



JANUARY, 2025



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Fremont, IN 46737
Church Phone: (260) 495-4306
www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A LETTER FROM PASTOR TEEPLE

Dear Friends,

As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter in our shared journey, I'm reminded of two powerful pieces of Scripture that seem custom-written for moments like this. Isaiah 30:15 whispers to us, "In repentance and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." And 2 Corinthians 5:17 passionately declares, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Let's pause here for a moment. Did you catch that? Newness. Strength. Trust. These are not just lofty ideals – they're promises. Promises that anchor us when the pace of life becomes too quick, or when our spiritual habits (like that abandoned gym membership) get a little rusty.

Life has a way of throwing us into a whirlwind. Maybe your quiet times with God have been less "quiet" and more "occasional." Perhaps your Bible has been playing hide-and-seek with you on a dusty shelf, or Sunday mornings have turned into "brunch and Netflix" instead of worship and fellowship. If this sounds familiar, know this: you're not alone. And God is inviting you to reset with Him.

Here's the good news: just as Christ makes us new, He also gives us the grace to start fresh with Him every day, every month, every year. The rhythms of worship, Bible study, and prayer are not burdens – they're blessings. They're the "quietness" and "trust" Isaiah speaks of, the channels through which we find strength, peace, and hope.

So, here's my invitation: let's hit the reset button together.

- **Worship Attendance:** It is sacred and energizing to gather as God's people to lift our hearts and voices, hear His Word, and be reminded that we're part of a much bigger story. (Plus, let's be honest, we all sing better as a group!)
- **Bible Study:** Whether you're flipping through familiar passages or diving into uncharted spiritual waters, God's Word has a way of speaking straight into our lives. Dust off your Bible and let's see what God has in store for us in this new year.
- **Prayerful Devotion:** Think of this as your spiritual Wi-Fi connection. It keeps you grounded, connected, and recharged. And no, you don't need perfect words; Jesus teaches how to pray and the Holy Spirit helps us when words fail us.

Let's embrace this season with the kind of bold trust Isaiah envisioned and the joy of new life in Christ that St. Paul proclaimed. Together, we can rebuild those healthy habits that deepen our faith and strengthen our community.

Your place in the pews awaits, the Scriptures are calling, and God is always listening.

Peace to you all in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jeff Teeple

P.S. If you've got questions about where to start, or if you're ready to dive back into a Bible study group, talk with either Pastor Rudolph or me – we would love to help you!

A LETTER FROM PASTOR RUDOLPH

Not that I have already obtained [the resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 3:12-14

Every Christian shares this end goal: to be faithful in life and to be raised from the dead on the Last Day. This is the *upward call of God in Christ Jesus* that gave Paul hope during the trials and hardships which plagued him during his ministry. As Christians, we can endure all things through Christ who gives us strength by His Holy Spirit. The Spirit works faith in us and directs our attention *upward*, focusing on the heavenly promises God has given us. When we keep ourselves focused *upward*, we remember that God is a God who keeps His promises. It is our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that has promised us the *upward call* of the resurrection.

It is for this reason that our congregation put on our Upward Sports camp this year. This is the program we have been running in our gym in the evenings throughout December and will start again in the next few weeks. We are bringing back our sports ministry because we have been placed in this community to bring hope to our friends and neighbors. The Gospel is not something to keep to ourselves and never talk about. No! In all things we do, we press on toward the goal of eternal life in Christ Jesus, seeking to bring everyone along with us as well. Here at Peace, we use our sports ministry to focus the community's attention upward toward heavenly matters of salvation. After the athletes train in the fundamentals of basketball and cheerleading, we take time to train them in the one thing needful. Each week in our gymnasium, we follow Paul's words in 2 Timothy 3, where he says, *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

It is in this spirit that we find our theme for our 2024-2025 Upward Sports camp: "Training in Righteousness." As we said before, every Christian has a goal of being faithful until death so that we can receive our inheritance of eternal life. That is why we train continually. We train by hearing God's Word. It tells us how to be righteous. Yes, we love our neighbors as ourselves. But we truly become righteous only through faith in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us. At Upward, we are training them in this simple faith. Many families don't report any church affiliation so this year we are training the athletes to know WHO Jesus is and WHAT that means for their life. We use God's Word to train them.

