

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 2023

Vol. 28 Issue 11

From Pastor Gary Erickson

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.” Matthew 25:31

The last weekend of this month, November 25/26, marks the end of Lectionary Year A. The new Church Year, as it is known, begins the first Sunday in Advent, December 2/3, 2023. However, let us concern ourselves here with the end of Year A.

The festival of Christ the King celebrates the reign of Christ and his victory over death. You could successfully argue that every worship service celebrates Christ’s victory over death – and you would be absolutely right!

The festival of Christ the King calls upon us to remember what we have proclaimed all year, Jesus is Lord. Our English word “Lord” has a sense of nobility, purpose, and authority attached to it. To say Jesus is Lord is to recall that we have placed our hope for today and tomorrow on him. We have claimed a Lord who has brought an end to eternal death through the gift of eternal life.

We celebrate Christ the King at the end of this month, and worship gathering, because our Lord has named us, claimed us, and made space for us in God’s kingdom.

With gratitude,

Pastor Gary Erickson

Prayers Requested

Sullivan McDivitt, Rich Molitor & family, Ed Thorson, Donna Miller, Mark Pasternak, Betty Drews, Loren Drews, Cliff Gustafson, Priscilla Huffman, the Burns family, Wayne Diericks, Roger Bentley, Paul Bentley, the family of Dorothy & Bob Krueger, the Hanks family

Reformation Weekend – Oct. 28 & 29

Join us in celebrating our Lutheran heritage on Oct. 28 & 29 by wearing something red to worship.

Call Process Update

The Call Committee had a successful first interview with a new pastoral candidate. That candidate has agreed to move forward with a second interview. Please keep our congregation and the Call Committee in your prayers as we take the next steps in the call process.

2023 & 2024 Flower Chart

2023 & 2024 dates are available to donate flowers for the altar. Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them. You may call or email the church office or sign up on the flower chart by Fellowship Hall. The cost per arrangement is \$20.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Nov. 11

For those planning to have a baptism in the near future, the next baptism orientation class will be Sat., Nov. 11, at 3:30pm at church. Please call or email the church office if you plan to attend.

Time to...set your clocks **BACK** one hour before you go to bed on November 4.

Thank You Very Much!

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

To: Cathy Rumbaugh & Jan Stoller – helping with Blood Drive

Sharen Suste – for the beautiful mums at the front entrance

Melissa Rumbaugh, Becky Gofron, Sarah Clark, Christina & Rob Spreadbury for all their hard work during Special Sunday for Sunday School!

From: Trinity Services – for the prayer shawls

Worship Details

Saturday worship 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00am. 8:30am service is live streamed.

* Masks are optional but are encouraged for all who are at all concerned.

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

To sign up for anything, to ask a question, or to share a thought, we suggest using the church's email: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Because of You

Castroverreyna is a remote region of Peru located high in the Andes mountains. In 2011, it was a community facing multiple challenges - extreme weather, adverse conditions, and rampant levels of poverty. The children were malnourished, and a terrible drought had wiped out most of the farmlands.

But because of the love and kindness of people like you, through Lutheran World Relief, the Castroverreyna of a decade ago no longer exists. Farmlands are vibrant, bursting with grains, vegetables, fruits, potatoes, and herbs. Families are often able to sell their surplus produce for extra income. Children are healthy and attending school, and migration has come to a stop as people find themselves thriving and supporting their families here at home.

Deysi, a young woman who has grown up in Castroverreyna, shared how instead of fretting about her day-to-day survival, she is now planning her future. "I'm going to continue studying for a nursing career," she said. "I'm proud of myself. I'm going to be able to support my home with my career. I'll have a good future. My partner and I have planned our future, having a house, living well, being happy forever."

Electronic Giving

If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. You can also give on-line at any time through our website www.peacenewlenox.org, click on the donate tab and then use the donate through PayPal tab. You can use most major credit cards.

Your Offerings Matter & Are Appreciated!

You can donate online or mail in your offering to Peace Church, PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451 No matter how: thanks for your offerings – they are making a difference at Peace, in our community, in our country and around the world!

