

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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January 2020

Vol. XXV, Issue 1

What If We Actually Did Let Go?

What did you get for Christmas? The listing of gifts received for many of us reminds us how fortunate we are. But now that Christmas is over and a New Year has begun, it is not unusual to reflect a different mindset, namely, "What can I get rid of?" And we look around at our old/unused/ outdated "stuff" and feel burdened.

Some of what we want to get rid of, though, is not "stuff" but burdens. It could be resentment. It might be worry or anxiety. Perhaps for you it is guilt. Or maybe something happened in your life that has traumatized you – abuse, injury, accident, or the like. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get rid of all those kinds of things?

One of the passages of scripture that has always meant a great deal to me is "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." God's desire, indeed, is to help us get rid of those burdens that even seem insurmountable. And one of the methods God seems to have provided to help us is letting go. It seems so smart and worthwhile on paper but is so difficult in reality. We like to be in control all the time. We like to manage things ourselves. We like to be self-sufficient. Too bad those techniques do not help us get rid of the burdens.

What if this year you simply resolved to let go even a little (instead of the whole thing at once.) What if you gave up three minutes to think or speak words of support/pray for your adversary ("out there" or inside yourself)? What if you gave up judging people/self for an hour a day? (You know, not based on their gender or clothing or race or political leanings, etc.?) What if you gave up some time once a month to play a game or read a book to someone in a nursing home or write a note of support to a person in public life or who made a difference in your life?

A great question I once read in relation to letting go was, "[When we do let go] would we have more or less than we started with?" God's gift in letting go is that we have more.....more peace, more forgiveness, more acceptance, more life. May that be true for us all this year!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Scott & Monica Medows, the family of Michael Fahey, Tom Moore, Jim Fitzpatrick & family, Dave Davenport, Al Williamson, the family of Lorie Tierney, Gary Kelly, Gene Trezzo, Edna Anglin, the family of Al Williamson, Grace Otto, Jack Farbak, the family of Jeff Peloquin, the Buhle family, Jodi Marnieris, Helen Sarsfield, Betty Golke, the family of John Hycner, Bill Horsley, the Schnepfer family, Bernie Wright, Jeff Howell

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Matthew Chesser, son of Monica and Scott Medows;

the family of Nancy Sons, mother of Paul Sons.

Congratulations

Steve Walczak & Jessie Walters-Carlson on their marriage on Nov. 30;

Jill & Mark Cassidy, parents and Pat Fruhwirth, grandmother on the birth of Cameron Herbert Cassidy on Dec. 19.

Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., 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.

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:

Molly Muehlnickel – acolyte
Kelly Renaud – office volunteer
Molly Muehlnickel, Pam Swyndro – collating bulletins
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:

Peace Church office – for all the Christmas goodies
Operation Care Package – for our candy, comics, and books
Bread for the World – for our support
Jim McGuire and family – for the opportunity to present at Adult Education hour
Joshua Arms – for Thanksgiving dinner
Teresa Cavilles – for our support
Lutheran School of Theology – for our support
Katie's Closet – for the donations
Lauren LeMahieu – for use of our church for piano recital

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: btddavid94@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/>

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

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.

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 **Jan. 26**. 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., Jan. 13 & 27

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., Jan. 8 & 22

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., Jan. 14

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. (Whose idea is that???)

Peace Buddies – Sun., Jan. 19

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., Jan. 19

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.

Trailblazers – Tues., Jan. 21

Our next meeting will be our usual luncheon on Tues., Jan. 21, at noon here at church. If you have questions, contact the church office. Invite a friend!

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.

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. Please email or call the office.

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!)

Ping Pong Club – Sun. Jan. 19 (Part of Pieluck – see below)

The ping pong club meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. But in January, we'll combine with the all-church Pieluck event. If you want to receive email reminders of upcoming ping pong club dates, let the church office know your name and email address.

Ping Pong Tournament 2020 & All-Church Pieluck – Sun., Jan. 19

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 (and during!), it's time for ping pong. The date is Sun., Jan. 19, with food beginning at 12:15 and ping pong 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. Use the sign-up slip or call the church office.

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. 5 - *"Is It Good to Be a Pessimist?"* (New Year's resolutions: bah-humbug?)

