

January 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:

- Elle
- Kevin
- Rachel & Bill
- Stephanie
- Cathy Tague
- Brenda Rice
- Nicole
- Kendric
- Tom Foster
- Mike Endsley

**The congregation of
Peace wishes to extend
its sympathy to:**

The Family of John Niemann

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people
read a common Bible
passage is part of our
Book of Faith effort.
January's passage is:
John 1:14

A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

Merry Christmas!! 'Tis the season for considering how God is present in our lives, in the flesh and in other less tangible, but still meaningful, noticeable ways. God's presence might look different to each of us. It did for Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – the gospel writers. Read through each of their accounts of Jesus' incarnation (coming in the flesh) and see how they noticed different things. We too will notice God's presence in different ways. How and where do you notice God's presence?

Epiphany (January 6th) is the official end to the Christmas season in the church. Epiphany means manifestation, a revealing, but while the Christmas season ends on Epiphany, the season to notice God's presence does not end. It is always a good time to consider and discover where, how, and through whom the presence of Love is at work. That is an intention worthy of setting in the new year, noticing Love in our lives – all the ways we receive it, bear witness to it, and are the ones to share it.

Blessings to you this Christmas season, and every season afterward, in which God's presence is still made manifest.

-Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of November 30, 2025

Nov. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$44,065	\$285,999	\$602,158

Nov. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$49,143	\$292,147	\$602,158

Welcome To The Lords Family

- Miles John Issert was baptized on Nov 30

Christmas Worship Schedule

Wed., Dec. 24 - 4pm

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

Wed., Dec. 24 - 7pm & 10pm
candlelight and communion

Thurs., Dec. 25 - 10am
Christmas Day worship



Thank You

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

-All the Sunday School kids, teachers, and leaders who participate in the Christmas program

-All who gave to our community via the giving tree and warm coat collection and to our Service and Outreach Committee for coordinating the collections

-Our Christmas tree setter-uppers and decorators

-Our office staff for all of their extra work around the holidays

A Letter From Your Deacon

By Deacon Shari



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

During the month of January our confirmation students will be looking at the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is our common statement of faith. We recite it together at most worship services, but do we know where it comes from and what it means? The history of the Apostle's Creed is somewhat unknown. It is derived from the scriptures but loosely evolved from early baptismal confessions in Rome, around the second century. It is now recognized as an ecumenical creed among Catholics and Protestants. The Apostles' Creed is one of three ecumenical creeds that we use. The Athanasian Creed and the Nicene Creed are the other two. These three creeds hold in common that God is fully present in Jesus, that Jesus Christ is both God and human. These three creeds are considered ecumenical because they are all accepted and used by the overwhelming majority of the world's Christians. The Apostles' Creed is split into three sections, one for each representation of the Trinity.

The first, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth", proclaims that we believe that God created the world (we answer the who question, not the how question) and that God our parent has dominion not only over heaven but over the earth as well.

The second section is all about Jesus. "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead." We proclaim together that Jesus was fully human and fully God, came to earth and lived among us, died for our sins, and was resurrected. We also proclaim that not only has Jesus come but will also come again. This is the largest section of the creed because the belief in Jesus as both God and human is the core of our Christian beliefs.

The third and final section includes the third representation of the trinity but also the universal church and the core values of our faith. We proclaim, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen". The Holy Spirit is the representation of God moving with in and around the Church, so it is in the same section where we remember that we believe in a unified Christian Church. When we say the holy catholic church, we are not talking about the Roman Catholic Church but instead are using the word catholic to mean universal, or whole. We proclaim that God is with the saints of all time and place and that in communion we are united across boundaries of time and location. We proclaim that Christ death and resurrection have promised the forgiveness of sins to all of God's people and that all of God's people having been joined through baptism in a death like his will join with Christ in resurrection. This last section proclaims that God has conquered death and life everlasting has won. Thanks be to God for that!

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari

Worship

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.

Offerings & Opportunities

2026 Flower Sign-Up Now Open!

The flower chart for 2026 is filling up. If you would like to sign up for flowers, take a look. We have a new way to track flower information, so please 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.

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.peacenewelenox.org, click on the donate tab.

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.



Looking Ahead

Jan 17-PJ's Popcorn & Movies

Jan 17-MLK Day of Service

Jan 25- Youth MorningStar Service Project

Jan 31-Property Paint Day

Jan 31- First Communion Class

Feb 1- Annual Congregational Meeting

Feb 1- Youth South Loop Service Project

Feb 7 & 8-Souper Bowl of Caring

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10am. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Sunday Adult Education Class

We meet every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome!

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.

1st Communion Class - Sat., Jan 31 at 2pm

Join us to learn about the amazing gifts God gives to us in communion! Traditionally at Peace, 5th grade has been the age for First Communion, but all are welcome at Christ's table, so if you have a kid who desires to take communion and you as a family want to learn more, feel free to reach out to Pastor Amy. This particular class is open to all school-aged kids. Please sign up online with this link <http://www.peacenewlenox.org/news-resources/events/sign-up/> or use the sign up slip or email the church office.



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.

