

# ***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 2022

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## ***You Can't Back Up***

Another new year is ready to start. Another old year has had its own challenges and rewards. Some people look back at the past (even many years past) and all they see are decisions they've made that they would change. Some refuse to accept that dwelling on those perceived mistakes doesn't change the outcome and never will. They get caught in an endless and hopeless circle. It doesn't have to be that way. A phrase I once read put it this way: You can't go back and have a brand-new start, but anybody can start now and have a brand-new end.

So, without beating ourselves up and getting stuck, any of us can learn from our mistakes. For example....

Maybe we learn that we need to take some time to think before putting our mouths in gear (or acting impulsively or trying to exact revenge.)

Maybe we learn we are not smarter than everyone else in the universe and would do well to listen to the advice of people who have wise counsel.

Maybe we learn that blind obedience in politics (of either party) or limiting ourselves to one kind of news feed is not helping us or our nation.

Maybe we learn that getting hurt is the price you pay for having a tender heart, but it is still worth the hurt in the long run.

Maybe we learn that starting every day in prayer or reflection about/with God is a wise idea.

Maybe we learn that God would have us be more accepting of others who are different than we are and see their humanity before we see their so-called problems.

Maybe we learn absorbing and passing along a full dose of God's forgiveness is good for our own inner spirits and might set other people free too.

The list of possible learnings is longer than those. The list of possible ways that God can bless us is infinite. Every day, not just in a new year, is a chance to "start now and have a brand-new end!"

***Pastor Dave Hedlin***

***Please check our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest information, videos, and more!***

## ***Prayers Requested***

The family of Jeanne Dolph & Amy Dolph, Cie, Joe, Maria, Sheila, all those in the military who were away from home for Christmas, Steve Barlow, Susan Lowe, Bob, Janice Musak, Jennifer Barker, Kathy Drews, Lindsey, Roger Bentley, Michelle Dreiling, Ruth Price, Kent Drase, the family of Joan Osment, Claudia Green, Jeri Sandt, Fran Ziolkowski, Debbie, Brianna Otto, Phil, the O'Connell family, Diane Weber

## ***Sympathy***

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Eleanor O'Connell, mother of Tom O'Connell

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

Olivia Joy Wiersema was baptized on Dec. 12

Violet Irene Schroeder was baptized on Dec. 12

## ***Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., Jan. 8***

As part of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday night service on Jan.8, we will have an opportunity within the prayers of intercession to especially note those who need special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.

## ***First Communion Class – Sat., Jan. 15***

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. 15, at 10:00 a.m.

## ***Worship Schedule***

We have partially returned to somewhat previous worship plans (pre-pandemic). The plan is for Saturday night's worship at 5:00 to remain outdoors for as long as we can. Sunday's schedule is back to 8:30 and 11:00am - both indoors with masks. Live-streaming of worship will continue on Saturday nights and at the 8:30am service on Sundays.

We will continue to have communion be taken all at once in your seats (bring your own or use our wafers.) We still won't have nursery care or as much liturgy. There won't be printed bulletins or using hymnals (song sheets are available inside and the words to the hymns are available electronically in that bulletin format.) We will have two hymns instead of one. Volunteers will be requested on a week by week basis instead of assigned ahead of time for an usher, lesson reader, greeter. No refreshments after worship.

## ***Details for How We Worship***

### **FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE**

**\*The IDPH guidelines mandate masks indoors.**

\* Children's sermons have resumed.

\*Whether you drive-in, are on the lawn or worship at home, we have a modified communion option. You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. We will give the Words of Institution on behalf of all of us and invite us to take our bread/cracker at the same time and partake of this modified version of the Lord's Supper.

\* In order to keep people's safety in mind following the advice of the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, there will be a drop box if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.

\* Bathrooms will be available, but people would be encouraged to use them only if necessary, and social distancing would be required. The doors to the bathrooms will be left open to eliminate having to touch them, and for the sake of knowing what kind of distancing/waiting is needed.

### **DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAY AT 5:00PM**

**\* Our worship location will be from under the canopy at the front entrance.**

\* We will have sound projection/speakers for all to hear, plus our new transmitter for the FM channel (88.3.)

\* The worship usually lasts about 35 minutes.

Worshiping outdoors allows us to sing with gusto!

### **ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE**

\* We will continue to live-stream our 5:00 & 8:30 worship services. Assuming everything works, all will be available through our Facebook site anytime.

### **INDOOR WORSHIP AT 8:30am AND 11:00am**

Here are the notes if you are planning to come:

\* **Masks are required indoors, per IDPH guidelines.**

\* Congregational singing of a hymn is allowed. We'll have some printed copies available.

