

# 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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November 2021

Vol. XXVI, Issue 11

## A Lesson from the World of Trees

I recently learned about a couple kinds of bamboo trees in China. One begins as a seed with no visible action for five years, and then grows a foot a day. Another one (once above ground) grows a foot a day *to start with!* And then it grows several feet a day!!! It's not unusual to have a 60' tree in a matter of weeks. On the other hand, the white cedar in Canada grows to the grand mature height of four inches. Every tree has a growth rate that is affected not only by its genetics, but also by its environment. (That four-inch cedar grows on the side of cliffs.)

We are approaching Thanksgiving. There are some people who never quite seem to capture the idea of gratitude. It may be that they have been in an environment/family/community where conditions were ones of entitlement (think bamboo and life comes easy) or where the conditions could have been stark (think white cedar.) Regardless, gratitude is absent or minimal.

As the people of God, we are reminded that every day is a gift. Everything we have and use and enjoy is a gift. But so is every opportunity to serve or give. Every time we are forgiven or forgive another is a gift. Can we think? Learn? Study? – all gifts! Are we able to pray? Are we able to see that even when life ends, there is another gift already at work in us? Gift, gift, gift! When we reflect honestly on life for a few moments, we can recognize countless ways we have been gifted....and that life is made up of one example after another.

You already know how to give, and you know the difference between giving because you feel obligated and because you want to. God gives freely and without conditions. To receive that leads us to a natural place of gratitude. The more we have that focus, the faster it grows in us, and the more we desire to express our gratitude both to the giver, and to turn around and give from the heart.

Our church has been blessed. I want to thank you for all your kind generosity as a faithful response to what God has done. I remain so grateful for the resulting outreach to others and the difference that makes. Our Thanksgiving dinner and our Christmas gift-giving are just two more wonderful examples of getting this right. What you do every day in response to God's generosity makes the 60'bamboo tree seem like nothing.

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

## Prayers Requested

Zander Paape, Louisa Schultz, Barb Hnetkovsky, the family of James Trotter Jr., Ray, Michelle Dreiling, Jim Ott, Edith Hammock, Kristie Paprocki, Roberta Albi, Baby Reid

## Congratulations

Matt Travnik & Janee Luhrs on their marriage on Oct. 9

Lincoln-Way High School Band on taking 1<sup>st</sup> place at the state championships

## Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome these new members into our church!

Dennis Lindeman  
Bill & Jamie McClellan and Will, Jon & Graham  
Nick & Samantha Schroeder and Violet

## Baptism Orientation – Sat., Nov. 13

For those planning to have a baptism in the near future, the next baptism orientation class will be Sat., Nov. 13, at 3:30pm at church. It will be in person or via Zoom. Let us know (815-485-5327 or via [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)) if you plan to attend and how.

**Time to...**set your clocks **BACK** one hour before you go to bed on November 6.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

## ***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 are back to mandating masks indoors .**

\*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 either from the long sidewalk (lawn area) or from under the canopy at the front entrance, depending on the weather.**

\* 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.*

### **From:**

Scout Troop #5549 – for use of the church for meetings

## **Quick Reminders**

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Nov. 28.**

\* **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
MA2 Baker, Connor 5600 Shorewood Lane Norfolk, VA 23502	2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C Fort Polk, LA 71459

## **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.

## **New Interest Indicators – Ready to Go**

We know that COVID has thrown a monkey-wrench into our wonderful record of having volunteers galore. We haven't felt comfortable with all kinds of ministry connections because we didn't want to take a chance on getting people sick. But this COVID obstacle is not going to last forever!!! We want to get a head-start on it by asking you to fill out a new Interest Indicator. There are three ways to go: 1) use the version on the website ([Interest Indicator](#)); 2) ask us to email you a fillable PDF version that you can then save and send back to us or print and send to us; 3) fill out a traditional printed version that will be available at church or that we can send you!

## ***Looking Ahead***

**Nov. 2 – Thanksgiving Planning Meeting 7:00pm**  
**Nov. 6 – First Communion Class 10:00am**  
    **Adult Fellowship Pictionary & Food 6:00pm**  
**Nov. 7 – All Saints Worship 8:30am**  
    **What's the Scoop - noon**  
**Nov. 13 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.**  
**Nov. 21 – Peace Page Turners 9:55am**  
    **Thanksgiving Worship Service 6:00pm**  
**Nov. 25 – 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner –**  
    **carry out & delivery only**  
**Dec. 4 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Dec. 18 – Shortest Day/Longest Night Service 5:00pm**  
**Dec. 24 & 25 – Christmas worship services –format to be determined**

## **Groups**

### ***Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon. Nov. 1, 15, 29***

Quilting will meet on Monday, Nov. 1, 15 & 29, at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. You just have to know how to have fun to join. Questions, contact the church office.

