

**Peace Lutheran Church**

1900 E. Lincoln Hwy. P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451

815-485-5327; [www.peacenewlenox.org](http://www.peacenewlenox.org)

Office – [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)

Pastor Amy – [amichelson@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:amichelson@peacenewlenox.org)

Deacon Shari – [strotter@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:strotter@peacenewlenox.org)

Amy Michelson, Pastor

Shari Simon, Deacon

Matt Piet, accompanist

**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.*

Please check our Peace website [www.peacenewlenox.org](http://www.peacenewlenox.org) regularly for updates.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/peacenewlenox> and Follow us on Instagram using this link. <https://www.instagram.com/peacenewlenox?igsh=dmFwZ3lmYmx3ZWE3>

Check out the [December Newsletter](#),

Sunday School 2025-26 <http://www.peacenewlenox.org/ministries/youth-ministry/sunday-school/> .

We live stream our service on Sundays at 8:30am.

**This Week and Beyond**

**Sat., Dec 6** – Ladies Ensemble Practice 3pm

Worship Service 5pm

Adult Fellowship Trivia 6:15pm

**Sun., Dec 7** - Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Adult Class & Sunday School 9:45am (*adult class & service project led by Karin Knutson*)

Sunday School Christmas Program 11am

Youth Christmas Party and Bible study 12pm

Gingerbreads with the Grinch 12pm

**Mon., Dec 8** – Coffee and Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am

Senior Exercise Group 12pm

GriefShare 7pm

**Tues., Dec 9** – Peace Book Club 10am

Bell Choir 7:30pm

**Wed., Dec 10** – Bible Study 10am

Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Advent Worship Service-Soup Supper 6pm

Peace Church Choir 7pm

Confirmation Class 7pm

**Thurs., Dec 11** – Mahjong 1pm

Women's Fellowship Group 7pm

**Sat., Dec 13** – Worship Service 5pm

**Sun., Dec 14** - Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Choir Lunch 9:30am

Adult Class & Sunday School 9:45am

Parents Day Out 12pm

Ugly Sweater & Cookie Exchange 12pm

Arboretum Christmas Light 4:30pm

**Mon., Dec 15** – Ruth Circle Quilting 9am

Coffee and Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am

Senior Exercise Group 12pm

**Tues., Dec 16** – Trailblazers 12pm

Miniature Group 12:30pm

Church Council 7pm

Bell Choir 7:30pm

**Wed., Dec 17** – Bible Study 10am

Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Advent Worship Service-Soup Supper 6pm  
Peace Church Choir 7pm  
**Thurs., Dec 18** – Mahjong Masters  
**Sat., Dec 20** – Worship Service 5pm (*Shortest Day Longest Night Service*)  
**Sun., Dec 21** - Worship Services 8:30am & 11am  
**Mon., Dec 22** – Coffee and Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am  
    Senior Exercise Group 12pm  
**Tues., Dec 23** – Bell Choir 7:30pm  
**Wed., Dec 24** – Church Office Closed  
    Worship Service 4:00pm, 7:00pm & 10pm  
**Thurs., Dec 25** – Church Office Closed  
    Worship Service 10:00am  
**Fri., Dec 26** – Church Office Closed  
**Sat., Dec 27** – Men’s Breakfast 10:00am  
    Worship Service 5pm (*Lessons & Carols*)  
**Sun., Dec 28** - Worship Services 8:30am & 11am (*Lessons & Carols*)  
**Mon., Dec 29** – Ruth Circle Quilting 9am  
    Coffee and Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am  
    Senior Exercise Group 12pm  
**Tues., Dec 30** – Bell Choir 7:30pm  
**Wed., Dec 31** – Church Office Closed  
    Bible Study 10:00am  
    Senior Exercise Group 12pm  
**Thurs., Jan 1** – Church Office Closed

#### **Altar Flowers**

The altar flowers are given by Georgia Piech-Pander to celebrate Jim’s birthday, and by the Salutric family in memory of our parents and our brother.