\* We will have pews marked off so that socially distanced spaces can be maintained.

\* We won't be having nursery attendants, acolytes, refreshments, lay liturgists, etc.

\* We will be sending an email each week asking for lesson readers. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.

\* Bathrooms will be discouraged from being used but are available.

\* Communion will have options: continue to be "bring your own bread or cracker," or take one of the wafers (gluten free or regular) or take one of the pre-packaged kind.

\* The service length will continue to be between 30 and 40 minutes.

\* If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

Please pray for our world's healing, and for our congregation's ongoing attempts to stay faithful to God and God's leading!

## ***Your Offerings Matter & Are Appreciated!***

You can either donate online or mail in your offering (PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451). If you know your envelope #, write that on the check. If you don't, we'll gratefully look it up so that you get credit!

No matter how: thanks for your offerings – they are making a difference at Peace, in our community, in our country and around the world!

## ***Daily Devotionals Available***

There is a black bin outside the front door labeled "devotional booklets." You can come by the church and pick one up at your convenience. If you want it mailed to you, just let us know via [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org). Also, Augsburg has made *Christ in Our Home* available free online: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home>.

## **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:**

Jeff & Jess Lindeman – for delivering food bags to Joshua Arms

Laura Geekie – for sorting coats

Everyone who donated to the Christmas gift giving

All the musicians for Christmas

All those who provided poinsettias

### **From:**

The Manteno Interfaith Christmas Basket Program – for the quilts and scarves

The Taite family – for Thanksgiving dinner

Clarendale of Mokena – for the quilts & stockings

Marcella Kruc – for the Christmas quilt

## **Quick Reminders**

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Jan. 23.**

\* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

\* **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 them the suicide prevention hotline.

**Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. 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 -741741, and online - [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://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, (except for 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, parent support and general grief support counseling, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: [www.joliethospice.org](http://www.joliethospice.org) or call 815-740-4104.

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

\***Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available** – Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.

\***Guardian Angel Community Services** – Sexual assault & rape crisis services, prevention education & outreach. Programs include medical advocacy, legal advocacy, individual counseling, group counseling, prevention education & professional training. 24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984.

\* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at [www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms](http://www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms). Located at 1315 Rowell, 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.

\* **NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Will Grundy** offers, at no charge, education programs and support groups to “support individuals with mental illness and their families through advocacy, education and outreach.”

For more information call 815-409-7917 or go to: [info@namiwillgrundy.org](mailto:info@namiwillgrundy.org) or [www.namiwillgrundy.org](http://www.namiwillgrundy.org)

## **Addresses for Service Personnel**

Midshipman Trevor Horn PO Box # 12989 Annapolis, MD 21412	Sargent Devin Pafford 1208 Battery Creek Dr. Beaufort SC 29902
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MA2 Baker, Connor 5600 Shorewood Lane Norfolk, VA 23502	2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C Fort Polk, LA 71459
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## **Military Pray for List**

Please pray for those who have returned from war who struggle to readjust to life and work through their grief. T.J. Burns, Devin Pafford, Connor Baker, Jake Treasure, Allison DeVitto, Shane Bonarek.

## **College Information Packets**

We have available an excellent packet of materials for all who are in the college search stage of life. Let the church office know via email or call, and we'll get it to you electronically.

## ***Looking Ahead***

***Dec. 31– Church office will be closed***  
***Jan. 1 – Church office will be closed***  
***Jan. 1 & 2 – regular worship schedule***  
***Jan. 3 – Ruth Circle Quilters 9:00am***  
***Jan. 8 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm***  
***Jan. 9 – Sunday School resumes 9:45am***  
***Jan. 15 – First Communion Class 10:00am***  
***Jan. 16 – New Member Orientation 9:45am***  
***Peace Page Turners 9:55am***  
***Jan. 23 – Reception of New Members 11:00am***  
***Jan. 29 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.***  
***Feb. 5 – NLFD CPR 8:30am***  
***Feb. 5/6 – Boy Scout Weekend***  
***Feb. 6 – What’s the Scoop 12noon***  
***Feb. 12 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 pm***  
***Feb. 12/13 – Souper/Super Bowl***  
***Feb. 20 – Annual Meeting 9:55 am***  
***Mar. 2 – Ash Wednesday***  
***Mar. 12/13 – Girl Scout Weekend***  
***Apr. 10 – Palm Sunday***  
***Apr. 17 – Easter Sunday***

## **Groups**

### ***Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Jan. 3,17&31***

Quilting will meet on Monday, Jan. 3, 17 & 31 at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary, you just have to know how to have fun to join. Questions, contact the church office.

