

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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This Will Be the Best (Worst) Year Ever

Many of us have an orientation toward life. Sometimes people are referred to as “glass half-full” people and sometimes as “glass half-empty” people. So, when we look at a new year starting, it is no surprise that some of us approach it with a sense this will be the best year ever. And, of course, some are convinced whatever can go wrong will (at the worst possible time.) The optimists create ambitious New Year’s resolutions, and the pessimists say, “Why bother?”

We often are drawn into what’s called global thinking: it is all or nothing. If one part of our life is wrong, then everything is wrong. If a little feels good, then a lot should feel better. If we don’t win, we lose. If we do well on a particular test or task, then we’re amazing, but if we can’t do it perfectly, then we are a failure. You get the idea; most of us have done this kind of thinking from time to time, and some of you live that way on a daily basis.

God seems to have a different orientation. From the time of Moses onward, we have story after story of how people vacillated between following God and following their own plans instead. Whether in the wilderness (bad places) or in the land of milk and honey (good places), the people could be a mixed bag. Martin Luther described that as being saints and sinners at the same time. In light of that reality, God’s orientation is forgiveness and new life. God doesn’t just brush past our _____ (fill in the blank: pigheadedness, sin, fear, anger, etc.), God redeems it and invites us to go back out into the world with a different viewpoint.

The world itself and we ourselves are not the best or worst and neither will be our coming year. It will be a year of both and a lot more of in-between moments, too. Rather than taking any one thing and using it to paint a global picture, use each moment and paint it with the viewpoint of God. It will make for a much better day, year, and life!

Prayers Requested

Sandy Losiniecki, Cindy Anderson, Heather, Lynn White, Jackie Bogie, the family of Mary Ingmire, Larry Wherley, Melissa & Josh, Terra Neal, Ben Burnson, Lorraine Dohrn, Marilyn Perryman, Joe D., Margaret Golden, all high schoolers taking finals, Anne, Gloria, Karen, the family of Paul Rae, the family of Bruce Pangborn, Jeff Howell, Andrew DeMik, Jason, Grace, Ryan Winter, Sandi & Jill, Bob & Diane, Joyce, Don, Patti, Alan Booton, Claudia Green, Carole Boer, Margaret Robertson, Laurie Vaughn, Leonard Geier

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

The family of Carol Trosen, mother of Brian Trosen.

The family of Eleanor Lang, mother of Dave Lang.

Congratulations

Jon & Lauren Olofsson, parents and Jim Elkow & Patty Olofsson-Elkow, grandparents, on the birth of Elise West Olofsson on Dec. 24.

First Communion Class – Sat., Jan. 26

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. 26, at 10:00 a.m.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 9

Feb. 9, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

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:

Lila Hadley, Melissa Schwoebel – lay liturgist
Jack Cosich, Helen Ambrose & Anthony Ciannella – acolyte
Jonah DeMik, Alexa Hadley, Morgan Barlow, Beth Barlow, Emily Dotzenrod – communion servers
Georgia Brolley & Heather Wolf – lesson reader
Emersynn Smith, Skylar Smith – ushers
Dewey Klapper, Joan Posch and Jess, Jeff & Abbey Lindeman – bulletin assembly
Tyler Ledvina – nursery
Joel, Lynn & Krista Peterson – poinsettia unpacking
Everyone who donated to the Christmas gift giving for Augustana Open Arms or Santa Cruz
All the musicians for Christmas
All those who provided poinsettias
All the Christmas worship volunteers (over 100!)

From:

Residents of Joshua Arms – for the Thanksgiving dinner and transportation
Lauren LeMahieu – for the use of the church for her piano recital
Grace Episcopal Church for our donation for their 150th anniversary
Lutheran World Relief and Feed My Starving Children for donations from Questions Kids Ask
Addiction & Family Support Group – for the use of the church for their meetings
Teresa Caviles – for the Thanksgiving dinner
Manhattan/Elwood Quilting Group – for the use of fellowship hall for their meeting
Our Lady of Victory – for the quilts

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. Jan. 7 at 6:00 p.m. will be the final meeting of this session. (Not meeting Dec. 31)
If you would like more information, contact Janet, Margie, or Pat at 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.

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.

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn	Sgt. Pafford, Devin
PO Box # 12989	PO Box 1351
Annapolis, Maryland 21412	Eglin AFB, Florida 32542

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Jan. 27**. 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 6:00 p.m. – last meeting of the session is Jan. 7. (No meeting 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 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 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., Jan. 14 & 28

Quilting meets 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 815-462-9527 or Syndy 708-479-7338.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Jan. 9 & 23

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 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., Jan. 8

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. (Whose 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., Jan. 15

Our next meeting will be our usual luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at noon here at church. The menu will be Sloppy Joes, and you bring something you'd enjoy sharing with the group. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Peace Buddies – Sun., Jan. 20

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.