#### **Thank You**

Thank you to all the people who are watching our weekly worship and, for all your support financially, in prayer, with words of encouragement, acts of service and more! Your online gifts last week of \$1,869 and offerings of \$3,957 help us to keep doing ministry locally, nationally, and around the world!

#### **Prayer List**

The Family of Nancy Benison, Greg, Kevin, Elle, Irwin family, Stacy Ghizoni, Alyssa, Mary Cox, Jim Elkow, Vivian Farbak, Dora & Dean Tuntland, Bernice Novello, Larry Collier

#### **In Celebration**

Celebration of Carly Salutric’s 25th birthday  
Thankful for all Thanksgiving donations & volunteers

#### **2026 Flower Sign-Up Now Open!**

You’re invited to sign up to provide flowers for the front of the church in 2026. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give thanks. Choose your week and help make our worship space beautiful all year long! Sign-up sheets are available next to the fellowship hall.

**If you would like more information about any of the events, announcements or groups in the bulletin, please contact the church office and we will answer any questions or put you in touch with the coordinator of the group.**

#### **Save the Date**

Dec. 10th, 17th - Weekly Advent Service & Soup Supper  
Dec 6th-Trivia Night (6:15pm)  
Dec 7th-Sunday School Christmas Program & Gingerbread with the Grinch  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup>- Arboretum Christmas Lights  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup>-Parents Day Out  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup>-Ugly Sweater & Cookie Exchange

## Christmas Service Schedule

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup>- 5:00pm-Shortest Day Longest Night Service**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>- 4:00pm-Christmas Eve Service**

We invite children to bring bells to ring; there will be multiple children's sermons

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>- 7:00pm, 10:00pm-Christmas Eve Service (note the time change from last year)**  
candlelight and communion

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>- 10:00am-Christmas Day Service**

## **Thank you to our volunteers!**

<b>Volunteer Role</b>	<b>December 6 – 5:00</b>	<b>December 7– 8:30</b>	<b>December 7 – 11:00</b>
USHERS	Jim & Vicki Hunziker	Chuck Wolske Erick Wesel	Paul Muehlnickel Shannon Muehlnickel
GREETERS	Jodi Vanderkin Raquel Vanderkin	Michelle Wurtz	Need, Need
COMM. SERVERS	Steven Brill	Diane Cochran Karl Becker	Kelly Muehlnickel Mark Muehlnickel
ACOLYTE	Need	need	N/A- Sun School program
LAY LITURGIST	Need	Janelle Tague	N/A – Sun School program
LESSON READER	Need	Olivia Koenig	N/A – Sun School program
REFRESHMENTS	N/A	Morgan Barlow Need	Pam Vanick Bonnie Brazzale
OFFERING COUNTERS	N/A	N/A	Mark Anderson Lisa Star

## Announcements

### **Morningstar Mission Volunteers Needed on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

Have you ever wanted to serve in a meaningful way and were not sure where to start? Have we got the opportunity for you! Morning Star Mission is a local shelter that provides dinner to its residents as well as its unhoused neighbors. Peace has been helping with this outreach for many years and would love to include you! We need some volunteers for December 28th, from about 4:15 to 6:00 pm. No expertise is needed, just a willing heart and the time to spare. Please let us know if this is something you are feeling called to be apart of!

### **Women's Fellowship and Discussion Group – Next meeting is Dec. 11th**

Women of all ages - join us on the second Thursday of the month (Sept-May) at 7pm at church for fellowship and conversation. Each time we'll discuss a different topic based on a book, podcast, video, Bible study, etc. Sign up online with this link [Register Online](#) or with the insert in the bulletin, email or by calling the church office.

### **Advent Midweek Service and Soup – Wednesday., Dec. 10 & 17**

Please join us for Advent midweek services on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Service will be at 6pm with soup supper to follow at 6:30pm. We will be using a service called Holden Evening Prayer and a member of Peace will speak on one of three Advent themes, Peace, love, and Joy. We hope you can come and worship, eat, and fellowship with us. Please sign up in the office if you would like to bring soup for one of the weeks.