Isn't this just what we do in Church every week? We hear God's Word, what we should be doing (and don't do) as well as what God has done to forgive us and renew us. This is Law and Gospel. This is Training in Righteousness. We may not have any Upward families join us in worship. But if they do, love them and encourage them. They are training for the same race, the same goal that we are. Together, *we press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Pastor Jared Rudolph

Peace Resources

PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

Office Extensions:

Secretary- 301
Pastor Teeple- 302
Pastor Rudolph- 303
Kristin McGee- 304
Wee Creations Office- 305
Church Service Hours- 321

Church Text Messages & Email App

To sign up for church text messages:

Send a text to the number **81010**.
In the message type “**@peacefrem**”.

You will receive a text
asking for your name.

Respond with your first and last name.
You will receive text messages regarding
church updates.

***If you have already
signed up, you do not need
to sign up again.***

We welcome you to join us for our Worship Services

Sunday

8:00am
9:15am Educational Hour
10:30am

Monday

6:30pm

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jeff Teeple – PastorT@plcms.org
Pastor Jared Rudolph - PastorRudolph@plcms.org
Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org
Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org
Emily Disbro - secretary@plcms.org
Hope Korte – ComfortDog@plcms.org
Mary Anne Hibbard - mhibbard@plcms.org
Judy Scharpenberg - kjscharp@mchsi.com



RightNow Media – Please remember all the resources that are available to you and your family free of charge through RightNow Media! It is a clearinghouse of videos, Bible studies, and podcasts that help you grow in your faith toward God and love for others! If you haven't signed up (and even if you have!) be sure to access this amazing library of Christian material! (Checkout the link in our e-news to sign up!)



E-News – Just a reminder that we continue to publish our e-news and announcements every week. If you haven't signed up to receive e-news through your email, please email Pastor Teeple and he will get you signed up! If you did sign up and haven't seen it, please double check your SPAM folder; it is an email that comes from the secretary's email address: secretary@plcms.org



Card Ministry Update

We love sending you birthday and anniversary cards!

In an effort to save on postage costs in the new year, begin to check your church mailbox for these very special greetings!



Our next opportunity to provide meals to Family Promise residents will be the week of January 20th.

Please watch for the sign-up sheet on the information desk in the East Lobby!

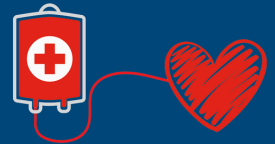
Thank you!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the outpouring of kind wishes, visits, food, gifts, thoughtful (and unique) cards, and most importantly your faithful prayers! Your support has been a true blessing! What a great church family I am blessed to be a part of! I thank you so very much for being the hands and heart of Christ in my life.

-Luanne Haupt

Kindness
is in your blood.



Help save a life.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



Peace Lutheran Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 29th
1:00pm-5:00pm

There are still plenty of open appointment spots, if you are interested in donating.

Visit www.redcrossblood.org
or call
1-800-RED-CROSS
to schedule an appointment.

The Pastor's Fund

A very big thank you to all those who contributed to the Pastor's Fund this year!

The primary use of this discretionary fund is to allow the pastor to help others in difficult times. We have been able to help families with various needs such as housing, utilities, groceries, gas, and other essentials.

A secondary use of this fund to allow the pastor to help with other needs and opportunities that come up in the life of the congregation, which are not budgeted, to care for the staff of the church and Wee Creations. This frees the pastor to act ministerially whatever the circumstance.

Thank you for helping!
You are a blessing to others!

The Old Chancel Cross

After many months in hiding during the building expansion, the old chancel cross is back! It was taken down before the renovation and expansion started in order to keep it safe. During the summer months, Bill Sumney and Rick Kirkton worked hard refurbishing the cross and restoring the many symbols that were attached to it - some of which were missing entirely. It is once again hanging in the Fellowship Hall as a reminder of our heritage of faith here at Peace!

Special hearty thanks to Bill and Rick for their work leading the team that restored the cross. Thanks too to the Sewing Sister ladies who created the new burgundy liner that is attached to the back of the cross. And thanks to Tami Sumney who engraved the symbols. The cross is a beautiful testament to our faith in Jesus Christ and our life together in the Lord!



Each month this year, we will include a special section in our newsletter that will provide a brief explanation of one of the symbols and give Bible references for you to look up and study on your own. We hope this will help you better understand the cross our your faith.

This first month the symbol is **St. Peter's Shield**. On the shield of the Apostle Peter are two crossed keys. The symbol is a representation of the spiritual truths of the Gospel - to bind and loose (or forgive) sins. The keys symbolize the message of salvation and forgiveness, which Jesus entrusted to all believers through the proclamation of the Gospel.

