November 2026

# 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 to God in Christ.*



## PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- JoAnn Montecki
- Matthew Vitt
- Rachel and Troy
- Cathy Fuhr
- Lauren Mansell
- Pam Vanick
- Ray Anglin

## EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort.

**November passage is:**
1 Kings 8:12

## A Letter From Your Pastor

***Pastor Amy Michelson***

Have you noticed that the days are getting shorter? Darkness lingers in the morning and creeps into the early evening. This of course means that we're getting deeper into fall, winter is coming, and Advent is right around the corner! Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a season that acknowledges our grief and longings. It lifts up our hopes. It recognizes the reality that we still wait on God to bring God's kingdom of justice and peace. We often mark this time with silent meditation, dimmed lights, and quiet wonder – the opposite of the hustle and bustle of the world around us as it prepares for Christmas.

If you'd like a break from the hustle and bustle, then mark your calendars now for Wednesday Dec. 2, 9, and 16, from 6-7pm for our midweek Advent services and soup suppers. It is one of the most meaningful hours for me during this season. The service is powerful, the space is holy, and the food and fellowship are heartwarming.

We will again use the Holden Evening Prayer service which is filled with beautiful songs, and we'll reflect on the gifts of night and darkness. We'll remember that God's creation begins in darkness. That we ourselves were knit together in the darkness of the womb. We will celebrate the softness and stillness that darkness offers and the natural rhythms of rest and activity that night and day provide.

Take this opportunity to slow down in the season leading up to Christmas and connect with God who creates and sustains us in the darkness and in the light.

Advent blessings,
Pastor Amy

## Financial Update as of September 30, 2026

| Sept. Income | YTD Income | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|
| $54,403 | $193,847 | $612,831 |

| Sept. Expense | YTD Expense | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|
| $56,947 | $203,140 | $612,831 |

**We Celebrate The Birth Of:**

Layla James Dittman

**Our Sympathy Goes To:**

The Family of David Star

## Thank You Peace Gardeners

A HUGE thank you to all our Peace gardeners! Our inaugural year was beyond successful, thanks to this team effort.

**We made about a dozen trips to the food pantries and delivered:**

- 6 vidalia onions
- 9 small baggies of green beans
- Several bags of cilantro
- 20 cucumbers
- 53 green peppers
- 62 green onions
- 85 snap peas
- 196 banana peppers
- About 200 Roma tomatoes
- And well over 1,000 grape tomatoes (we stopped counting after 1,000)

This does not include what many of you donated from your own gardens! Can't wait till next year

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR QUILTERS

As you know the quilters are very ambitious and are constantly donating quilts to different organizations.

We are in need of:

- clean sheets
- clean blankets (no comforters)
- mattress pads (no waterproof lining)

Please think of our group when you are replacing your bed linens.

We are very grateful for all your donations.

# Thank You

***We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen!***

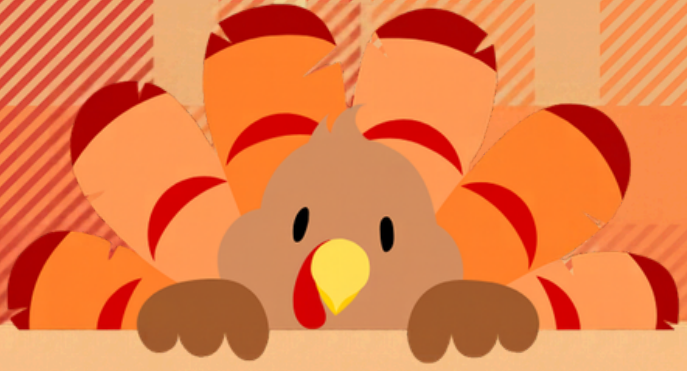
-Peace bakers and all who donated to the National Youth Gathering Bake Sale

-All who provided a trunk or table for our Trunk or Treats, and those who donated candy

-Karl Becker for hosting Bourbon, Beer, and Bibles

-All who donated peanut butter and jelly

-Grace Miller for leading us through our Emergency Preparedness Training



*You're Invited!*

# 30TH ANNUAL FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER!

**NOVEMBER 26, 2026 • 12 PM**

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1900 E. LINCOLN HIGHWAY NEW LENOX, IL

OPTIONAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP • 11:30 AM

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 12**

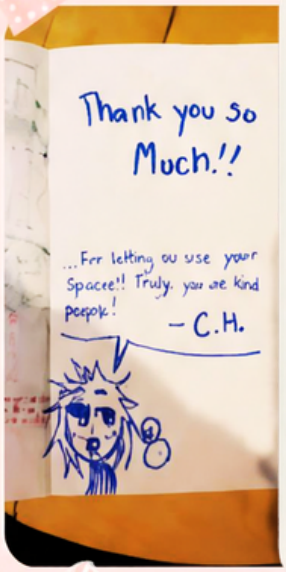
**TO MAKE A RESERVATION SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE**