### **Adult Fellowship Trivia - Sat., Dec. 6 at 6:15**

Come and join the fun on Sat., Dec. 6 at 6:15pm for the Peace trivia contest. We intend to have multiple teams of no more than six 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.

### **Adult Sunday School, Led by Karin Knutson- Sunday, Dec. 7**

Please join us on December 7th during the education hour as Karin Knutson shares a reflection on the life of theologian Gustavo Gutierrez and what it means to care for our neighbors. Following the reflection, we will be assembling blessing bags to share with those in need in our community.

### **Sunday School Christmas Program - Sun., Dec. 7**

Mark your calendars for our Sunday School Christmas Program! This year we will have one program for P3-12th grade on Sun., Dec. 7 at the 11am service! We would love to know if your youth can participate this year. We will also need help from our older youth, so if they need service hours for Confirmation or for school this will be a great way to get those hours.

### **Parents Day Out – Sun., Dec. 14 Please sign up by Dec. 7**

Deacon Shari and our 7-12 grade youth group are setting aside some time to babysit! Sun., December 14, from 12-4 p.m., here at church. We are inviting successfully potty-trained 3-year-olds and older youth to this event. Maybe you would like time to go out shopping, make other preparations for Christmas, or just take some time for yourself. Please let us know if you would like to use our services by using the sign-up sheet on the counter in the narthex or contacting the church office. This is a fundraising event for our youth group, a goodwill donation is much appreciated!

### **All Church Ugly Sweater Contest and Cookie Exchange – Sun. Dec. 14**

Join us on Sunday at 12:15 for our annual Ugly Sweater and Cookie Exchange. Bring your most outrageous outfit and six dozen (and a few to share) cookies and enjoy refreshments and fun. Use the sign up or call the office.

### **Christmas Giving Tree**

Please check out the tree in the Narthex filled with Christmas gift giving tags for people who could use our help. There are three different organizations that we are supporting this year - the people of Santa Cruz & their neighbors, LSSI Joshua Arms residents and ELCA Good Gifts. Look for the tags towards the middle of November. Unwrapped gifts for Santa Cruz need to be brought to the church by Dec. 7. The other two are donations that are needed by Dec. 25th. Thank you for the care you show our neighbors this Christmas season!

### **Special Holiday Envelopes**

If you give electronically and do not receive offering envelopes, we will have the special holiday envelopes available on the counter in the narthex if you would like one.

### **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](http://www.peacenewlenox.org), click on the donate tab or visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSJZ/home>.

### **Need Help with Medicare Part D?**

Hi, I'm Dave Johnson, a fellow member of Peace Church. Open Enrollment can feel overwhelming—but you don't have to go through it alone! For over 10 years, I volunteered at Riverside Medical, helping people review and update their Medicare Part D plans. Have questions? Need a second look at your or a loved one's plan? I'd love to help!

Call me at (773) 965-0677. Open Enrollment: October 15 – December 7

### **GriefShare Surviving the Holidays Series –Remaining Date Dec 8th**

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. The dates will be Mon., Nov. 3, 10 & 17 and Dec. 8 from 7:00-8:00pm.

## Rehearsals

### **Do You Love to Sing?**

Come join in the fun of making a joyful noise! Peace Choir and the Ladies Ensemble are looking for new singers. No experience or auditions are required. Have questions? Contact the office, and they will have us reach out to you.

### **Handbells**

Join us Tuesday's at 7:30pm.

## Groups

### **Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Dec. 15 at 9am**

Please join us, all are welcome! Meets every other Monday.

### **Men's Breakfast – Sat., Dec 27 at 10am**

Men ages 16 and older are invited to this fellowship opportunity that meets at Peace on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10am. Cost is a free will offering – breakfast cost is approximately \$15 each. Please use the sign-up link here

[Register Online](#) or sign up in the bulletin if you will be joining us.

### **Coffee & Conversation at Gost Coffee – Mondays from 10-11am**

Join us for fun fellowship & coffee!