Prayer Shawls Available

Do you know someone who is in need of being wrapped in prayer, to know they are being prayed for? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has prayer shawls available for you or someone you know. A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation. Please put in your requests in the Prayer Shawl box in the narthex and you will be contacted when your shawl is ready for pickup. Please make sure to include your contact information, the recipient's first name and the prayer concern. You may also contact the office directly for a shawl.

Community Resources

- * **The 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**
815-409-7917
info@namiwillgrundy.org or www.namiwillgrundy.org

Looking Ahead

- Oct. 27 – 3rd- 6th gr. Halloween Party 6pm
Oct. 28/29 – Reformation Weekend
Oct. 29 – Reform HS Sunday School meeting 9:45am
Trunk or Treat 1-2pm
Oct. 31 – Tuesdays at Peace Book Club 10am
No Bell Choir Rehearsal
Nov. 4 – Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal 3pm
Nov. 5 – All Saints Worship 8:30am
Sunday School Attendance Awards
Meet Church Council Members 9:30am
Nov. 7 – Thanksgiving Planning Meeting 7pm
Nov. 10 – Women’s Group Event 6:30pm
Nov. 11 – Baptism Orientation 3:30pm
Nov. 12 – Blood Pressure Checks 9:30-11am
NYG Meeting 9:45pm
Nov. 18 – All Church Bonfire 6pm
Nov. 19 – Peace Page Turners 9:45am
Grieving Dad’s Discussion 12:30pm
Poinsettia Order Deadline
Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Worship Service 11:30am
27th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner 12pm
Nov. 24 – Church Office Closed
Nov. 28 – Church Council 7pm
Dec. 2 – Blood Drive 9am-1pm
Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal 3pm
Adult Fellowship Trivia 6:15pm
Dec. 3 – Sunday School Christmas Program 11am
Gingerbreads with the Grinch 12pm
Dec. 5 – Committee Chair Meeting 7:30pm
Dec. 10 – Blood Pressure Checks 9:30-11am
NYG Meeting 9:45pm
Women’s Group Event 12:15pm
Dec. 19 – Church Council Meeting 7pm (1 week early)
Dec. 23 – Shortest Day/Longest Night Service 5pm
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve - No 8:30 or 11am services
4pm – Celebration service – including our
invitation for children to bring bells to ring
7, 9 & 11pm – Candlelight Communion services
Dec. 25 – 10am– Festival Communion service

Groups

Quilting – Mon., Nov. 6 & 20

Ruth Circle Quilting meets every other Monday from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Come whenever you would like.

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.

Trailblazers – Tues., Nov. 21

We invite anyone 55+ to come together on Tues., Nov. 21 at 12noon for a Thanksgiving feast. Bring \$5 and the food will be provided.

Men’s Dartball – Tues., Nov. 14

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30pm - 9pm in Fellowship Hall.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Nov. 19

Our next meeting will be Sun., Nov. 19 at 9:45am. We will be discussing *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. Copies of the book are available to be checked out at church. Everyone is welcome!

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club – Tues., Oct. 31

The Tuesdays at Peace book club will be meeting Oct. 31, at 10am. We will be discussing *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. All are welcome!

Adult Fellowship Trivia – Sat., Dec. 2

Come and join the fun on Sat., Dec. 2 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. Please use the [sign up](#).

Women’s Group Events – Fri., Nov. 10 and Sun., Dec. 10

Join us at 6:30pm on Fri., Nov 10 to make your own charcuterie board. Please bring something to put your goodies on-it can be a plate, platter, cookie sheet, tray, cutting board-your choice. Also, bring a shot glass if you have one, which we will use to make roses. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Cost of the food will be no more than \$40 each. Bring a friend!
Sun., Dec. 10 at 12:15pm - Annual Ugly Sweater contest and cookie exchange.

Questions see Jan Stoller or contact the church office. See you then! Please use the [online sign up](#) or the sign up in the bulletin.

Addiction and Family Support Group

The Addiction & Family Support Group meets at Peace on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm. This support group is for those struggling and those who love them.