### ***Adult Fellowship – Pictionary & Bring Your Own Food – Nov. 6***

We had fun playing Bunco. Now it is on to some more fun: drawing on the white boards and trying to figure out what it is! No one draws alone, so you can be at a Kindergarten level as an artist and still not have to worry. The date is Sat., Nov. 6, and the time will be 6:00pm. Bring your own stomach-pleasing food with you. Let us know if you are coming (815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)) [Online sign up.](#)

### ***Trailblazers – Tues., Nov. 16***

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but "over the hill" to come together on Nov. 16 at noon. Bring \$5; the food will be provided. 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 11:30am-12:30pm. Questions, contact the church office.

## ***Prayer Shawls Changing to Wed., Nov. 17***

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 are changing our day to meet to 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., Nov. 21***

Our next book, written by Ann Patchett, is *The Dutch House*, a novel that uses the purchase of a lavish house as a backdrop for delving into questions of inheritance, love, forgiveness, how we want to see ourselves and how we really are. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be Sun., Nov. 21, 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.)

## ***GriefShare – Surviving the Holidays***

We will be having a four session version of GriefShare, a ministry we have conducted in the past for people who have lost loved ones. It will focus on "Surviving the Holidays," one aspect of the whole program. We invite anyone who would like to participate regardless of when the loss took place. The dates will be Nov. 1, 8, 22 & 29. The group meets from 6:30 to 8:00pm on those Monday nights. To let us know if you would like to participate, email ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)) or call the church office at 815-485-5327.

## ***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 - Starting the New Testament**

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. We are going to be starting the New Testament in November. 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.

**Oct. 31** - Does the Reformation Still Matter?

**Nov. 7** - For All the Saints (a reflection on some of the “Saints” and more on the “saints”)

**Nov. 14** - If There’s a Good God, Why (the Holocaust, floods, COVID, etc.)?

**Nov. 21** - Book Discussion on *The Dutch House*

**Nov. 28** – Walking on Eggshells Is No Fun (& not of God) (How to deal with certain relatives/friends/others who are easily offended)

### **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. November’s passage is Philippians 4:4-9.

### General Announcements

#### **First Communion Class – Sat., Nov. 6**

Each year we seek to prepare children in the fifth grade (and above) 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 Sat., Nov. 6 at 10:00am. You need only attend one class or the other. Contact the church office for questions or to register or use online [Sign Up](#),

### **Special All Saints Worship – Sun., Nov. 7**

During the 8:30 worship service on Sunday, Nov. 7, people who have lost loved ones will have an opportunity to remember them. This year’s version will give people a choice of lighting their own candles or having Deacon Shari & Pastor Dave do it for them. All those who give us the names to be remembered ahead of time will be listed in the online bulletin that weekend. If you would like a candle lit in memory of someone, let us know through the website ([Sign Up](#)) or through the office ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327). Be sure to give us your name and contact information and whom you wish to remember.

### **What's the Scoop – Sun., Nov. 7**

So, what goes on? Why should I come? The bottom line is ideas for ministry are exchanged and new ones brought to mind – even in these crazy times. We hope you’ll come either in person or online through Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., Nov. 7, 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.)

### **Adult Choir & Ladies Ensemble Information**

HEY SINGERS!!! God has blessed us to be able to start Adult Choir and the Ladies Ensemble again. If you have not heard from Pamela due to possible contact info changes and for all those NEW singers who have just been waiting for this news, please contact church office and we will get your information to her. The Adult Choir practices Wednesdays at 7:00pm and the Ladies Ensemble once a month on Saturdays at 3:00pm. We have special singer-masks to help keep everyone safe.

### **Blood Drive – Sat., Dec. 4**

Thank you to everyone who donated in Oct. Versiti saw 3 first time blood donors and had 22 total registered. Only 1 deferral/1 unsuccessful, and 2 donors who gave a double red for 22 successful pints and 66 lives saved! Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Dec. 4 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.

## **From Deacon Shari Trotter**

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

Last month for youth group we had a bonfire. Bonfires are one of my absolute favorite fall things to do. This youth event was so much fun! We had Smore's and cupcakes, we played silly games, and we enjoyed the warmth of the fire.