Jan. 12 - *Who Are the Hindus and What Do They Believe?*

Jan. 19 - *The Parables of Jesus*

Jan. 26 - *How to Deal with Kids of Any Age Who Reject the Faith*

Feb. 2 - *Dimensions of Prayer*

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 61:8-11.

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.

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Jan. 12

Our next monthly screening date is Sun., Jan. 12 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.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 8

Feb. 8, 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.

Looking Ahead...

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 p.m.

Jan. 20 – *5^h - 12th grade MLK Service day 11:00 a.m.*

Jan. 25/26 – *Peanut Butter Weekend*

Jan. 26 – *Reception of New Members 11:00 a.m.*

Jan. 26 – *Peace 360 to MorningStar Mission 3:00 p.m.*

Jan. 28 – *Church Council 7:30 p.m.*

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

Feb. 1/2 – *Souper/Super Bowl & Bring a Friend Weekend*

Feb. 2 – *What's the Scoop 12:00 noon*

Feb. 8 – *Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.*

Feb. 8/9 – *Boy Scout Weekend*

Feb. 16 – *Annual Meeting 9:45 a.m.*

All Church Bowling 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 23 – *Peace Variety Show & Dinner 3:00 p.m.*

Feb. 26 – *Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.*

Mar. 6-8 – *Antioch Retreat*

Mar. 7/8 – *Girl Scout Weekend*

Apr. 5 – *Mental Health First Aid 12:00 noon*

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 please contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

Peanut Butter Weekend – Jan. 25 & 26

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.

Blood Drive – Sat., Feb. 1

Thank you to everyone who donated in December. We had a great response! Our next Heartland blood drive will be Sat., Feb. 1, 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!

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
Happy New Year! I hope that 2020 brings peace and opportunity for God's love into your life and into the lives of those you meet. At the end of this month, we as a congregation, will have such an opportunity. Our high school youth group and our ladies fellowship group are joining for another year to provide winter necessities to those who use the resources of Morning Star Mission. This year we will be collecting Men's socks (white or black), warm gloves (large enough for adult hands), small tarps (for putting underneath blankets to sleep on), as well as scarves and sweaters (for men and women). We will also be adding another donation opportunity this year in the form of necessity bags. We are hoping to have a lot of participation in this ministry. A necessity bag will be a gallon sized Ziploc bag and inside will be a list of items to put in the bag. Some examples might be deodorant, toothbrush, comb, etc. We are hoping to have these bags available in the narthex starting at the beginning of January. The hope is that you will grab one or two of these bags, fill them up with the items on the list and then return them to us by 12 noon on Sunday January 26th. We will be giving one bag to each person who comes to Morning Star that night for dinner. This will hopefully be one way in which we might share the love of God with our neighbors in need. It feels good to give because when we give God shows up. These bags and warm clothing items that we share with the people of Morning Star Mission are a gift that we can give that will meet not only some practical needs but also the need for care and concern shown by God's people. It is our hope that during the coldest part of the year, they might feel warmth from our gifts and be reminded of the truth that God loves them exactly where they are for exactly who they are. May you always feel God's presence not only in this new year, and may you know that God loves you exactly where you are for exactly who you are.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

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 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. 19, at 9:45 a.m., plus the 11:00 worship and luncheon on Jan. 26. 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. 26. 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.)

New Feeding Ministry

The Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago's food closet for its seminarians is 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.

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., Jan. 5 – Apples to Apples with and apple theme dinner.

Sun., Jan. 12 – Ice skating (time TBD)

Sun., Jan. 19 – No meeting

Mon., Jan. 20 – MLK Service Day Event 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 26 – MorningStar Mission 3:00 p.m.

Confirmation Schedule - Wednesdays

7th & 8th Gr. Together: Jan. 8 & Apr. 1

Pizza 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7th Gr. Confirmation: Jan. 15

Pizza 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Gr. Confirmation: Jan. 22

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.

Confirmation Sundays are May 17 & May 31, 2020

5-12 Grade! M.L.K Day Service Event – Mon., Jan. 20

On Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. we invite 5-12th graders to come and participate in a group project where we will be discussing the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be discussions, games and lunch. Please let us know if your youth can join us. There is a sign up online, in the bulletin, and in the narthex. Parents, we would love for you to join us. Let us know if you would like to chaperone for this event.