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

We invite anyone who’d like to get together with some others who are anything but “over the hill” to come together on Jan. 18 at noon at church. Email or call the church office for more information.

### ***Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.***

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm. Questions, contact the church office.

## ***Prayer Shawls – Wed., Jan. 12 & 26***

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God’s love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00pm. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Any questions, please contact the church office.

## ***Peace Page Turners – Sun., Jan. 16***

Our next book, a novel written by Paulette Jiles, is *News of the World*. This story tells the adventures and impact of a retired Captain and a young woman and their travels in a portrait that captures a beautiful and hostile land, and a masterful exploration of the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor and trust. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be Sun., Jan. 16, and the time will be 9:55am (to match all the other Education Hour times.) You may come in person, or attend via Zoom. (Be sure to let us know if you’re attending online so we can give you the Zoom codes you’ll need.)

## ***Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry***

If you would like special prayers said for someone, just let the office know of a particular need. We will send out an email to the volunteers with that need. (If you would like to be a part of this Peace Circle of Prayer, let us know, including what email address we should use.)

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

The Addiction & Family Support Group meets at Peace on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm. 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 the church office.

## *Faith Development/Education*

### *Wednesday Bible Study - New Testament*

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing resource? If you have any questions, call the office. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

### *Sunday Adult Education Classes*

Adult Education class meets at 9:55 a.m. after the Sunday School opening in the back of the sanctuary.

**Jan. 9** - Already Have Too Many Balls in the Air? (And it's only January!)

**Jan. 16** - Book Discussion - *News of the World*

**Jan. 23** - God's Still Small Voice Needs Room and an Ear

**Jan. 30** - Your Follow up Questions to the Discussion "If There's a Good God, Why (the Holocaust, floods, COVID, etc.)"

**Feb. 6** - Garbage Truck Personalities Stink! (and how God offers a different path)

### *Everybody Read*

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we will 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 Romans 12:1-8.

## *General Announcements*

### *New Member Orientation & Reception – Sat., Jan. 16 & Sun., Jan. 23*

We are privileged once again to invite more people to become formal partners with us in our mission of spreading the Gospel and growing in faith. Orientation will be Sun., Jan. 16 at 9:45am – either on Zoom or in person and the reception will be Sun., Jan. 23, during 11:00am worship. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, email ([peacechurch@peacelenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacelenox.org)), call the church office at 815-485-5327, see Pastor Dave, or let us know through the website ([Sign Up](#)).

## *From Deacon Shari Trotter*

Dear Members and friends of Peace,

This month is a new start, a new beginning. However, part of me also feels like it's just a continuation of last year. Covid is still very real. The people I lost last year are not coming back and I still have the same worries, the same aches, and pains. How do we approach 2022 with new eyes and a refreshed sense of hope?

Last month we celebrated Jesus coming into the world. Let me tell you a secret though; Christ did not just come into the world one night long ago. Christmas is the celebration of Christ breaking into the world every single day. Just like the story of the very first Christmas, Jesus is not stopped by those who would be threatened by him or lack of room in the inn. There is nothing that stops Jesus from breaking into the darkness of our world.

Covid and the devastation and frustration it has created cannot stop Jesus from breaking into our lives. David Crowder sings a song called "He is" and the lyrics speak to who Jesus is. "He is hope for the hopeless, rest for the weary, help for the hurting he is. He is mending the broken, bearing the burdens, all that you're needing he is." When another year feels heavy may we turn to Jesus.

As Jesus breaks into our world the opportunities to share God's love begin to become apparent and the world seems a little brighter. With each new day there is a chance to give love to another, laughter to the sad, rest to the tired, food to the hungry, clothes to the naked and so much more. This new year 2022, has so many moments of Christ to be shared. May we be hopeful and delight in all that God has done, and all that God is doing.

God's Peace,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

### *January Peanut Butter & Jelly Collection*

Our Service Committee has an idea to have an emphasis of the month for helping others. Your generosity is amazing, and we continue to want to connect that to people in need. Instead of just having a "Peanut Butter Sunday" we'll be collecting peanut butter (and/or jelly) all month. It will be given to the New Lenox Township Food Pantry at a time when donations tend to fall off.

## ***Blood Drive – Sat., Jan. 29***

Thank you to everyone who donated in December. Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Jan. 29 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please visit the Versiti website for any questions or to schedule a time to donate.