The main game we played was called, And then. The way that it works is that the first person starts a story and we passed it around the circle, and each added to it. We were at a bonfire so of course our story was a spooky ghost story. The story started out with Deacon Shari and Crackerjack (my dog), went for a walk. As the story got passed along many other characters joined in, including a ghost dog, Voldemort, and Hans Solo. It was amazing! Life is made better when we add to one another's stories. As we live in relationship together, we share our stories with each other, and we change the trajectory of our stories. The youth and I quickly realized that the story was so much better together than it ever would have been if one of us had told it alone.

God has blessed us with lives and stories that intricately weave together creating a tapestry more beautiful than a single piece of thread.

I am so thankful to be a part of each of your stories and am in awe of the way that God has used you to enrich mine.

God's Peace,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

## **Christmas in a Box – Sign up by Nov. 7**

Christmas in a Box is a fun way for your family to celebrate our Advent Season. This box is filled with lots of goodies, a craft, and a devotional for your family to use during our Advent Adventure. This is sure to be fun for all ages! **Please call or email the office by Nov. 7 to let us know if your family would like to participate.** Boxes will be ready the week of Nov. 21, this way you will have your box in time to start the Advent season on Nov. 28.

## **Cinderella – Nov. 10 - Jan. 9 at the Paramount**

Experience one of the most beloved and cherished fairy tales live on Paramount's stage, with a re-imagined take on the story families have returned to over and over across generations. Experience magic as you've never seen before. From pumpkins into carriages to tattered rags into a beautiful gown, this show should delight and enchant young and old alike. Tickets are available from \$45 to \$79. (And note that the Paramount will be fully decorated for the Christmas season by then!)

Also looking ahead....We definitely will be getting group tickets for downtown shows: Simon & Garfunkel (the musical) in Feb. and Jesus Christ Superstar in July 2022.

## ***Some New Theater Options – [Sign up](#)***

### ***Drury Lane – Oakbrook***

*Holiday Inn* - Saturday, Dec. 11 - 3:00 p.m. - Ticket Prices: \$82.70

Based on the classic film, Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* follows retired song-and-dance man Jim's efforts to bring entertainment to his small Connecticut town. This joyous, family-friendly musical includes Irving Berlin's hit songs, including the Academy Award-winning "White Christmas." (Dinner at Maggiano's after the play would be delightful as well!) Please let the church office know by **Nov. 7** if you are interested in this performance and dinner after the show.

### ***Rialto – Joliet***

*Cirque Musica Holiday Spectacular* - Sunday, December 5 - 7:30 p.m. - Ticket Prices: \$54.00

This all-new production features some of the greatest holiday songs of all time performed with the world-renowned cast of Cirque Musica. Experience the chills, thrills, and excitement of the best Cirque performers from around the world performing to your holiday favorites. Please let the church office know by **Nov. 14** if you are interested in this performance.

*American Legion Band Concert* - Sunday, December 19 - 2:00 p.m. – (free)

Each year we have gotten free tickets for this Christmas tradition at the Rialto. If you would like to reserve tickets, let us know by **Dec. 5**.

## **Thanksgiving Worship**

**Sunday, November 21, 6:00pm –**

This worship will be in person & live streamed. There will be prayers and hymns and scripture and more all focusing on our thanking and praising God for all of God's good gifts.

**IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD!**

## **Thanksgiving Dinner Help & Planning**

**Tues. Nov. 2 – 7:00pm**

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, the situation again this year is going to be different! One thing that hasn't changed: the difference this effort makes to make Thanksgiving good for so many people. Last year we served a total of about 200 people. Thank you for your support. The planning for this year's meal will be on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 7:00pm. Some of our protocols to keep people safe and yet fed include that all meals will be carry out or delivered – no one will be eating inside church. Also, because of restrictions, all the food will be catered. We are in need of helpers for...  
A) assembling the meals in spaced out Fellowship Hall  
B) bringing the food out to the parking lot to the waiting pick-up people  
C) taking meals for delivery  
D) clean up  
E) on Wed. night putting together some extra food bags  
The guests picking up food/getting deliveries will have specific pick-up/delivery times from 11:30am until we're done, probably around 1:00pm.  
If you'd like to help set the whole effort in motion or to help with one of the slots A) - E), please contact the church office. God's work continues!