All-Church Bowling – Sun., Feb. 16

Our All-Church Bowling outing will be on Feb 16, at 1:00 p.m. at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox (1009 W. Laraway Rd.). Please arrive around 12:45 p.m. to get your shoes, bowling ball and lane ready. The cost will be \$11 per person for 2 games and shoes. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office. The event is also the Peace Buddies, 5th /6th gr. and 7th/8th gr. group activities for March.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is Resistance Skills (Relationship Skills). *A young person can avoid negative peer pressure and avoid dangerous situations.* 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:

Encourage your children to express their feelings, values and beliefs at home. Allow them to disagree with you.

At school:

Role-play difficult situations with students so they can practice and strengthen their resistance skills. Be open to opportunities to teach resistance skills.

In the community:

Offer assertiveness training workshops for children, youth, and adults.

In the church or public organization:

Include resistance skills in your youth education programming.

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

**The asset for the month of January is:
Resistance Skills (Relationship Skills)**

January quote of the month:

“Negative people have a problem of every solution.”

~unknown

Looking Ahead...

Sun., Feb. 2 – Bring a friend to Sunday School! If you bring a friend, stop by the Sunday School office to get a prize and your picture taken with your friend!

Sun., Feb. 16 – All Church Bowling

Mar. 6, 7, & 8 – 7-12th grade Antioch Weekend... Start preparing your hearts and minds for this amazing weekend! Sign ups will be out soon!!!

Sun., Mar. 15 – 5 / 6th grade Pizza and Painting

Sun., April 19 – 7 / 8th grade Service Project around Peace. Indoor and outdoor clean up 10a.m. – 3:00p.m.

Sat., April 25 – 5/6th grade Inhouse escape room 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Sun., April 26 – End of the Year 7/8th Kids & Adults luncheon at noon.

Tickets

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.

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.

Boy Scout Weekend – Feb. 8/9

The annual Boy Scout weekend is coming up on Feb. 8/9. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 7/8 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout Sunday.

Faith & Life Experience

(We are going to feature stories about Peace from time to time. Please enjoy this one from Renee Gatewood!)

I am sitting on my deck in the back yard with a cup of coffee and my bible. I love this quiet time talking to the Lord. I look up and delighted to see a little hummingbird at the feeder. I take this as a sign from God that he is listening to my prayers. I feel sorrow and happiness at the same time as I pray for all my family and friends – I ask and give thanks at the same time.

At the top of my list is happiness and gratitude for Pastor Dave and Peace Church. A part of my prayer is that everyone I care about find a church like Peace where Pastor Dave, Deacon Shari, and members are like second family. What a great way to start my morning – with thanks and praise. The sun is coming up now and I am ready to start my day felling loved and blessed.

Just as I finished my bible readings, a cute and precious little hummingbird flitted around and then flew right over my head! It was like it was putting on a show for me.

Renee Gatewood

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.

What's the Scoop (Bring Your Ideas to the Group!) – Sun., Feb. 2 – noon

At this new version of what used to be called "Everybody Come" night, we want to include you in brainstorming ideas and getting them going. We will meet Sunday, Feb. 2 at noon. We'll eat and share ideas for ministry and try to be finished in 1.5 hours or less. 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!). Childcare is available if you let us know ahead of time.

Soup/Chili Luncheon at Santa Cruz - Sun., Jan. 12

We are honored to be able to serve a soup & chili luncheon to the folks at Santa Cruz on Sun., Jan. 12, after their 11:00 a.m. worship service. We need people to help prepare some soup or chili, and people to help serve the lunch (be there by 11:30). Questions? Call the church office. Please use the sign-up or call the church office to join in on this great opportunity.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 1/2

30 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 \$144 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. 1/2, people will have an opportunity to give a donation to fight hunger. We’d suggest the cost of a meal/snacks.

Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 16

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 16, 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.

Variety Show & Dinner – Sun., Feb. 23

The stage is calling! Back by popular demand is our Annual Variety Show & Dinner - Sun., Feb. 23, at 3:00 p.m. All ages and talents are welcome and encouraged to perform. Perhaps a short skit, instrumental, or vocal performance? Maybe a duet, trio, quartet, or quintet? Let's do our best to top last year's show! If you wish to perform, we ask that you fill out an information form available in Kelly Muehlnickel's mailbox or in the church office. Please return the completed form to her mailbox or the office. The deadline to sign up is February 12. Not ready to perform? Then be sure to attend the show! As a delicious bonus, a catered dinner will follow the show beginning about 4:45/ 5:00 p.m. on a free-will offering basis. Come join the fun! Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office if you wish to attend. Call Mark Muehlnickel at 815-463-8836 with any questions.