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing resource? You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Adult Education Class

For Sunday Adult Education Hour we continue - *The Message of the Psalms*. Old Testament Professor Walter Bruggemann's book on the Psalms will guide our look at this wonderful part of Scripture. Dr. Bruggemann's work will help us gain insight into the songbook of the Old Testament. In the Psalms we find reflections of anxiety and hope, suffering and redemption, faith and daily life. Join us Sundays at 9:55am Come as you are – the only thing needed is your curiosity!

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. November's passage is Philippians 4:8.

Viewing and Discussion of *The Chosen*

On Tuesdays & Thursdays Deacon Shari is offering a new study group, discussing the series called *The Chosen* by Dallas Jenkins. *The Chosen* is the first television series based on the life of Jesus. We will be offering two options, in person to watch the episode on and then discuss on Tuesday mornings from 11am-12:30pm and Thursday evenings via zoom at 7:30pm to discuss the episode you have watched on your own.

Announcements

Siding Project Donations

Thank you to all who have contributed to the siding project! Please look for the donations thermometer in the narthex that will mark our progress to our goal.

Quilts & Prayer Shawls

The quilting and prayer shawl groups have been very ambitious. The quilters recently donated 60 quilts to Joshua Arms Senior home. The prayer shawls have been distributed with 12 going to Silver Cross Journey Club and 12 going to Trinity Services. It is so rewarding knowing that many people can receive our blessings. Thank you to both groups and may they continue to share love and blessings.

Coffee and 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.

Halloween Trunk or Treat Event – Sun., Oct. 29

Please join us for a Halloween Trunk or Treat on Sun., Oct. 29 from 1- 2pm. We invite all kids to come out and show off their costumes, get some candy, and a hotdog from Joey's!

Calling All Musicians

The Adult Choir is looking for flutists, guitarists, and drummers to accompany them at worship occasionally. If you would like to help with this ministry, please call or email the church office.

Adult Choir Welcomes New Voices

Has a little voice been telling you to make a joyful noise unto the Lord? Are you singing in the car? Annoying friends and family with karaoke? Then the Adult Choir would LOVE to welcome you! Men and women. No auditions, no experience! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7pm. For more information, please contact the office.

Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal – Sat., Nov. 4

The Ladies Ensemble is a fun group of Peace women who love to sing and fellowship. Our next practice is Sat., Nov. 4 at 3pm. We only practice once a month and if you love to sing, please consider joining this joyous group! Call the church office for more information.

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Bell Choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please join us! No rehearsal on Oct. 31. For more information contact the church office.

Children's Choir Rehearsal

Children's Choir rehearsals are on Sundays at 9am in Fellowship Hall for anyone 2nd - 8th grade who loves to sing! For more information contact the church office.

Special All Saints Worship – Sun., Nov. 5

During the 8:30am worship service on Sun., Nov. 5, people who have lost loved ones will have an opportunity to remember them by lighting a candle during worship. If you would like to light a candle in memory of someone, let us know through the website [sign up](#) or through the office. Be sure to give us your name and contact information and whom you wish to remember.

Meet Our Church Council Members Event – Sun., Nov. 5

Sun., Nov. 5 between worship services you will have an opportunity to meet the members of our Church Council.

Blood Pressure Checks – Sun., Nov. 12

Hypertension can cause heart disease, heart attacks, strokes, aortic aneurysms, and even kidney disease! Don't let this happen to you. Get your blood pressure checked! We will be offering free blood pressure checks between worship services on the second Sunday of each month. Your pressure will be checked by medical professionals and all results will be strictly confidential.

All Church Bonfire – Sat., Nov. 18

On Sat., Nov. 18 we will have an all-church bonfire here in the parking lot! We are inviting Santa Cruz and First Lutheran to join us. What a fun way to fellowship and enjoy the fall weather together. The bonfire will be from 6:00pm till 7:00pm. It will be dinner time so we will provide hotdogs to cook over the fire as well as s'more fixings! Please bring your own lawn chair. Come and enjoy this time of food, fellowship, and fun! [Sign up online](#) or in the bulletin.

From Deacon Shari Simon

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
Mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cheesy potatoes, so many kinds of potatoes. The other day my sister-in-law sent me the menu for Thanksgiving, and I got tickled because there was one vegetable, turkey, deserts, and every kind of potato you can imagine. My family loves potatoes! What is essential for your family's thanksgiving meal?