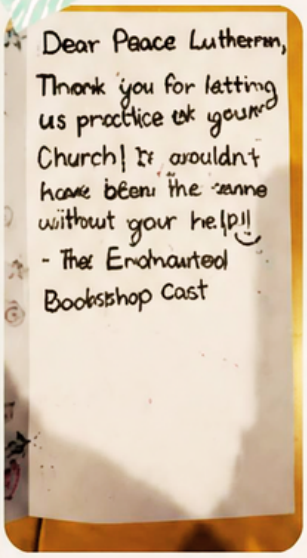
PLEASE LET US KNOW THE NUMBER OF ADULTS AND KIDS THAT WILL BE ATTENDING.

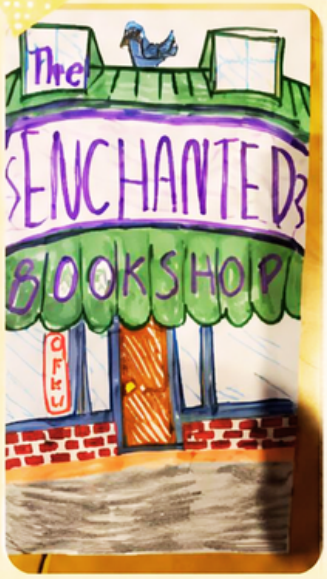
*All Are Welcome!*

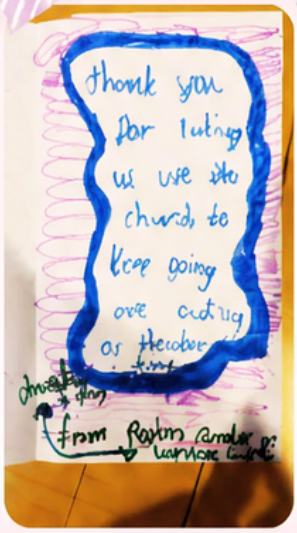
# Thank You!

The kids from Curtain Call Theatre say thank you for letting them use the church for rehearsals!



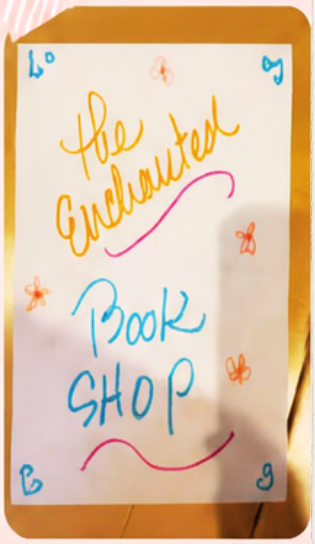





















# A Letter From Your Deacon



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

This year we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. It is hard to believe that Peace ever existed without this wonderful tradition and ministry. As we begin to receive registrations for this year's meal we are hearing repeatedly how much this meal means to those who attend. The meal has become more than just an outreach ministry, it has become a tradition for some, a place to see friends again and gather around a delicious meal where you can talk and give thanks, knowing everything is good, everything is taken care of.

As we will celebrate 30 years of this meaningful meal, we will be adding a couple of special and new pieces. We will join and celebrate and give thanks for George Rumbagh, who with his family and other volunteers led this meal for many years. Without George's leadership this meal would not be what it is today. Like all years, Santa will be giving gifts to all the children in attendance as well as a gift card to the adults. In honor of these 30 years the gift cards will be in $30 amounts. We will also be including fun Thanksgiving conversation starter cards on each table and a place for guests to put their information on the back of the cards. We will use the cards to have a raffle at the end of the meal for 3 gift baskets. We are also looking for members of our congregation who are volunteering to be willing to be welcome ambassadors. Welcome ambassadors will sit and eat with those attending the meal and simply offer welcome. It is our hope that this will give us a chance to build relationships between members of our congregation and those who attend this meal.

I would like to offer a deep thanks to all of you that have been faithful volunteers and stewards of God's grace and welcome for each of these past 30 meals. It truly does not happen without the entire Peace family, and you all are the ministers that make this ministry possible. We hope to see you on November 26th, while we serve together, eat together, and give thanks for all of God's gifts together.

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari Simon

# Worship

**Contemporary Worship**
Join us November 14th at 5pm for a more contemporary worship style. Looking forward to worshiping with you!