Christmas Generosity Thanks

Once again the people of Peace have opened their hearts to let God’s love flow through them and out into the world. We gave gifts to 26 young people at Augustana Center with Open Arms, to approximately 85 people connected to Santa Cruz and their ministries to their neighborhood, and through the ELCA’s Good Gifts program (\$2109!!!), we have provided 1 week of meals for a refugee family, 50 soup kitchen meals, 21 goats, 7 groups of honeybees, 5 groups of chicks, 3 roosters, 16 piglets, 2 Bibles, 2 sets of schools supplies, 1 water filter, 2 fruit tree seedlings, 1 set of farming tools, and 1 irrigation canal! How wonderful it is to give!!

Firewood Available

The church had a tree cut down so there is a stack of firewood on the west side of the garage. If you could use some, please help yourself.

Questions Kids Ask Update

The Spanish version of our amazing book (and coloring book) is now in our hands! The committee will be working on how and where to market it. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. If you know of someone who is a part of a Spanish-speaking congregation or organization, please let us know that too. Just call the church office (815-485-5327) or email us (peacechurch@peacelenox.org.)

Caregiver Tip of the Month

It takes a team to make the right decisions, to call on the right doctors, to do the research, to find help for everyday challenges to care for ourselves as caregivers while providing for our loved ones. It takes a team to sit down together and talk about what to do. It takes a team to understand the needs. It takes a team to provide strength and guidance. Find that team. Embrace that team. Stay with that team. It’s a win, win.

(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

The power of food to bring people together is a foundational principle of Farming Hope, a Bay Area nonprofit organization that provides transitional employment and job training to people who are experiencing homelessness or poverty and those who were formerly incarcerated. Farming Hope is funded in part by your gifts through our church to ELCA World Hunger. Farming Hope trains its participants during a six-week program in which they work several days a week in the kitchen learning restaurant skills and one day a week in an urban garden learning about food production. San Francisco has many job opportunities for people with culinary skills, so learning food safety, knife skills and how to work as a line cook - and getting paid experience to list on a resume - can be a key stepping-stone for long-term employment.

Joliet Area Community Hospice – Grief Support

Joliet Area Community Hospice Bereavement Program offers a variety of programs and series to encourage healthy grieving before and/or after the death of a loved one. Services are provided not only to hospice families, but also to community members, and are free of charge. Grief Support & Services include; parent support for grieving children & adolescence, support groups and workshops, memorial services, individual and family grief counselling, including art therapy. The Joliet Area Community hospice provides programs such as; General Loss Support Groups, Teen Nights; for teens who have experienced loss, and Spousal/Partner Loss. The JACH also have workshops based around writing and art therapy, which can help to provide a healthy outlet for grief. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from these programs please go to <https://www.joliethospice.org/>, or call the director or Bereavement Services, Patrice Martin at 815-460-3282.

This Quarter's Events & Programs

Jan 8 & 22 – Grief Writing Workshop (6-7:30 p.m.)

Jan 30 – Parenting While Grieving (6-7:30 p.m.)

Feb 5 & 19 – Expressions of Healing 1 of 6 (6-7:30 p.m.)

March 5 – Spring Grief Workshop (6-8 p.m.)

For more information about any of the programs or to register contact:

Patrice Martin, LCSW, Director of Bereavement Services By calling (815) 460-3282 or e-mailing pmartin@joliethospice.org

MorningStar Keep Warm and Healthy Collection

This month our youth will be serving dinner at Morning Star Mission and would also like to take items to help the people there keep warm and healthy during the cold months. They would like our help by filling Winter Keep Healthy Blessing Bags. Please take a sealable bag provided in narthex, fill with the contents on the list, and return to the collection bin. The items can mostly be found at a dollar store, and you are asked to get as many items on that list as possible, in small enough sizes to fit in the bag (Emergen-C or the like, cough drops, tissue packets, lotion, lip balm, foot/hand warmers, energy/snack food, a “gatorade” type drink or water bottle.) We'd need these by Jan. 19. Other items we'll be collecting as a general giveaway this month:

Socks, Gloves, Hats

Ponchos

Tarps

Duct Tape

Wipes

Personal Hygiene Items

Snack cups

Sweet treats

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 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.