## ***CPR Class – Sat., Feb. 5***

The New Lenox Fire Department is going to be conducting a CPR class for us at Station 1 on Rt. 30. The class will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon on Sat., Feb. 5, for ages Jr. High to adult. The cost for the session will be \$35 each (check to Peace Church or cash please), which is a real bargain since the usual price is \$50! There is a limit of 10 people. Please call the church office or email us at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) if you would like to sign up.

## ***Boy Scout Weekend – Feb. 5/6***

The annual Boy Scout weekend is coming up on Feb. 5/6. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 12/13 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout weekend.

## ***What's the Scoop – Sun., Feb. 6***

We hope you'll come either in person or online through Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., Feb. 6, at noon. Let us know if you plan to attend and how so we can send you information ahead of time ( [Online sign up](#), [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org), or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 12/13***

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 \$163 million has been raised for local charities across the country.

We will be participating again in the "Souper Bowl" for the hungry. You may drop off your donation or send in an offering marked for Souper Bowl and we'll send them to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal.

## ***Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 12***

Feb. 12, 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.

## ***Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 20***

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 20, at 9:55am. It is going to be quite a change. Full details will be sent when we get closer, including voting by mail or electronically. Highlights will include the election of council members, celebrating what God was doing through Peace even in a pandemic.

## ***Gifts for Santa Cruz, Augustana and ELCA Good Gifts***

The people of this congregation are wonderfully generous and have a heart for others. Your gift giving has been wonderful!!! We have transported multiple bags of gifts to Santa Cruz, and have been receiving donations for ELCA's Good Gifts program and to the Augustana Center for Open Arms (orphanage.) It isn't too late for those financial gifts. So that we don't blend these gifts with regular offerings, would you please send a check that gives which cause(s) and amount(s)? If you don't have checks anymore, you can drop off an envelope at church with cash, or you can use the online giving and send/email us a note for the special contribution so we look for it.

Augustana - orphaned teens (\$25 to \$50)  
ELCA Good Gifts ministry - assisting people all over the world (chicks - \$10; honeybees - \$20; piglet - \$30; school uniform for girls - \$40; goats - \$50; feed 50 people at a soup kitchen - \$100; cow - \$500)

## ***Christmas Offerings***

Each year the money we receive in our Thanksgiving/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 hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church that serves so 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 Mission).

## ***2022 Flower Chart***

2022 dates are now available to donate flowers for the altar. Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them. You may call or email the church ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.) The cost per arrangement is \$20.

## *Some New Theater Options - ([Sign Up](#))*

### ***We Are Heading Back to Broadway in Chicago!***

We are going to put our proverbial toes in the water and offer two different shows through Broadway in Chicago. We think it is safe to give this a try because both shows will require proof of vaccination with an ID, plus masks will need to be worn. Our bargain rate seats will be in the upper sections, as we've had before. We have reserved 10 seats for each of these, but would hope to be able to add more if needed.

***The Simon and Garfunkel Story*** – Sun., Feb. 27 - 2:00pm show - CIBC Theatre

This show features all of the hits of these two legendary performers. They have won all kinds of awards, including a lifetime achievement Grammy award. Tickets are \$38 each, including the handling fees.

***Jesus Christ, Superstar*** - July 19-31 - 2:00pm show - Cadillac Theatre

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of this iconic musical phenomenon comes to Chicago! Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, this production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering absolutely outstanding reviews. (The show is 90 minutes and there is no intermission.) Tickets will be \$23, including all fees.

### ***Questions Kids Ask About God***

More kids and more questions!

#### **How can God be a baby?**

*We can't really answer the "how" question. But we can answer the "why would God want to become one?" question. People think that being powerful means letting other people know you are something special and can make things happen. But God's power is shown by loving and being humble and what seems to us to be unimportant. Yet God through a baby can help us see how God walk with us through all of life. From birth to death, God understands what it means to be human, and God finds ways to lift us up when we are feeling small and unimportant. God also asks us to do that for others....be powerful by being loving and humble.*

**Parents/grandparents, please keep sending in your kids' questions! Go ahead and ask them specifically what questions they have about God!**

## ***Because of You***

Suicidal and ready to jump off a Chicago bridge, a man called Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' (LSSI's) Mobile Crisis Line. The crisis worker kept the caller on the phone, while another crisis worker called 911 and collaborated with the Chicago Police Department to ping the caller's cell phone and locate the individual. Once found, LSSI staff drove to the bridge and talked with the man. Afterward, he agreed to be hospitalized for treatment. Such dramatic encounters are all in a day's work for LSSI's Mobile Crisis Team, which responds 24/7 to children, adolescents, and adults in serious crisis on Chicago's northwest side. LSSI began providing Mobile Crisis Services for children in 2004 and added services for adults in 2018. Last year, these services helped 1,126 children and adults.