Women's Fellowship and Discussion Group

Women of all ages - join us on the second Thursday of the month (Sept-May) at 7pm for fellowship and conversation. Each time we'll discuss a different topic based on a book, podcast, video, Bible study, etc. Sign up with the insert in the bulletin, email or by calling the church office. Next meeting is Jan. 8th.

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.

Men's Breakfast – Sat., Dec 27 at 10:00am

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 will be a free will offering – breakfast cost is approximately \$15 each.

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club-Tues., Jan. 6 at 10:00am

We will meet on Jan 6 to discuss "A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhurst

Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Jan 12 & 26 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., Jan 20 at 12pm

Group 65+ meets the third Tuesday of the month. Cost \$5, lunch will be provided.

Out To Eat Group – Sat., Jan 10 at 6:15pm

Join us January 10th at Gattos. Reservations needed by January 4th.

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.

PJ's Popcorn & Movies – Sat., Jan. 17 at 6:15pm

Are you looking for something to do in January? Come join us for PJ'S, popcorn and a movie on Saturday, January 17th at 6:15. Our family-friendly movie will be Lilo & Stitch Live action version. Wear your cutest/funniest pj's and bring blankets or sleeping bags to snuggle. Popcorn and drinks will be provided but feel free to bring extra snacks. Please use the sign-up in the bulletin or call the office.

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!

2025 WINTER PEACE TRIVIA CHAMPIONS! THE TIME KEEPERS



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 from 12pm-2pm to enjoy fellowship, faith and fun. Please check out the bulletin for upcoming events and get connected to our Youth Group Google calendar.

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!

7-12 Gr. Service Project Opportunity – Sun., Jan. 25

We will meet at church at 3:30pm and go to MorningStar Mission. We will pass out all the things we have been collecting for our unhoused neighbors and serve dinner. Please let us know if your youth can attend, so we know how many drivers we will need. Adults, please let us know if you would like to drive. This event will count as service hours for Confirmation and for high school. Sign up online or in the bulletin.

Youth Group Serving Dinner at South Loop Community Table-Sun., Feb 1 at 3:00

On February 1st the youth group will meet at church at 3:00pm and go to South Loop Community Table. We will be serving dinner and playing games with those who come to the Community Table. Please let us know if your youth can attend, so we know how many drivers we will need. Adults, please let us know if you would like to drive. This event will count as service hours for Confirmation and for high school. Sign up online or in the bulletin.

Youth Group Fancy Dinner-Sun., Feb 22 at 5pm

On February 22nd the youth group will be going to a Fancy Dinner out at North and Maple here in New Lenox. We will meet at North and Maple at 5:00pm and youth will be done at 6:30pm. Please sign up by February 8th so we can make reservations. Let's enjoy a wonderful meal and fun conversation.



Upcoming Youth Events

- Laser Tag - Sun. Jan 11
- MorningStar Service Project - Sun. Jan 25
- National Youth Gathering Meeting - Sun. Jan 25
- South Loop Service Project - Sun. Feb 1
- Youth Group Fancy Dinner - Sun. Feb 22



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 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!

Souper Bowl of Caring - Feb. 7 & 8

It's Super Bowl time! Join the team that tackles hunger! On Sun., Feb. 8, families and friends gather together to watch the Big Game, while an estimated 50 million Americans are food insecure. Imagine the impact we can make if everyone who watched the game gave one dollar or a can of food to help our neighbors in need. Show the world what it means to be a champion off the field. Join our church's effort in the Souper Bowl of Caring by donating the cost of a meal or snack. Please look for the display in the narthex on Sat., Feb. 7 & Sun., Feb. 8.

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Needs List

We are always collecting bottled water, juice, paper products, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, Jell-O, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc. for Santa Cruz's Food Pantry. Look for the baskets by Fellowship Hall.

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.

Sunday School Sock Drive

During the month of January, the Sunday School group will be collecting new white socks. The youth group will be taking these socks to Morning Star Mission on January 25th to hand them out to our unhoused neighbors. We can use socks of all sizes but especially men's white socks are preferred! Thank you for sharing Christ's warmth with those in need.

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.

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/page/72439/shop/1>

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

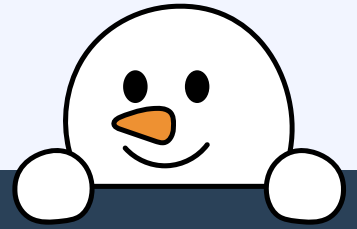
Joliet Area Hospice Support Groups
www.joliethospice.org or 815-740-4104

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



General Information

Inclement Weather Policy

Your safety is important to us, so Peace will cancel our events during the week if Summit Hill School District cancels school or their evening events. We will do our best to post on social media, send emails, and/or remind app notifications when we cancel. If the weather on a weekend is extremely bad making travel particularly dangerous, we may cancel weekend activities or even worship. We will try to make this decision early and post/send notifications as outlined above. If you do not have access to our digital platforms and would like to be notified of a cancellation, please let the office know and we will do our best to reach out to you via a phone call. We hope you stay safe and warm during these wintry months!

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.

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Phone: (815) 485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

website: www.peacenewlenox.org