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.

Out to Eat Group – Sat. Jan. 12

The Out-to-Eat group invites you to join in an evening of food and conversation at Williamson's on Rt. 30 in New Lenox at 6:30 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 12. Please use the sign-up slip or call the church office so we can let them know how many spots to reserve.

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

January 19 at 6:15 p.m. you will be missing something if you're not there. That night is our annual excuse to eat lots while we make plans for the Adult Fellowship Group activities for the coming year. This year we'll be having soup! Adults of all ages and interests are invited; the more people/ideas the better our events. Soup and salad will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share. There will be childcare available for those who let us know in advance (\$3 per child). Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin to let us know if you will be joining us and if you need childcare.

Faith Discussion Group – Thurs., Jan. 31

Our small group meets on the last Thursday of the 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!

Peace Women's Group – Sat., Jan. 12

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next event. Healthy New Year!!!! On Saturday, Jan. 12 at 1:00 p.m. at Peace Church, we are having two guest speakers talk to us about nutrition and fitness, two of the cornerstones of healthy living. We will have nutritious snacks and beverages. Join us for a casual conversation from a common sense standpoint. Please use the sign-up slip. Questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

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.

Jan. 6 - *What Should We Think about (This New Year & Beyond)?*

Jan. 13 - *There's More to Life than Just Coping*

Jan. 20 - *New Lenox, 1918: Serving, Suffering, and Celebrating in a Small Town* (hear from Darrell Holmquist what was going on during Illinois' centennial year)

Jan. 27 - *Does Your Arrow Point to "Meaningful"?*

Feb. 3 - *Faith Is Like a Muscle*

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. January's passage is Isaiah 43:15-25

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Jan. 13

Our next monthly screening date is Jan. 13, 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 – Sat., 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.

Mama Mia – Sun., Apr. 7

Drury Lane in Oakbrook is the site for this musical performance. If we get 15 people interested in going, we'll get discounted tickets for Sunday, April 7, at 6:00 p.m. We would like your indication by Jan. 13. The cost for the tickets (about \$20 off full price) would be \$57.50 (\$41.75 for students.) Please use the sign-up or call the church office.

Looking Ahead...

- Jan. 6** – *Welcome Back Sunday School New Year's Party 9:45 a.m.*
Midsummer's Night Dream theater event 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 7** – *Final GriefShare of the session 6:00 p.m.*
- Jan. 9** – *Hamilton Theater event 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 12** – *Women's Group 1:00 p.m.*
Special Prayers for Healing 5:00 p.m.
Out to Eat Group at Williamson's 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 13** – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*
Blood Pressure Screenings between services 5&6th grade Sky Zone Event 12 :00 p.m.
- Jan. 19-21** – *Peace 360 Lock-In*
- Jan. 20** – *New Member Orientations 9:45 & 6:30.*
NYG Youth Led Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Ping Pong Tournament & Pieluck 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21** – *7/8th grade & Peace 360 MLK Service Day 10:00 a.m.- 2 p.m.*
- Jan. 23** – *Bible Buddies 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 26** – *First Communion Class 10:00 a.m.*
- Jan. 26/27** – *Peanut Butter Weekend*
- Jan. 27** – *Reception of New Members 11:00 a.m.*
- Jan. 29** – *Church Council 7:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 2** – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
- Feb. 2/3** – *Souper/Super Bowl, Bring a Friend Weekend & Boy Scout Weekend*
- Feb. 3** – *What's the Scoop – noon*
- Feb. 5** – *Caring Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 9** – *Genealogy Group meeting – 10:00 a.m.*
The Producers theater event 3:00 p.m.
Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17** – *Annual Meeting 9:45 a.m.*
- Feb. 24** – *Peace Variety Show & Dinner 3:00 p.m.*
- Mar. 1-3** – *Antioch Retreat*
- Mar. 2/3** – *Girl Scout Weekend*
- Mar. 6** – *Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.*

Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., 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.

Peanut Butter Weekend – Jan. 26 & 27

Let's see if we can top last year's record amount of peanut butter jars we received! The New Lenox Township food bank especially needs this staple this time of year.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Happy New Year Members and Friends of Peace,

I rang in the new year this year in Lawrenceville Georgia with my family. It was fun to spend time looking back on 2018 and remembering both the good and not so good of the year. We all agreed that we are thankful for a new year, because each new year brings with it new beginnings. Most years I pack those new beginnings with resolutions, or a list of things I hope to change in the upcoming year. This year I am just thankful to take a breath and see what God has in store. When we make list of things that we should change we set ourselves up for failure because often the list is based on things we failed to do the year before. I don't know about you but I'm tired of repeating the same list. So, this year I am hoping to listen instead of listing. I am listening for the call that God has for my life. God is a god of new beginnings. God has gone ahead of each of us and prepared a way that is good and good for us. God has given us gifts and talents to delight ourselves and others. God has given us resilience to navigate the rougher times in our lives. God has placed us in community where we can learn from one another and lean on each other. God delights in our new beginnings. When I go home to Georgia, I get to spend time with my niece and nephew. Each and everything they do is a new beginning. This year my nephew started middle school. It was the beginning of his teen years and he faced it with excitement rather than trepidation. This year my niece started basketball. If you ask her, she already is Michael Jordan. I hope to follow their lead and see the new beginnings that God has put in front of me with excitement, wonder, and a healthy dose of pride in the person God has created me to be.

Blessings in this new year,

Deacon Shari

Caring Ministry Team – Tues., Feb. 5

We care about people who have not attended recently. This team wants to find compassionate and respectful ways to reach out and offer ministry to them. Our next meeting is on Feb. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

New Members to be Received – Jan. 27

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. 20, during the 9:45 education hour at church; (2) at 6:30 p.m. that evening at church; (3) on Jan. 27, 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 Member Sponsors

We want new members to feel welcome. Having sponsors is one key element. The "job description" for our sponsors includes the New Member Orientation Class on Jan. 20, at 9:45 a.m., plus the 11:00 worship and luncheon on Jan. 27. We would also like you to keep in contact with your new members from time to time. If you are interested, please call the office or use the sign-up slip.

Food Needed for New Member Luncheon

We appreciate volunteers who are willing to provide a salad, dessert, bread/ rolls, etc. for the new member luncheon on Jan. 27. If you could provide any of these, please use the sign-up in the bulletin or call the church office. You will be reminded at a later date. (Also, please put your name on the item and/or give a recipe if you made it. We sometimes get requests asking for recipes or where and what people bought at the store.)

Ping Pong Tournament 2019 & All-Church Pieluck – Sun., Jan. 20

You've heard of a potluck, right? This is a pieluck! We'll provide the pizza pies and tossed salad. You bring a favorite pie! After eating is finished, it's time for ping pong. The date is Jan. 20, beginning at 12:30. For ping pong, we will have a "lose three times and you're done" plan, with people playing one game at a time per opponent at 15 points for a victory so that more people can play more games. You can designate yourself as an "A" or "B" or "C" level player, and depending on how many sign up, may or may not play just within your group. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office.

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!

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., Jan. 9, 16, & 30 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

7th Grade confirmation Jan.16&Feb. 20 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Grade confirmation Jan.23 &Feb. 13 Pizza 6:30p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

7th & 8th Grade Jan. 9 & April 24 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Bible Buddies

5th & 6th Grade Jan. 23 & April 24

5th & 6th Sky Zone Event – Sun., Jan. 13

Please join us on Sun., Jan. 13 at 12p.m. We will meet at Church and go to Sky Zone in Joliet. **Please sign up by Wed., Jan. 9.** Cost of this event is \$16 for admission or \$19 if you need Sky Socks. We will need a head count, so we can purchase tickets a head of time. Please use the sign up on line, on the counter in the narthex, or the slip in the bulletin. Parents/guardians, if you would like to drive/chaperone please let us know.

7th & 8th MLK Day Service Event – Mon., Jan. 21

On Mon., Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.- 2p.m. we will gather at Church for a service project. Please stay tuned on the details of the project.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is Empowerment: Perseverance. 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:

Model what it means to have a sense of purpose in life. Have each family member list five things they are passionate about and discuss what it takes to fulfill those.

Teachers at school:

Encourage students to write down their dreams and goals both short-term and long-term. Have students read books and stories that tell about difficulties overcome and dreams achieved.

In the community:

Be a mentor for those youth whose dreams are related to your own lives purpose and areas of expertise. Be transparent in sharing challenges to be overcome.

In the church or public organization:

Help children and teens identify, nurture, and celebrate their gifts not just their accomplishments. Use classes, sermons, event speakers to emphasize the importance of finding meaning and purpose in life and how to accomplish those in real life.

Happy New Year Sunday School –

Sun., Jan. 6

Tired of the cold? Ready to get back in the groove? Can't wait for summer already? Come to our "**Welcome Back Sunday School New Year's Party**" on Jan. 6. There will be games, fun and more!

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

**The asset for the month of January is:
Empowerment: Perseverance**

January quote of the month:

"Perseverance is stubbornness with a purpose."

-Josh Shipp

Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 17

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Highlights will include the election of council members, perhaps staffing updates/votes and definitely reflections on our ministries on God's behalf. Please plan to attend.

Now for Something Really Different – Sun., Feb. 24

Peace Church's **Annual Variety Show & Dinner** - Sun., Feb. 24, at 3:00 p.m.

For our Variety Show this year (formerly known as the Talent Show), we are encouraging our young children and youth and other random performers to participate in the first half of the show with whatever you have in mind. For the second half of the show, we are planning a 1960's theme. All talents are welcome, so if you are interested in performing a song or act (perhaps participate in a duet, trio, quartet, or quintet) we encourage you to perform! We will have a different type of dinner than in years past after the show. (The dinner probably will begin about 4:45/5:00 p.m.) Come join the fun! Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office if you wish to perform and/or attend the dinner. Call Mark Muehnickel at 815-463-8836 with any questions.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 2/3

28 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$135 million has been raised for local charities across the country.

We will be participating again in the "Souper Bowl" for the hungry. After each service on the weekend of Feb. 2/3, people will have an opportunity to give a donation to fight hunger. We'd suggest the cost of a meal/snacks.

Boy Scout Weekend – Feb. 2/3

The annual Boy Scout weekend is coming up on Feb. 2/3. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 3/4 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout Sunday.

What's the Scoop (Bring Your Ideas to the Group!) – Sun., Feb. 3 – noon

We have had great experiences with this new version of what used to be called "Everybody Come" night. As a part of our Long-Range Plan's ideas for implementation, we wanted a new way of including people in brainstorming ideas and getting them going. We're ready for round 4: we're "on" for Feb. 3 at noon. We'll eat and share ideas for ministry and try to be finished in 1.5 hours or less. For the food, we'll be having pizza, and we encourage you to bring something to share (salads or fruit would be nice). We'll also have ice cream (in keeping with our title!). The teens have volunteered to provide childcare during the meeting. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office to let us know if you're coming and if you need childcare

Questions Kids Ask -- Want to Help?

Another very exciting development is taking place in our QKA ministry. Because of an idea presented to us, we are going to create a Spanish version of our book. The background work is beginning, and we seek and invite anyone who would like to be a part of this new creation to let us know. The team will gather in January sometime and go to work! Let us know through the sign-up at church or call the office.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

With this new year upon us we ask for continued prayers, guidance and strength. As we face each new day as a caregiver let's remind ourselves to be patient, to listen, and to keep the faith alive on our journey. The paths can be bumpy and not always smooth, but asking for help from friends, family, and community can rewardingly direct you to a peaceful place. That place is always in the arms of our Lord. He will always be there in your travels. Happy Blessed New Year! (*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.*)

Ping Pong Club– Sun., Jan. 20

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.

Potato Bar Luncheon at Santa Cruz – Sun., Jan. 13 – Servers from Peace

We are honored to be able to serve a potato bar luncheon to the folks at Santa Cruz on Sun., Jan. 13, after their 11:00 a.m. worship service. We need people to help serve the lunch (be there by 11:30). We also need donations of salads and desserts. Questions for Claudia Green, our coordinator, can be directed through the church office. Please use the sign-up or call the church office to join in on this great opportunity.

Christmas Offerings

Each year the money we receive in our Christmas special envelopes is given away to others. This year it will be divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal (includes direct help for the victims of the recent natural disasters), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church serving many people in need), 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).

Because of You and Your Gifts

On their 1,500 square meters of land in Jayaprithvi, Nepal, Kala and her seven other family members must grow enough food to feed themselves. But their production was only lasting six months, leaving them looking for jobs to survive the rest of the year. Everything changed when Kala began to participate in an agricultural training program organized by United Mission to Nepal, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Kala can now feed her family throughout the year and has more to spare to sell at the market. With this comes not only food security but also greater income so she can send her children to school and build a safety net for things like medical expenses. Your offerings change lives – they 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 need 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.

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.)

MorningStar Items Collection

The Women's Group is partnering with our high school youth group, Peace 360, in providing items for the men, women and children at Morningstar Mission. We are collecting the following for distribution in late January. If you would like to support this ministry, please bring items to church and put in the box labeled Morningstar Mission Collection. Many of these are available at the dollar store or other discount stores. They should be manageable sizes as they need to be portable.

Clothing

Gloves

Socks-if possible, wool

Hats-warm

Ponchos/tarps

Shoe laces

Emergen-C, Airborne or chewable vitamins

Band-aids-large

Lip balm/Chapstick

Lotion

Tissues

Feminine hygiene pads

Diapers of all sizes

Wet wipes

Duct tape

Hand and foot warmers

Zip lock bags-gallon size

Nothing with alcohol in it. Nothing with strong scents.

Nothing large, hard to carry.

Food-chewable-many have dental challenges

Easy open containers

Beef jerky

Breakfast bars

Chocolate

Mints-no gum

Peanut butter crackers

Raisins/dried fruit

Snack cups/applesauce/pudding cups

Toothbrushes-covered

Tuna, chicken salad cracker kits

Water

Gatorade