Growing up my whole extended family would gather for Thanksgiving. The essential components were my grandmother's bread dressing and the deviled eggs that my cousin and I would make. The table had to be set, according to my Aunt Kays standards, with everyone having a formal place setting. There were two long tables that stretched the length of my Aunt Betty-Sue's house and a small table in the family room for the kids. However, what I remember being at the table, and what was most important to me, was the laughter. We would spend the meal catching up with everyone whom we saw twice a year at Thanksgiving and New Years Eve. My family was loud! I remember the sounds of each family member's voice and their individual laughs. Now that many of the people who sat around that table are in Heaven and we no longer gather, those sounds are what seem essential to me.

It does not matter if you have one kind of potato or like my family, three kinds of potatoes, what matters is who is gathered there. What memories will my nieces and nephews have of family gatherings. What will they share with their children when we are gone, and they are passing on traditions? What will they be thankful for and what will they remember that I was thankful for?

As much as I love pumpkin pie and am very thankful that there will be at least two types, I am most thankful for the people that will be gathered at my table. I am thankful that the morning of Thanksgiving I will gather at church with some of you and we will feed many around long stretched out tables. I am thankful for the sound of the many conversations that will fill our fellowship hall. I am thankful for the children who will delight in the gifts that Santa gives to them at our Thanksgiving Feast. I am thankful that I will drive home full, not of food, but of joy. I am thankful that I will come home to a house full of people who love me and have been laughing all morning preparing a meal full of potatoes!

What is essential at your table? What will you remember being thankful for? May November be a month of thankfulness, joy, and memory making.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Simon

27th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

**Thursday, November 23rd at noon
Turkey with all the trimmings
& heart-warming fellowship too**

Please come if you...

- **are alone or in need, or**
- **are new to the area or want to meet others, or**
- **would like to spend Thanksgiving with others**

**Call in your reservations for this
free dinner by Nov. 8
815-485-5327 or e-mail us at
peacechurch@peacelenox.org**

Let us know how many adults & children attending.

Peace is located at 1900 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox - on U.S. Hwy. 30, directly across the street from Lincoln-Way Central High School

If you know people who could benefit from the dinner, please encourage them to attend.

For those interested, there will be a Thanksgiving worship service with communion at 11:30am.

Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers Needed

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving Day we are blessed to have so many volunteers that help in a variety of ways like helping with set-up, clean-up, serving, transportation, etc. We are really in need of volunteers that can pick up and take back guests from Joshua Arms. If you would like to help, please look for the Thanksgiving display in the narthex and sign up for whatever you would like to volunteer for or email the church office.

Thanksgiving Planning – Tues., Nov. 7

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving Day, all kinds of people help in a variety of ways. We'll need volunteers to serve food, pick up guests and help with clean up. The planning meeting will be Tues., Nov. 7, at 7pm to help set the whole effort in motion.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings

Each year the money we receive in our special Thanksgiving and Christmas envelopes is given away to others. This year it will be divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal - which includes help for the victims of floods, earthquakes, and other disasters; Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - the agency of our church that serves so many people in need; mission churches - Santa Cruz in Joliet and Pastor Ben's church Resurrection in Channahon and local ministries that help others - Groundwork, Daybreak, Trinity and MorningStar.

Poinsettia Tributes - Due by Sun., Nov. 19

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. Look for the poinsettia order forms in the narthex. The cost will be \$14 each. The deadline for placing your order will be November 19.

Thinking about Christmas Gifts?

Give your loved one a goat. What!? 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. Check out these and many other good gifts at <https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>.

Christmas Giving for Santa Cruz & LSSI

Each year we put up a tree with Christmas gift giving tags for people who could use our help. This year we again are going to support the people of Santa Cruz & their neighborhood and LSSI Project Room at the Inn. Look for the tags towards the middle of November, with a return date of Dec. 10.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Sun., Dec. 3

Mark your calendars for our Sunday School Christmas Program! This year we will have one program for P3-12th grade on Sun., Dec. 3 at the 11am service! We would love to know if your youth can participate this year. We will be practicing on Nov. 20 & Nov. 27. 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. Please let us know if your youth can participate by filling out the slip on the back of the Sunday School news or [sign up here](#).