**Kids Sing Special Music – Sun., Nov. 15 at 11am**
Our Sunday School kids will be sharing their voices and singing at the 11:00am worship service! Come support our kids and enjoy their special music as part of our worship together.

**All Saints Worship – Sat., Oct. 31 & Sun., Nov. 1**
As a part of all worship services Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day. The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the faithful departed), and the living. We remember those blessed fellow-believers who died in the Lord and are now at rest by lighting candles, which symbolize the Light of Christ. If you are able to join us for in person worship, you are invited to light a candle to remember your loved ones. You are welcome to take the candle home after the worship service if you would like.



# Offerings & Opportunities

**All Committee Meeting – Tues., Dec. 15**
Want to be involved in the ministries happening at Peace? You are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 6:00pm. (We will not be meeting in November.)

**Blood Pressure Screening**
**November 15, 9:45am - 10:45am**
Once a quarter a free blood pressure check is available to all. No need to register, just drop in. A trained nurse will be there to administer the test.

**Electronic Giving**
If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. You can also give online at any time through our website www.peacenewlenox.org, click on the Give tab.

**2026 Flower Sign-Up**
The flower chart for 2026 is filling up. If you would like to sign up for flowers, take a look. Grab a slip and envelope off of the bulletin board if you sign up or if you have not yet paid for your flowers or given the office the dedication information.

**Special Music**
Have you ever been moved by the special music here at Peace? Whether you've felt encouraged, seen, or comforted, music has a way of reaching us and speaking to our spirits. A lot of people work hard to make our music meaningful, so we are happy to announce that Jonathan DeMik will be helping to bring this special music to our worship services. He has volunteered to coordinate musicians, schedule, and even arrange music for instrumental solos or ensembles. If you are interested in offering or learning more about special music, please reach out to Jonathan at peacelutheran.nl.specialmusic@gmail.com. Thank you to all our musicians for all their work!

**Do you love to sing? Would you like to make a joyful noise with others? Peace Choir wants you!!**
No auditions. No experience. Just love to sing. Just check us out!!! Contact church office for choir contact information."

**The Ladies Ensemble welcomes all women to join us for singing and fellowship!**
No auditions or experience required. Practice only once per month. Come make a joyful noise!!! We started up again on Saturday, September 12 at 3pm. Call the office for contact information.

**Poinsettia Orders - Due by Sun., Dec. 6**
This year we will be able to once again buy our poinsettias from Trinity Services. A percentage of the money they receive goes for their clients with special needs. The deadline for placing your order will be December 6. Sign-up forms are available in the Narthex.

**The Chosen Season 6**
We will begin on November 17th meeting at 10am every Tuesday to watch an episode of Season 6 of the chosen. We will also have an opportunity to discuss the episode of the week at 7pm on Thursdays, beginning with November 19th, on zoom. If you would like to watch and discuss this interesting series with us please plan to come either in person on Tuesday mornings or on zoom Thursday evenings. We will begin with episode 2 of season 6. The first 3 episodes are released on prime video on November 15th if you would like to watch the first episode again.



Thank you to all who donated Peanut Butter & Jelly for the New Lenox Food Pantry

## Fellowship

**Show Up & Support Group - Sun., Nov. 1**
When we need a little extra support, we as a church show up for one another. We nay be grieving the loss of a loved one, the loss of a dream or relationship, or struggling with discord in our family. We may feel lonely, or that parenting is kicking our butts.
Once a month on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am we are going to come together, share what's on our hearts and minds, and support each other as a faith community Our time together will be facilitated by Carol Vollrath, a retired Marriage and Family Therapist with many years of experience and expertise in counseling and leading groups. (This is not meant to take the place of individual therapy.)

**Out-to-Eat Group - Sunday, Nov. 8th at 12:15pm**
Join us for dinner at the newly remodeled and enlarged Maple House Cafe at 11400 W. Lincoln Highway, Mokena. Please be sure to register each person who will attend by Nov 4th. Everyone is welcome to attend our Out-to-Eat events! Separate checks are always issued!
Thank you!

**NYG Chili Dinner & Game Night Fundraiser Sat., Nov 14 at 6:15pm**
The group going to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis will be hosting a chilli dinner and game night. Tickets for all you can eat chilli,cornbread, and dessert are $10 for adults and $8 for kids 10 and under. We will have a variety of board games appropriate for all ages. Come have a great time while supporting our youth. Any questions please ask Deacon Shari.

**Grief Share - November 16, 23, 30, Dec 7**
We will be having a four-session version of GriefShare for those who have lost loved ones. We invite anyone who would like to participate regardless of when the loss took place.

