're going to join the fun for Trivia Night. (See the announcement right above this for more information and to follow through.) The date will be January 11 at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall. Depending on how many of us sign up, we'll form as many teams as we can. (Start thinking names!)

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Jan. 12

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be Jan. 12 at 9:45 a.m. We will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. All are welcome. Questions, contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

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. 8** - "*Be Nice*" and Other Good Advice (for December & beyond) +
Dec. 15 - "*When People Are Poison*"
Dec. 22 - "*Detaching in Relationships*" (including how Jesus did it)
Dec. 29 - "*How Do Your Dreams Turn Out?*"
Jan. 5 - "*Is It Good to Be a Pessimist?*" (New Year's resolutions: bah-humbug?)

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: John 1:14-18.

New Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry

One of our members who came from another church was part of a simple prayer group. We are beginning that ministry here! Just let the office know of a particular (urgent) need for prayer. We will send out an email to the praying volunteers with that need. Each will offer prayer on his or her own schedule. (If you would be a praying volunteer, also just let us know, including what email address we should use.

Wish List

From time to time, people want to make "above and beyond" financial gifts to the church. These gifts are not in place of regular, faithful stewardship – giving from the heart, off the top. Instead they are signs of extra gratitude/joy for the blessings of God. If you would like to make one of those gifts, see Pastor Dave for a list of items that are on his wish list (beyond the budget.)

Strong Seniors Exercise Group

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet Mondays 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. We will not be meeting on Dec. 16 or 25 or Jan. 1.

Looking Ahead...

- Dec. 7** – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
P3 - 2nd gr. Christmas Program 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 8 – Tis the Season of Giving Seminar 9:45 a.m.
Dec. 14 – Breakfast with Santa 9:00 a.m.
Women's Christmas Craft Event 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 15 – 3rd - 6th gr. Christmas Program 11:00 a.m.
5/6th Gr. Holiday Party & Service project 12 noon
Dec. 17 – Church Council (1 week early) 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21 – Shortest Day/Longest Night Service
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. 1 – Church Office Closed
Jan. 11 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00 p.m.
Trivia Night – 6:15 p.m.
Jan. 12 – Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.
Serving Soup & Chili lunch at Santa Cruz 11:30
College Cost & Choices 12:00 noon
Jan. 18 – First Communion Class 10:00 a.m.
Jan. 19 – New Member Orientations 9:45 & 6:30.
Pie-luck & Ping Pong event 12:15
Jan. 20 – 5^h – 12th grade MLK Service day 11:00 a.m.
Jan. 26 – Reception of New Members 11:00 a.m.
Feb. 1 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Blood Drive – Sat., Dec. 7

Thank you to everyone who donated in October. We had a great response! Our next Heartland blood drive will be Sat., Dec. 7, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This a time of year when giving is in the air. Your donation of blood saves lives – quite a gift!

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Dec. 8

Our next monthly screening date is Sun., Dec. 8 between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to help, please contact Marylynn Tyler at 815-423-6407.

From Vicar Mike Markwell

Greetings to the Peace Church Community,

It is hard to believe that I am finishing the fourth month of my internship here at Peace Church. This fall has been a time of getting acquainted with the ministry and the wonderful people that make up this church. I have been impressed by the dedication and commitment of all of those who make the many ministries of this church possible. I am looking forward to what the next eight months of my internship will bring.

There are a few projects that will be continuing in the new year. First, we are in the middle of updating and revamping our social media accounts in an attempt to create accounts that will not only showcase what is going on at Peace but will also engage people in the community. Social Media can be a useful tool for a ministry as 70% of American adults are on social media. If you have experience with social media and you would be interested in being part of the team that will manage the pages, please let me know.

Secondly, we are working on creating a movie discussion as an adult education opportunity. This is an idea that came from our August “What’s the Scoop.” Many of us have seen Christian movies like *God’s Not Dead (2014)*, *I Can Only Imagine (2018)*, or *the Passion of the Christ (2004)*, but these are not the only films with Christian themes. Have you thought about how *Toy Story 4 (2019)* approaches the topics of being created in God’s image and our purpose in life? How *Dunkirk (2017)* shows faith and hope in situations that seem hopeless? How *Hellboy (2004)* addresses our identity in Christ? We will have an event during which we will show a movie followed by a discussion about Christian themes we saw present in the movie. Look for more information in January.

Finally, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the wonderful job our volunteers and staff did in making our Thanksgiving meal and service a success. It was an absolute delight watching the dozens of volunteers that made it happen.

Thank you,

Vicar Mike Markwell

First Communion Class – Sat., Jan. 18

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. 18, at 10:00 a.m.

New Members to be Received – Jan. 26

We will be privileged once again to welcome more people officially to become partners with us in our mission of spreading the Gospel and growing in faith. The three-part orientation and get-acquainted sessions will take place (1) on Sunday, Jan. 19, during the 9:45 education hour at church; (2) at 6:30 p.m. that evening at church; (3) on Jan. 26, during the luncheon that follows the actual reception of new members, which is at the 11:00 a.m. worship service that day. If you are interested in joining, use the sign-up, call the church office at 815-485-5327 or see Pastor Dave.

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.

Special Prayers for Healing – Jan. 11

As part of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday night service on Jan. 11, 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.

Children’s Christmas Programs

Our Sunday School has two programs. Children who are 3 years old through 2nd grade will have their program on Dec. 7 during the 5:00 worship. Children in 3rd through 6th grades will have their program on Dec. 15 during the 11:00 worship.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town – Sat., Dec. 14

We hope you and your friends can join us for a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14, 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 \$2.00 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 that Friday morning, or help with serving and or clean up on Saturday.

Shortest Day/Longest Night Worship Service – Sat., Dec. 21

As a part of the 5:00 worship service on Dec. 21 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.

Christmas Offerings

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>.

Advent Devotionals

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

Deadlines for Christmas Gift Giving for Santa Cruz & Augustana Center Dec. 8

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. 8** for the first two, and by Christmas for the ELCA ones.

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). If we run out, we'll get more!

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. Items can be dropped off here at church in the entrance area bin. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots will also be accepted. Thank you for your continued support.

Good Shepherd Group

Good Shepherd group is seeking donations of NEW beauty items (make-up, make-up brushes, eyeshadow, lotion, hair bands, cologne, lipstick, hair care products, combs and brushes), personal items, bathing items (sponges, bubble bath, shower gel), and travel size toiletries for homeless and abused persons. Please place these items in the basket labeled *Good Shepherd Beauty Items* located under the left part of the narthex counter. Thank you for your support!

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? Peace 360! meets 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!

Sun., Dec. 1 – Zoo lights at Brookfield Zoo. We will be eating dinner at the zoo.

Sun., Dec. 8 – Babysitting Event 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 15 – Discussions & Dinner

Sun., Dec. 22 – Hibachi Dinner out

Sun., Dec. 29 – No meeting

7th Gr. Confirmation: Dec. 4 **Pizza 6:30 p.m.**
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Gr. Confirmation: Dec. 11 **Pizza 6:30 p.m.**
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Kids & Adults: Feb. 19 **Hot dogs 6:30 p.m.**
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Gr. Together: Jan. 8 & Apr. 1
Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7/8th Gr. Ice Skating Event – Sat., Dec. 7

Please join us at 1:30 p.m. at church and we will head to Arctic Ice Arena in Orland Park. \$10 is for admission and skate rental. If your youth would like to attend please use the sign up in the bulletin, in the narthex, or online.

Peace 360 Babysitting Event – Sun., Dec. 8

Our High school youth group, Peace 360, is setting aside some time to baby sit! It will be on Sun., Dec. 8, from 12-3 p.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. **Please let us know if you would like to use our services by using the sign-up sheet on the counter in the narthex or contacting the church office. First come, first serve.**

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is **Positive Peer Influence (Social Awareness)** Young person's best friend's model responsible behavior. 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:

Get to know your children's friends by inviting them to spend time in your home. Talk with them about their friends and try to find out what your children like about their friends.

At school:

Train students to be peer counselors or peer helpers. Choose kids who can become good role models and who are liked by their peers.

In the community:

Start making friends who are older or younger than you are. Affirm and honor the healthy choices that youth make.

In the church or public organization:

Encourage Yonge people to invite their friends to join in group activities. Start or join a peer- helping program. Invite youth to think about ways to positively influence their friends in school and in the community.

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

**The asset for the month of December is:
Positive Peer Influence (Social Awareness)**

December quote of the month:

**"Kindness is the language which the deaf can
hear and the blind can see."**

~Mark Twain

5/6th Gr. Holiday Party & Service Project – Sun., Dec. 15

Please join us on Sun., Dec. 15 at 12:15 p.m. (right after the Sunday School Christmas Program!!) for some holiday fun! We will play games, eat some food and put together the items we collected for The Ronald McDonald wish list. The wish list of donations the RMH can be found in the narthex. Pick up youth at 2:30 p.m. Please let us know if you will be joining us. There is an online sign up on our church website, use the sign up sheet in the narthex, or the sign up in the bulletin. Parents if you can chaperone, please let us know.

Tickets

DISNEY ON ICE - Sat., Feb. 1, at 3:00 p.m. at the United Center in Chicago. Those group-rate tickets will be \$18 each – a good Christmas gift. Use the sign-up or contact the church office. Let us know by Dec. 15.

A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON – Sat., Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m. at Governor’s State. Belinda Davis, a chart-topping artist. There will be all the theatrical sounds, dancing, lights, and songs from the amazing Whitney Houston. Use the sign-up or contact the church office. Tickets are \$40 each. Deadline for signing up is Jan. 10.

AMERICAN IN PARIS – Sun., Feb. 9 at 2:00 p.m. This show will be at the Drury Lane in Oak Brook and is the romantic story of a young American soldier, a beautiful French girl, and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war. Ticket prices depend on whether we get a group rate of 15 or more (\$64.85.) You may wish to consider dinner at Maggiano’s after the show, too. Please use the sign-up or contact the church office.