Grieving Dads Discussion – Sun., Nov. 19

Stand up straight. Don't cry. Be strong. Support your wife and family. These are words that men hear when they lose a child. Where do they go for support? Are there other men who have lost children and are struggling too? Too many times men try to deal with this struggle on their own. I, Eric Wesel, have lost a child. These are some of the things I thought I needed to do and questions I had. Through work, I met a fellow engineer who also suffered child loss, Kelly Farley. Kelly struggled with his loss and suffered depression to the point he didn't care if he lived or died. Thankfully, he decided to turn his grief and anger into a passion for helping other grieving dads. He has interviewed 1000's of other grieving dads who have also suffered the loss of a child. From these interviews, he has written two books designed to help others. Please join Kelly and I for an hour of discussion on men grieving and coping with the loss of a child. This discussion will take place on Sun., Nov. 19 at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Wesel or the church office.

Tavern Talk – Tues., Nov. 21

On the third Tuesday of the month, we will have an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Deacon Shari will gather at Hickory Creek Brewery on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Come grab a drink of choice and a slice of pizza. Pizza on us, drinks on you. We will be there from 6:30-8:30pm.

Blood Drive – Sat., Dec. 2

Thank you to everyone who donated in October! Our next blood drive is Sat., Dec. 2, from 9am -1pm. https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5597808 for an appointment.

2023 Flower Chart Dates are Available

We have some dates available on our 2023 flower chart. November 5, 19, 26; December 3, 10, 17, 31
If you would like to sign up for any of these dates, please call or email the church office.

New 2024 Flower Chart

Our new 2024 dates are available to donate flowers for the altar. Look for the flower chart by Fellowship Hall and sign up for any date you would like. You may call or email the church office to sign up also. The cost per arrangement is \$20.

Youth

Peace 360 Service Project - Sat., Nov. 11

7-12 Grade Peace 360 will be meeting for a service project from 11am-1pm, we will be making fall wreaths for the residents at Shady Oaks and have some lunch! Please bring \$5 for lunch. (Our goat yoga will have to wait) please let us know if your youth would like to help make some awesome fall wreaths and receive a few service hours, too! [Sign up here.](#)

National Youth Gathering Meeting – Sun., Nov. 12

Those youth who are registering for NYG, please join Deacon Shari at church on Sun., Nov. 12, at 9:45am in the education wing. Next meeting is on Sun., Dec. 10.

Gingerbreads with the Grinch - Sun., Dec. 3 - Sign up deadline is Nov. 19

Please join us at noon after the Children's Christmas Program for gingerbread house decorating, there is talk of a special guest that may be attending! Pizza lunch from Italian Fiesta will be provided! Please let us know if you and your family can attend, the cost of this event will be \$20 per family. [Sign up here or in the bulletin.](#) Please sign up before Nov. 19.

Confirmation Schedule –

7th Grade –Nov. 1, Dec. 6
8th Grade –Nov. 8, Dec. 13
7 & 8th Grade – Nov. 15

Peace 360 (7-12Gr.) Zoo Lights Event – Sun., Dec. 3 – Sign up deadline is Nov. 19

On Sun., Dec. 3 the 7-12 graders are invited to go see the Zoo Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo. Meet Deacon Shari at church at 3pm. We will walk around the zoo and check out the scenery and then at 5:30 we will walk through the Zoo Lights! Tickets are \$10. We will eat dinner at the zoo, so bring about \$20. [Please sign up here](#) Please sign up before Nov. 19.

Helping Others

Coat Drive November thru January

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 in the bin located in the narthex starting Nov. 1 and running through January. Scarves, hats, gloves/mittens and boots are also accepted. Thank you for your continued support.

Small Toy Collection

If you have any small toys like McDonald's Happy Meal toys or dollar store toys laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the bin in the hall going to Fellowship Hall. These toys are donated to a school to be used as prizes for under privileged students.

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.

Needs List for Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

Santa Cruz has a food & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring these anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall. They are in need of bottled water & juice, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, jello, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, any type of treats – pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc.