



November 2025

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:

- Tony Peng
- Debbie Palm
- Kaye
- David Star
- Maureen (cancer)
- Dar Clark
- Daniel A. (needs job)
- Vivian Farbak (cancer treatment)
- Marc and Elaine
- Lynn Viehweg
- Janice Musak (healing)
- Frank Rossi (decisions)
- Jeff
- Brenda Rice
- Scott Swart

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. November's passage is: Psalm 34:18

A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

We are entering the holiday season! Many of us love the holidays. Plenty of us struggle. This can be especially true if we are grieving. If you're never quite sure what to do when someone is deep in grief, you're not alone. Here are some things to keep in mind as you support people who are grieving.

It's ok if you don't know what to say, but still reach out. They need your support and many people who are grieving feel very isolated, especially after a little time has passed. People reach out, send cards, and attend services at the very beginning, but then life moves on and the person grieving can feel forgotten.

Be a caring presence. Grief is unique to each person. Follow their lead in your interactions, be present, and do not try to fix the situation or explain it away. Affirm their feelings, or just say, "I'm so sorry." And then sit quietly with them. Remind them that you've been thinking of them, remind them that if they feel like talking, you are there to listen. Grief does not follow a timetable and does not move linearly through stages. It's alright to take all the time they need and to grieve in their own way. Offer concrete things - to pick them up and take them out to dinner, to come over, to watch the kids for awhile, or pick up groceries. Grief brain fog is real. Be patient.

Do not tell a person how to feel or not feel. It's rarely helpful to say things like, "I know how you feel," because that can make you the focus. Stay away from pat "answers" like, "it's God's will" or "it was for the best." Let them say those things to you if it feels true to them, but do not force these onto their experience. They aren't helpful. And, do we really know God's will for other people's lives? Listen as they try to understand their loss, but don't assume you understand it.

As a person of faith, they may feel comfortable sharing how their loss is affecting their faith. Questions, doubts, anger are all understandable (just look at the Psalms).

Finally, grief is a long process, so stay in touch, but do not always expect a response. If you are grieving this holiday season, please consider joining our GriefShare group on Mondays Nov. 3rd-17th & Dec. 1st. Deacon Shari and I are here for you too.

Peace,
Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of September 30, 2025

Sept. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$42,689	\$198,099	\$602,158

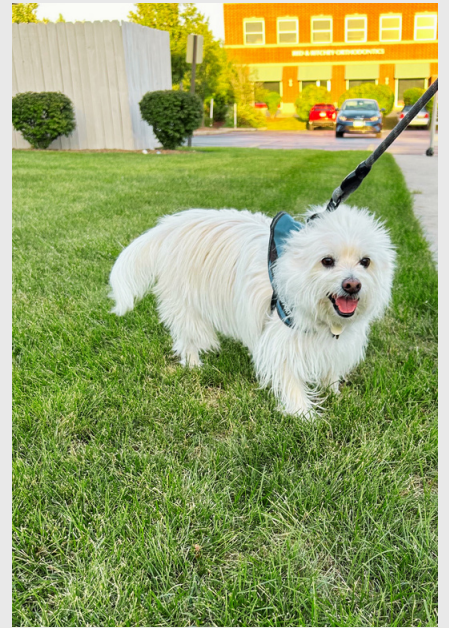
Sept. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$54,796	\$196,043	\$602,158

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Madeline & Harper Haney
baptized on Sept 28

Welcome New Members:

Bob Lindbloom
Jenna Welzen
The Addison Family
Ashley Garr & Lily Kroiss



Thank You

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

Sharefest Volunteers – for serving our community with love and generosity.

Reformation Musicians – for sharing your gifts in worship and celebration.

Candy and PB & J Donors – for your sweet and thoughtful contributions.

Trunk or Treat Volunteers – for bringing joy and fellowship..





A Letter From Your Deacon

By Deacon Shari



Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! Well close enough, right? The Thanksgiving holiday is coming up and that means that it is a particularly busy time here at Peace. This is because of our annual Thanksgiving worship and dinner. Maybe you know everything there is to know about our annual Thanksgiving celebration and maybe you did not even know we had an annual Thanksgiving celebration. In this newsletter I am going to try to give you all the ins and outs as well as how you can be involved in this largest community outreach event.

Our Thanksgiving celebration begins months in advance with planning and preparing. The office receives phone calls from members of the community who would like to eat their Thanksgiving dinner here at Peace. On Thanksgiving Day, we feed between 200 and 300 people. Those who come are often people who have made this their Thanksgiving tradition. The original intent of this meal was to provide a place for those who either had no one to eat with or did not have the means to make their own meal. This need has certainly been the priority but also, we have many families who come and help as a part of their tradition of giving thanks as well. The parts of this tradition that have not changed are the welcome, the opportunity to worship before the meal, the presence of Santa with gifts for any child who comes and a gift card for each family, the delicious food, the participation of the wider community and fellowship.

Over the years we have made a couple of changes. Before covid we had all the food donated except for Turkey. Members would bring side dishes, and we would make a giant buffet. Post covid we have most of the meal catered by Winstons Market in Tinley Park, and members donate dessert and canned or jarred items like cranberry sauce or pickles. This change has allowed us to regulate the options and provide more consistency. Everyone gets the same things and there is an abundance for all. We used to run out of something, and the appearance of scarcity would happen which is not what we want on a day like Thanksgiving. We also make to go bags of items that can be used to make another festive dinner which we use to hand out on Thanksgiving. This part of the tradition has been moved to Christmas time, and we donate the bags to the Santa Cruz food pantry to hand out for Christmas dinners.