## **Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings**

Each year the money we receive in our Thanksgiving and Christmas special envelopes is given away to others, divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal, 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). Under normal circumstances, these gifts total over \$10,000. Again, your generosity will make a huge difference! Please let us know when you've made the donation if online, otherwise just include a note with your offering if by mail or in person.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Thursday, Nov. 25**

*The format this year will be pick-up for those who have transportation, and delivery to some within our service area who have none.*

*No meals will be eaten in the church.*

***Reservations will be required for all  
by Nov. 18.***

*All will be given a time to come and pick up their dinners between 11:30am and 1:00pm. If we are delivering, we will also give them an approximate delivery time.*

***Call in your reservations for this FREE  
DINNER by Nov. 18 to Peace Lutheran  
Church, 815-485-5327, or e-mail us  
at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org).  
Let us know how many adults and  
children will be getting a meal.***

***We will be needing many volunteers to assist in this ministry. Please also let us know of your willingness.***

## **Poinsettia Tributes due by Sun., Nov. 28**

This year we still are not sure exactly what Christmas worship will be like. But we want to honor all those who would like to remember or honor loved ones through a poinsettia. The donation amount will be \$12. Call, use email or the online sign up to let us know your information or for any questions.

## **Hymn Picking by Nov. 7**

If you'd like to be in on the "here are the hymns we'll sing" for the next six months - December through May, let us know [email ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)) or call the church office at 815-485-5327.] We have a process that works quite well, including sending you all the instructions and lists you'll need. These need to be returned to Deb Howell by Nov. 7.

## **Christmas Gift "Tree" Giving – Please Be Generous**

The donation Christmas tree that we set up in the entrance area might go largely unnoticed and unused this year. Yet, we know how generous the people of this congregation are and how you have a heart for others. So, in addition to tags on a tree in the entrance area, as we did last year, we are going to set up a Christmas gift-giving fund to which you can contribute. We know it doesn't feel as good as actually buying a present, but let's concentrate on the people who are in need and plan for a normal 2022 Christmas season!

Our causes will be the same, so you can designate which one(s) you wish to support and the amount(s). 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.

**We will buy gift cards/send in the donations for the organizations/causes from the moneys we receive.**

### **The causes**

**Santa Cruz in Joliet (our mission partner) - children and teens (\$10 to \$50)**

**Santa Cruz in Joliet - homeless adults (\$10 to \$50)**

**Augustana Open Arms (we may also have tags available) - orphaned teens (\$25 to \$50)**

**ELCA Good Gifts ministry - assisting people all over the world with animals & more (chicks - \$10; honey bees - \$20; piglet - \$30; school uniform for girls - \$40; goats - \$50; feed 50 people at a soup kitchen - \$100; cow - \$500)**

## **Worship Volunteers for our New Schedule**

Because of the fluid situation in the outside world, volunteers will be requested on a week by week basis instead of assigned ahead of time. We are happy to have you volunteer as an usher, lesson reader, greeter. Please let us know via at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.

## **Update Regarding Replacement for Todd Yetman - Settled!**

We have come to a decision on how to move forward with our worship musician and accompanist. Because our original choice could not find an apartment, we switched to a new prime candidate. We are pleased to say that Audre Kurowski, who has substituted twice for us on a Saturday, will begin her ministry with us on Nov. 1. Audre comes to us with many years of experience in a variety of churches. She has all the tools we believe we need to lead us to a meaningful worship experience and successful relationship with the choirs, soloists, instrumentalists and more. We welcome her to our staff!

## **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.

## **Stories of Faith in Action**

Sometimes we wonder if our offerings make a difference. Each year the ELCA publishes a booklet that highlights a few stories how much good you do as you give to our church! Thank you!!! Please check out this link and see more! [Stories of Faith in Action](#) God is at work through us.

## **Amazing Amazon Smile & Ink Jet Cartridges Contributions**

Because some of you designate Peace with your Amazon Smile dollars, we received another \$89.71. We also sent in empty ink jet cartridges and old cell phones and received \$106.20. Both amounts are then given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you to all who find multiple ways to support the ministries of Peace to serve people in need! If you'd like more information, let us know.

## **Questions Kids Ask About God**

More kids and more questions! This month there was one question in the box. If God loves us so much, how come people are mean? Why doesn't God stop them? *God works with and through humans. God doesn't "make us" do things. God is counting on people like us to live in a way that shows others how to be nice to others. God is also counting on us to help people when others are mean to them, and even to let the bully-types know there is a better way to live.*

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

## **Because of You**

In the rural Appalachian community of Myra in eastern Kentucky is a nonprofit called Manna From Heaven, which is supported by your generosity. Work has been scarce in Myra since the neighboring coal mines closed years ago, yet God's abundance can be seen here each week in the prayers, food, seedlings and newly hatched chicks that neighbors receive to grow gardens and support their families. Manna From Heaven learned about ELCA World Hunger's Domestic Hunger Grants, which provide additional funding for this important work. Each week Manna From Heaven provides food and other essentials for 1,500-2,000 people in the region. Once a month, ELCA members drive two trucks from Cincinnati down to Myra to deliver supplies, bringing over 20,000 pounds of food. Every month about 200 fertilized eggs donated by local farmers are hatched in an incubator purchased through an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant. Families who participate in the chicken program receive 20 chicks, a water dispenser, feed and education on how to raise the chicks. With this support and the families' diligent care, the grown chickens lay eggs almost daily, providing a long-term source of protein. "We don't walk ahead of people, we walk alongside them," said Cindy, a long-time volunteer.