**Trivia Night-Sat, Dec 5 at 6:15pm**
Come and join the fun on Sat., Dec. 5th at 6:15pm for the Peace trivia contest. We intend to have multiple teams of no more than 8 players each. Each of you is an expert at something, right?! We encourage you to assemble a team of your own. (Signing up individually? No problem! We will place everyone who wants to play on a team.) Although walk-ins are welcome, please help us by signing up in advance. Please use the sign up sheet and put it in the offering plate or sign up online.



## Looking Ahead

**Advent Service & Soup Supper- Dec 2, 9 & 16**
**Sunday School Christmas Program-Dec 6**
**Gingerbread with the Grinch-Dec 6**
**Peace 360 Bonfire and Christmas Movie-Dec 12**
**Shortest Day/Longest Night-Dec 19**
**Jr. Youth Holiday Express-Dec 20**
**Christmas Eve Service- 4pm, 7pm & 10pm**
**Christmas Day Service- 10am**
**No Service-Saturday, Dec 26**
**Lessons and Carols Worship, Dec. 27, 10am**



## Groups

**Coffee & Conversation – Mondays**
Every Monday morning from 10-11am, Deacon Shari will be holding office hours at Gost Coffee on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Please come grab a cup of joe and share in conversation.

**Peace Page Turners-Sun., Nov 22 at 9:45am**
The last meeting for 2026 will be November 22 and we will discuss Fire Exit by Morgan Talty (leader Corinne Hutton).

**Tuesdays at Peace-Tues., Dec 1 at 10:00am**
We are set to meet Dec. 1 to discuss "The City of Tears" by Kate Mosse

**Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.**
Join us for a low impact program for seniors. Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm.

**Golf Group – Thursdays at 8:00am**
The golf group will play when the temperature hits 50 degrees in the morning. We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Questions, contact the church office.

**Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Nov. 2, 16 & 30 at 9am**
Please join us, all are welcome! Meets every other Monday.

**Trailblazers – Tues., Nov 17 at 12pm**
Group 65+ meets the third Tuesday of the month. Cost $5, lunch will be provided.

**Mahjong Masters – Thursdays at 12pm**
Don't worry, being a master is ABSOLUTELY not required! A group of Mahjong Minded Members have started gathering at Peace on Thursdays at 12pm. We would love to have you join us!

**Men's Breakfast – Sat., Nov 28 at 9am**
Men ages 16 and older are invited to this fellowship opportunity that meets at Peace on the fourth Saturday of the month. Cost is a free will offering – breakfast cost is approximately $15 each.

**Out-to-Eat Group - Sunday, Nov 8th at 12:15pm**
Join us for dinner at the newly remodeled and enlarged Maple House Cafe at 11400 W. Lincoln Highway, Mokena. Please be sure to register each person who will attend by November 4th. Everyone is welcome to attend our Out-to-Eat events! Separate checks are always issued! Thank you!

## Faith Development & Education

**Free books!**
Yes, you read that right! We are now giving away our "Questions Kids Ask About God" books. They are available in English and Spanish, hardcover, softcover and coloring books. If you know of anyone who would enjoy learning about God in a fun, creative way, help yourself to these books. They will be available on the counter in the narthex. They make great gifts.

**Register for 2026/2027 Sunday School**
We look forward to a great year with our theme "Caught in God's Love"! We rely on the registration forms to give us updates and to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School. Please fill out a registration form online, or call the church office.

**Wednesday Bible Study**
Wednesday mornings at 10am. We just started back in Genesis so this is a great time to join us! You do not need to know anything about the Bible. Just come with an open heart and mind and with a curiosity to listen and learn from one another and the Spirit.

# Youth

**Peace Youth Groups**

Do you want to hang out with other awesome Peace youth? Do you like to eat good food, play games, and talk about Jesus? Awesome!!!! Peace Youth Groups are for you! Peace Youth is for 7th - 12th graders and Jr. Youth Group is for 3rd - 6th graders. Both groups will continue meeting regularly again in the fall so stay tuned!

**First Communion Class**

We will be having a First Communion Class on November 21, from 2:30pm-3:30pm. Please sign up for the class here.

**Jr Youth Friendsgiving & Fall craft Sun., Nov 15 at 12:15pm**

Youth grades 3rd through 6th grade are invited to come and enjoy our first ever Friendsgiving from 12:15pm till 1:45pm. Deacon Shari will provide chicken nuggets, apple cider, and cookies. Youth are invited to bring their favorite thanksgiving side to share. We will eat lunch and make a fun fall craft.