How do we pay for all of this? We have been blessed to receive a grant every year from a member of the community that pays for the dinner, gifts, and Christmas food bags in its entirety. No one pays to come to this celebration. This gift has allowed Peace to continue this tradition, and we are so grateful for the heart and desire to serve that this community member has. Through this generous gift we not only feed members of the community, send meals to Joshua Arms in Joliet and Shady Oaks in Homer Glen, but also provide the opportunity for another meal either through the Christmas food bags or a grocery gift card that every family receives from Santa.

You are invited to be a part of this celebration. This is an event that we need all the help we can get. You can volunteer for part of the event or the whole event. You can donate a pie or a can of cranberry sauce. You can come the night before and help set up tables and decorate. You can come and worship with us before the meal. You are also invited to sign up and eat. All are welcome to join, as we gather to give thanks to God for God's many blessings, to fellowship with our neighbors, and to enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari

Offerings & Opportunities

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.

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.

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

Property Committee Workday- Sat., Nov. 1 from 9am-12pm

Come lend a hand with cleaning and maintenance! Whether you can stay the whole time or just an hour, your help makes a difference.

Poinsettia Tributes - Due by Sun., Dec. 1

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 1. Sign-up forms will be available soon in the Narthex.

Gingerbreads with the Grinch - Sun., Dec.7 - Deadline to sign up is Nov. 16

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 here](#) by Nov. 16.



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.

Amer from the Holy Land-Sat., Nov. 29 & Sun., Nov 30

We are pleased to welcome Amer Hannunah to Peace on Sunday, November 30th. Amer is originally from Beit Sahour, a small town near Bethlehem in the Holy Land, and is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church there. He is currently in the US on a heartfelt mission to support Christian families from his hometown who hand-carve beautiful religious items from olive wood. Amer is visiting churches across the US to share these handmade items and tell the story of the people who make them. He will speak briefly at our services and will have olive wood items on display for purchase before and after services. Please plan to hear him speak and to visit his display. You may find a Christmas present or two!



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.

All Saints Worship – Sat., Nov. 1 & Sun., Nov. 2

As a part of all worship services Nov. 1 & 2, people who have lost loved ones will have an opportunity to remember them by lighting a candle. If you would like to light a candle, [sign up online](#) or email the church office to let us know which worship you will be attending.

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service - Thurs., Nov. 27 at 11:30am

Join us for our Thanksgiving Day worship service. If you would like to stay for dinner at noon, please see the announcement below.

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.



Looking Ahead

Nov. 27-Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec. 3, 10, 17- Weekly Advent Service & Soup Supper (6pm)

Dec 6-Trivia Night (6:15pm)

Dec 7- Sunday School Christmas Program
(11am worship service)

Dec 7- Gingerbread with the Grinch (12pm)



Groups

Peace Book Club - Tues., Nov 11 at 10:00am

Our next read is We will be discussing "The Whistling Season" by Ivan Doig

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.

GriefShare Surviving the Holidays Series - Starting Mon., Nov. 3

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. 1 from 7:00-8:00pm. If you would like to participate, please use the signup sheet or contact the office.

Peace Page Turners - Sun., Nov 16 at 9:45am

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners is November 16 at 9:45am. We will discuss "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict. There will be no December meeting

Adult Fellowship Trivia - Sat., Dec. 7

Come and join the fun on Sat., Dec. 7 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.

Ruth Circle Quilting - Mon., Nov 3 & 17 at 9am

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

Trailblazers - Tues., Nov 18 at 12pm

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

Men's Breakfast - Sat., Nov 22 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.

Out To Eat Group - Sun., Nov 9 at 12:15pm

The Out-To-Eat group will be going to Maple House Cafe in Mokena. Please sign up no later than Nov. 7 to be included in the reservation.

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.

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!

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.



Youth Service Project - Sun., Nov 16 from 12-2pm

Join us for our upcoming Youth Service Project as we make fleece blankets for those in need! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community while enjoying fellowship and fun. Blankets should be 50x60 inches—feel free to bring your own fleece or pattern, or materials will be provided. No sewing experience is needed; just come ready to help and share God's love through the warmth of a handmade blanket.

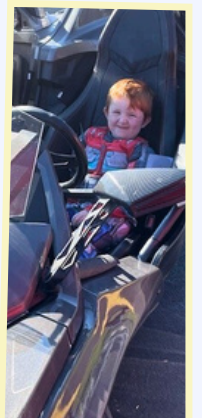
Arboretum Christmas Lights- Sun., Dec. 14 at 3:30pm - 8:30pm **Deadline to sign up is November 16th!!

The youth group will be taking a trip to see the Illumination: Tree Lights display at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. This event offers a beautiful outdoor experience filled with dazzling light displays and festive atmosphere as we walk through the illuminated woods together. The cost is \$19 per person. Please sign up by November 16th to reserve your spot and join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and holiday spirit.



November Youth Events

- Nov 2nd - Senior High Retreat
- Nov 9th - Bible Study & Games
- Nov 16th - Service Project
- Nov 23rd - No Youth Group
- Nov 30th - No Youth Group



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!

Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers Needed-Wed., Nov. 26 & Thurs., Nov.27

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving, 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 at your calendar and sign up in the coming weeks.

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.

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.**



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

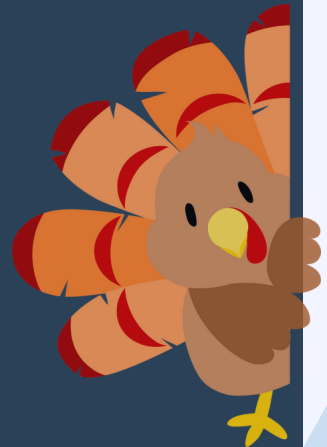
Worship Details
Saturday worship 5pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11am.
8:30am service is live streamed.

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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