## **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.)

## **Caregiver Tip of the Month**

Children can do a lot for you around the house if you give them a chance and don't have high expectations of perfection. What can children do to help you have a few moments to yourself? Read and/or tell stories to your loved one. Have them ask questions too. Pretend play. Sing. Draw or color with them. Pray. Simple tasks. Talking to them gently about the situation with your loved one when questions arise helps them understand their importance and wanting to help turns into loving rewards. Remember, they are not the caregiver, but know that they do care and want to give even if it's just for a few moments. (*For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics see our display in the narthex*)

## **Small & Medium Toys for a School**

We are always looking for ways to bless others out of our grateful and willing hearts. We have for years invited people to collect small toys (like you get with "Happy Meals" or items you pick up that are inexpensive or items that are like-new that you have in your house collecting dust.) The teacher who uses these as incentives for her special needs students has reported many times her gratitude and the difference it makes in motivating her students – a total win! Now her principal has seen her efforts and wants to expand it beyond her classroom. So, there is now openness to more toys/books/puzzles of an older student variety. Bring them with you to church and put in the special bin under the coat rack heading into Fellowship Hall or leave them outside the front door anytime.

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

Santa Cruz has a food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. The pantry needs the following specific items: **especially cereals, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaning products, personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, easy-open snack-type items (protein bars, cookies, chips, nuts), coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.**

## ***Children's Sermons to Resume Nov. 6 & 7***

It's time to resume children's sermons during worship. Any regular worship when kids are present, we'll have one! Yay! (Another sign of some kind of return to "normal.")

## ***Sunday School Opening Exercises Indoors***

Our Sunday School youth have shown us, each week, that they are able to mask up and socially distance, with little to no prompt. We are proud of how much they have adapted to these changes, and we would love to bring some of our Sunday School traditions back. We have been meeting outside for opening exercises because the weather has been so nice! Now that fall is here and winter is coming, we will start meeting in the Sanctuary for opening exercises before going to class. We will have the pews marked, just like in the past. The kids will wear their masks and be socially distance, too.

## **Youth Events**

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

We are expanding our youth group! From now on our 7/8th graders and our high school graduates are invited to join our high school youth group! Peace 360 will be open to youth going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade through our graduated youth, as well!

**Sat., Nov. 20** – Pizzapalooza! 7pm Please bring a new baby item to donate to our project. [Pizzapalooza sign up](#)

**Sun., Nov. 28** – Please join us for dinner and discussions! We will be discussing Hanukkah, dinner is TBD.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond – Pizzapalooza!***

#### ***Sat., Nov. 20***

From 7:00-8:30pm -5<sup>th</sup> graders and beyond, please join us for a pizza dinner and we will be making wooden mangers! Each group will have their own manger to assemble. We ask everyone to bring one new baby item to donate. We will fill the mangers and take them to Morning Star Mission. [Pizzapalooza sign up](#)

## **Confirmation Schedule:**

**7<sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Nov. 3 & 17**  
**Dec. 1**

**8<sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Nov. 3 & 17**  
**Dec. 8**

## ***3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Buddies – Wed., Nov. 3 & 17***

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 a lesson and some fun! Please let us know if you're planning to come. [Bible Buddies sign up](#)

## ***Sunday School Christmas Singing – Sat., Dec. 4***

We will not have a traditional Christmas Program this year, but on Sat., Dec. 4, at the 5pm service. we are asking our Sunday School youth to sing during service. Please let us know if your youth will be singing with us during service. [Sunday School sings sign up](#)

## ***Family Event – Pizza Dinner & Gingerbread House Decorating – Sat., Dec. 11***

On Sat., Dec. 11, at 6pm we invite families to have some pizza and decorate a gingerbread house! Each family will receive one gingerbread house kit. (The houses will be pre-glued so that they are ready to be decorated when you get here). Please sign up before Dec.,5, so we have enough pizza and supplies to go around. Please bring a new baby item to donate to fill the mangers that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders & beyond built. We will bring them to Morning Star Mission. [Family Event sign up](#).