### **Senior Exercise Group – Mondays & Wednesdays**

Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm.

### **Addiction & Family Support Group – Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm**

Everyone is welcome.

### **Mahjong Masters – Thursdays at 1pm**

Don't worry, being a master is ABSOLUTELY not required! A group of Mahjong Minded Members have started gathering at Peace on Thursdays at 1:00pm. We would love to have you join us. We welcome those who know how to play and those who would like to learn! If you have any questions, you can reach out to Deacon Shari.

### **Tuesdays at Peace book Club-Tues., Dec. 9 at 10am**

Join us on Tuesday, December 9 at 10am for the Tuesdays at Peace Book Club as we discuss "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy".

### **Peace Page Turners-Sun., Jan. 11 at 9:45am**

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be January 11, 2026. (We don't meet in December). We will discuss "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston.

## **Faith Development & Education**

### **Adult Sunday Education**

The Sunday Adult Education Class meets every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome!

### **Wednesday Bible Study at 10am**

Everyone is welcome! You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

### **Everybody Read**

December's passage is Psalm 136:1

### **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.

## **Youth**

### **Peace Youth Group**

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 Group is for you! Our 7th - 12th grade youth group meets most Sundays to enjoy fellowship, faith and fun. Please get connected to our Youth Group Google calendar or request a paper copy by reaching out to Deacon Shari. Join the fun! Sign up for youth events by [Clicking Here!](#)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Christmas Party and Bible Study-Sun., Dec 7 at 12:00pm**

**Parents Day Out- Sun., Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm**

**Arboretum Christmas Lights- Sun., Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30**

### **Laser Tag Sun., Jan. 11 at 12:00pm-4:00pm**

The Youth Group will be going to play laser Tag on January 11th. We will meet at the church at noon and carpool together to Chasers Laser Tag in Naperville. The cost is \$29 per person and includes 2 hours of unlimited laser Tag and a \$5 game play card. We will arrive back at church at 4pm. Lets have a great time together!

## **Helping Others**

### **Martin Luther King Day of Service- Sat., Jan. 17. 9:30am-11:30am**

The Service/Outreach Committee is planning a Martin Luther King Day of Service again this year. This year's project will be a "Food Sort and Pack" event at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, 171 S. Larkin, Joliet, on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. We will inspect, sort and package food that will be distributed to hungry neighbors. Volunteers must be at least 8 years old. Please use the sign-up slip and include each individual's email address. The food bank requires emails to communicate any changes or cancellations, and to track volunteer hours. Volunteers should dress comfortably and wear fully enclosed shoes (no Crocs, slippers, slides, sandals). **Deadline for signing up is Jan. 3.**

### **ELCA Good Gifts**

Through the ELCA's Good Gifts, you can find all kinds of alternative Christmas giving ideas. In short, someone who needs something, such as livestock, receives the actual animal, and your loved one knows that his or her gift is helping someone in need. Go to <https://goodgifts.elca.org/page/72439/shop/1> to see all the items offered.

### **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 and Santa Cruz church 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!

### **Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Special Appeal – Cereal & Canned Goods**

In lieu of the usual items on the needs list for Santa Cruz food pantry, they are making a special appeal for cereal and any kind of canned goods. Please look for the baskets by Fellowship Hall if you would like to donate items.

### **Prayer Shawls Needed**

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. You may create shawls at home and drop them at church, and we will get them to the people who need them.

### **Prayer Shawls Available**

A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation for yourself or someone in need. Please put in your requests in the Prayer Shawl box in the narthex or email the church office.

### **Serving Dinner at MorningStar Mission**

Would you like to help serve meals at MorningStar Mission in 2026? Peace has been helping with this outreach for many years and would love to include you! The church serves meals on the 4th Sunday of each month from about 4:15 to 6:00 pm. Four volunteers are needed each month to serve. Please let the office know if you'd like to be a part of this project.

### **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.

**Please check our website [www.peacenewlenox.org](http://www.peacenewlenox.org) regularly for updates.**