**Peace 360 Wolves Game at AllState Arena Sun., Nov 15 at 2pm**

Youth grades 7th through 12th are invited to meet at the church at 2pm and we will go watch the Chicago Wolves (Hockey) take on the Manitoba Moose. Tickets will be covered but please bring any money you might want for a snack or drink. We will return to church by 7pm. Please sign up for this event by November 1st.

**Gingerbreads with the Grinch - Sun., Dec. 6**

Please join us at noon after the Children's Christmas Program for gingerbread house decorating. Each family will receive one gingerbread house to decorate together. There is talk of a special guest that may be attending!

Pizza lunch will be provided! If you have any dietary restrictions, please bring your own lunch. Please let us know if you and your family can attend, the cost of this event will be $25 per family.

**Sign up by Nov. 15.**



## Upcoming Youth Events

- Sun Nov, 15-Jr. Youth Friendsgiving & Fall Craft
- Sun, Nov 15- Peace 360 Wolves Game
- Sat, Nov 21- First Communion Class
- Sun, Dec 6-Gingerbreads with the Grinch 12pm

**Youth Retreat LOMC**

Deacon Shari will be taking youth Saturday morning November 21st to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon IL to their fall youth retreat. We will worship, play games, hike and do Bible study all while getting to know other youth from Illinois. We will be staying in cabins that have bathrooms, and central heat. We will meet at Peace at 7:45am on Nov. 21st and return to Peace by 11am on Nov. 22. Cost is $80 per youth and includes housing Saturday night and 3 meals. Please fill free to invite friends, 7th through 12th grade. **Anyone participating must register by November 7th!**



# Helping Others





**One Warm Coat Collection Nov. 1-Dec. 31**
One Warm Coat is a collection of clean, reusable coats and other winter wear that are then distributed to MorningStar Mission for local individuals in need. 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 in the bin in the narthex. Scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and boots are also accepted. Thank you for your continued support!

**Help Others Fund**
Alongside our regular giving that helps all kinds of people in need, we also have a special "help others" fund within our general fund. It is targeted to help people who need food or gas. We continue to be diligent in making sure the money actually goes to people in need.

**New Lenox Food Pantry**
We are now accepting donations for the New Lenox Township food pantry. They need shelf stable products, instant potatoes, rice products, crunchy peanut butter, cereal and personal hygiene items. Donations can be placed in the basket in the hallway by Fellowship Hall.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for individual volunteer opportunities, to earn community service hours, find ways to give back or lend a hand? The Service/Outreach Committee is creating a list of ideas for individual service projects. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex and the newsletter for details. For starters, here are a few suggestions. If you know of other opportunities, please share.

**ShareFest, 21715 Moni Drive, New Lenox, needs volunteers to help out in its food pantry and warehouse during the day, Tuesday-Saturday. Sign up at https://www.sharefestwillcounty.org/

**Sunny Hill Nursing Home, 421 Doris Avenue, Joliet, you can scoop ice cream in the Sweet Shop, help with Bingo, and more. All volunteers must complete a form for a background check. Contact Kristen at 815-727-8710.

# Community Resources

Will-Grundy Medical Clinic
free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
call/text 988 or online chat at
www.988lifeline.org

Joliet Area Hospice Support Groups
www.joliethospice.org or 815-740-4104

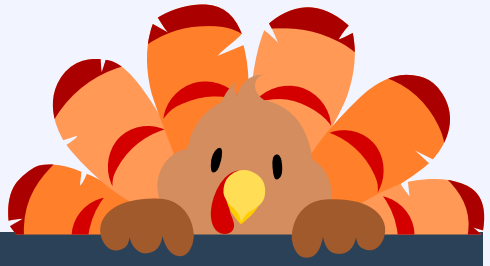
Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available
please contact the church office

Guardian Angel Community Services
Sexual assault & rape crisis services
24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984

LSSI's Joshua Arms
independent & supportive living units for seniors
www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms or 815-727-6401

NAMI - National Alliance for Mental Illness
info@namiwillgrundy.org or
www.namiwillgrundy.org

Recycling and Green Initiatives-
willcountygreen.com



## General Information

**Worship Details**
Saturday worship 5pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11am.
8:30am service is live streamed.

**Email Contacts**
Pastor Amy – amichelson@peacenewlenox.org
Deacon Shari – strotter@peacenewlenox.org
Church office: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

**Hearing Assistance Available**
We are happy to offer wireless receivers to assist anyone with a hearing impairment. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one.

1900 E. Lincoln Hwy, P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451
**Phone:** (815) 485-5327
**e-mail:** peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org
**website:** www.peacenewlenox.org