SHREK THE MUSICAL - Sat., June 6, at noon at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook. Ticket prices will depend on whether we get a group rate (at least 15 = \$15.50; if not \$25.) Use the sign-up or contact the church office. Let us know by Jan. 1.

Parents & Future College Students – Sun., Jan. 12

For some people the financial aspects of having someone heading to college in a year or four years creates a massive panic attack. Would you like some help evaluating a path that might make things a little more focused? Joe Duea, a presenter from Thrivent Financial, will offer a free seminar for parents and kids in grades 9-12 on how to maximize your options. He will not sell you anything at the program. (He will offer to meet with anyone at a different time, but that would be your choice.) He has presented this program multiple times and the response has been highly favorable. The date is Jan. 12 and the time will be 12:15 p.m. We’ll provide hot dogs and chips and beverages so you can eat here and then learn together. We invite you to bring any kind of salad or dessert to share. He encourages both teens and parents to attend because all are in this together. Please use the sign-up or call the office so we can prepare appropriately.

“Tis the Season of Giving – Learning New Ways of Giving – Sun., Dec. 8

Have you ever wondered exactly how to make an online gift to Peace Church? Do you understand how to use those funny printed squares (QR codes) and how they’re supposed to make your life easier? Have you ever wondered how to set up your weekly offering automatically through your bank, but haven’t taken the time to do it yet? This is your chance! On Sunday, Dec. 8, at 9:45 you are invited to learn all about electronic giving in a no-pressure setting by friendly members of our church who are giving these ways. Bring your personal tablet, smart phone, or laptop or try it out on one of the church’s computers. Consider joining others in a new way to share your blessings with Peace!

Faith & Life Experience

(We are going to feature stories about people from Peace from time to time.

Enjoy this one from Mary Brouette!)

Several years ago, I was watching tv one day and there was a news clip about a person who was going to go zip-lining across a river and was afraid to do it. I thought to myself, that’s ridiculous. So, I asked my daughter to find out the longest zip-line in the world at the time, which it turns out was in Costa Rica. We booked it and my late husband, my daughter and I set out to do it. It was beautiful there, and the 17 platforms that would complete the whole journey on the zip-line provided some terrific scenery and experiences. We saw white-faced capuchin monkeys, were on top of an active volcano (which had a signal if it was ready to blow that meant you had to get away NOW), had a 60 mph segment, and finished with zipping over a cow with horns that definitely got my attention – and afterwards, a few gentle strokes with my hand. There’s probably one more thing you should know: I was 79 years young when I saw the show and did this, which I repeated when I was 80. You see, I don’t have a bucket list. I have an attitude that says if I see something I want to do, I’m going to try to do it as soon as I can. This is a beautiful world God has made for us to enjoy and for which I am so grateful to experience.

Mary Brouette

Questions Kids Ask Update

The questions from real kids keep coming in! This month we heard (among others), “How does God decide if we go to heaven or hell?” and “Does God make (our) life story?” It offered us a chance to remember that God’s desire is for all to be in heaven with God forever. Sadly, some people refuse to go. Also, God doesn’t write our life story for us, but wants to accompany us in writing our own story. God’s guiding can make all the difference for us to have a meaningful life!

Regarding our Spanish version of the amazing book, the main book is waiting our order numbers and the coloring book is in the final review process. It all is coming together!

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. *(Article provided by AARP.) (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)*

Because of You and Your Gifts

In 2018, multiple fires raged in California, devastating communities and almost wiping out the city of Paradise. Now, one year after the Camp Fire — the most deadly and destructive fire in California history — thousands of people remain displaced. Thanks to your generosity, Lutheran Disaster Response has been able to help communities impacted by these fires with crucial support on the long road to recovery. They provided survivors with immediate needs such as food, bedding, clothing, housing security deposits, daily life necessities and temporary supplies. And thanks to you, long after the headlines changed, they still are supporting people with disaster case managers who can help them formulate an individual recovery plan, while providing emotional and spiritual care, access to safe, secure and functional housing, and financial assistance for other needs.

New Feeding Ministry

We have been given the opportunity to help support future pastors and deacons in a new way. The Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago has a food closet for its seminarians and the closet is dangerously low on supplies. We will be having an ongoing food drive to help fill the shelves and lift the burden that seminary can sometimes be for students and their families. A list of needed items can be found in the narthex.

New Lenox Fire Dist. Foundation 2019 Pancake Breakfast – Sat., Dec. 14

All New Lenox residents, along with their friends and families are welcome to our FREE pancake breakfast! Please join us at New Lenox Fire Station #1 – 261 E. Maple Street on Sat., Dec. 14 from 8:00-10:00a.m. Donations to the Fire Foundation are encouraged. Donations to the New Lenox Food Pantry will also be accepted – cash donations or nonperishable food items. We kindly thank you for your support.

Operation Care Package

Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer 501 C-3 Public Charity based in Manhattan. We ship "Care" packages to deployed troops weekly. Our organization is about supporting the men and women who bravely answer the call to duty for you, me and our country. If you know a service person, please submit their name, address, birthday, and date deployment ends. Call Pam Swyndro at 815-258-0474 or email jpswyn.att.net.

Recyclable & Craft Donations for Frankfort KidsWork 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.