## ***Coat Drive to Help Others***

*One Warm Coat* is a ministry of our church to assist in the collection of clean, reusable coats and jackets for donation to local individuals free of charge. We are grateful for our ability in all circumstances to continue in our mission to meet basic human needs. Items can be dropped off at church including left outside the front door in a bag or box. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots are also accepted. Thank you for your continued support.

## ***Want to Help Tornado/Disaster Victims?***

The ELCA's Disaster Response is a fantastic method for getting help where it is needed. Not only do you get an amazing "bang for the buck," but the money gets channeled to churches and agencies that are on the ground. Trying to send actual supplies is not an efficient way to help – things get bottlenecked and don't reach people with immediate needs. But because of group buying power and the people who are on the ground in the communities with the damage, people get help. Plus, the ELCA's Disaster Response Team sticks around long after the Red Cross and other immediate-help agencies have left. You can donate through the main ELCA webpage [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). From there you will find a quick link to the disaster.

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

A warm embrace. A gentle smile. A loving heart to last awhile. The endless hours. The sleepless nights. Tomorrow takes a different flight. You fold your hands in prayer to God. You ask for peace to say the least. Just for today. *(For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex and don't forget to borrow a book from the bin.)*

## ***Amazon Smile Thanks***

We just got our latest donation from the Amazon Smile Foundation of \$84.23. Thank you to all of you who have designated Peace for those donations. There are countless good causes you can designate. Any of them can make a difference, and it doesn't cost you anything extra. We appreciate when you designated Peace. All those funds are given away to help others.

## ***2022 Calendars Available***

Hickey Memorial Chapel delivered 2022 calendars to us again this year. If you would like a copy, they will be on the table in the narthex and in the black bin outside the front door – help yourself!

## ***Santa Cruz Seeks Volunteers***

Our mission partners are now a regular delivery stop for food every Tuesday about noon. They are looking for people to take a turn (as often as you're willing) to help unload it. The truck arrives each Tuesday about noon and the unloading is complete about 1:00pm. If you're interested, let us know and we'll put you in contact with the right people.

## ***New Needs for Santa Cruz's***

In addition to the non-perishable food items and personal care items that are needed for their food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood, Santa Cruz is in need of cleaning supplies and garbage bags for the church. If you would like to donate these or any items for the food pantry, please bring them to church and put them in the baskets by the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

## ***Youth Events***

### ***Peace 360 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond!***

We are expanding our youth group! Peace 360 is open to youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through our graduated youth, as well!

### ***Peace Church Scholarship***

Peace Church will make available the annual scholarship for high school seniors who are planning to attend 4- or 2-year college programs or technical/trade schools. Up to 5 scholarships will be awarded. Recipients will be chosen based on several factors, which are detailed in the application form. These forms are available on the counter in the narthex and must be submitted no later than March 27, 2022. [Printable Scholarship 2022](#)

### ***Peace 360 7<sup>TH</sup> Gr. & Beyond Ice Skating – Sat., Jan. 15***

We invite our 7<sup>th</sup> graders and older youth to meet us at Arctic Ice, in Orland Park, on Sat., Jan. 15 at 6:30pm. We are going ice skating!! Cost is \$10 for the entrance fee and \$3 for skate rental. We are asking adults & youth to meet us at the ice arena. Be sure to eat dinner before you come to the event and bring your mask. Pick up time is 8pm. Please call or email the office to let us know that your youth will be participating or use online [Sign Up](#)

### ***Confirmation Schedule:***

7<sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Jan. 5 & 19

8<sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Jan. 12 & 26

### ***3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Buddies – Wed., Jan. 5 & 12***

Come join us for Bible Buddies! On two Wednesdays of the month, from 7-8:00pm, we invite our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to come and hang out with Miss Jess. We will have a lesson and some fun! Please let us know if you're planning to come. [Bible Buddies sign up](#)

### ***New Year's Celebration for 5-12 Gr. & Beyond – Sun., Jan. 9***

We will celebrate our new year with fun, games, and dinner!! We will have a gift exchange so bring a gift to give, \$5 max! 6-8pm [Sign Up](#)

### ***5 & 6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Movie Night – Sat., Jan. 22***

Please join us on Sat., Jan. 22 at 6pm to watch the movie, "Beethoven" on our awesome new projector, in Fellowship Hall! We will provide popcorn and water during the movie. Older siblings are invited to attend as well. Please call or email the office to let us know if your youth can attend, or use the online sign up [Sign Up](#)