Look up Matthew 16:13-20 and Matthew 18:18. When do we use these keys during worship? How do we as believers carry and use these keys in our personal lives?

January Adult Bible Class

So, you made a New Year's resolution to read the Bible more—but where do you start? And how do you stick with it past January 15? Join our five-week Sunday morning class, for a fun and practical dive into making the Bible a part of your daily life (no, you don't have to start in Leviticus).

Together, we'll tackle questions like, "What is this book about?" and "Where do I start?" Whether you're a seasoned reader or a first-timer, this class will help you build a habit, find joy in Scripture, and maybe even brag a little about finally keeping a resolution. We'll save you a seat—and maybe even some coffee!

January 5 – Week 1: Understanding the Bible

Focus and Topics:

Grasp the structure, purpose, and themes of the Bible.

- Overview of the Bible's structure.
- Why we read the Bible: Commandments, spiritual growth, knowing God's story, and applying it to life.
- Tools for understanding the Bible.

January 12 – Week 2: How to Read the Bible

Focus and Topics:

Practical methods for Bible reading and study.

- Different styles: Sunday connection, devotional reading, verse-by-verse study, etc.
- Key principles: observation, interpretation, application.
- Tips for staying consistent and avoiding burnout.

January 19 – Week 3: Choosing a Reading Schedule

Focus and Topics:

Find a sustainable Bible reading plan that works for you.

- Samples of different reading plans.
- Balancing flexibility and discipline.
- How to adjust plans when life gets busy.

January 26 – Week 4: Applying the Bible to Life

Focus and Topics:

How to connect what you read with your daily lives.

- Reflecting on passages and God's voice, then praying what you have read.
- Journaling or meditating on Scripture.
- Using Bible reading to inform prayer, understanding, and decision-making.

February 2 – Week 5: A Heart for the Word

Focus and Topics:

Approaching the Bible with lasting joy and passion - for a lifetime!

- Developing a lifelong love for Scripture.
- The Bible as God's ongoing conversation with us.
- The rewards of staying rooted in Scripture: spiritual growth, guidance, and joy.



Lutheran Women
in Mission

Advent Project Update

The LWM group collected 40 gift cards with a total worth of over \$900 for Christmas gifts for the seminary students at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Many thanks to all those that helped make this Christmas season more enjoyable for CTSFW students. Your compassion brings an extra amount of joy into the lives of these future pastors, deaconesses, and their families.

Looking Ahead....

Peace supports the Seminary Food Co-Op each month. Did you know there is also a clothing and household goods Co-Op that benefits the students?

Coming in February, Peace's Lutheran Women in Mission will gather to plan Peace's Lenten Almsgiving Project to benefit this additional Co-op at the Seminary. We hope you will join us! Let us come together to help support the future pastors and their families at our local Seminary in this very special project.

More details of meeting time and date will be released in the upcoming weeks!



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

ACTSFW
FOOD & CLOTHING CO-OP

ACTSFW
FOOD & CLOTHING CO-OP

The Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary is open to all seminary students and their families. Food and household items are available to these families at no charge. Students

volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping. The Food Co-Op is set up like a small grocery store.

This month's donation wish list items include crackers such as:

- **saltines**
- **Ritz or club crackers**
- **Goldfish, Cheez-Its or other snack-type crackers**



Dear Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

Each of us has times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of care. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that when we suffer and are troubled, we find comfort through Christ

(2 Corinthians 1:4–6)—and one of the ways we find this comfort is through other caring Christians.

Peace has a group of people **skilled in caring** for those facing challenges in their lives. These people, called **Stephen Ministers**, have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their caring skills. Following a commissioning service, they began their caring ministry in our congregation and community. Now our Stephen Ministers are working with people who are experiencing many *different kinds* of crises.

Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister? Care receivers may be hospitalized, grieving the death of a loved one, separated or divorcing, homebound, unemployed, adjusting to the birth of a child, or experiencing many other kinds of life difficulties. They may be members of our church, or friends, neighbors, and co-workers without any church home.

Think about your life and the lives of the people around you. *Are you, or is someone you know, going through a time of crisis or challenge?* The care of a Stephen Minister **may be exactly what's needed** to help bring Christ's healing.

If you have questions about Stephen Ministry at Peace, feel free to call on Ellen Luepke, Rick Kirkton, or Pastor Teeple. Consider whether you know of someone who needs their care, and **offer to connect them** to this ministry. And remember our Stephen Ministry in your prayers.

In Our Savior's name,

Rick Kirkton, Stephen Leader

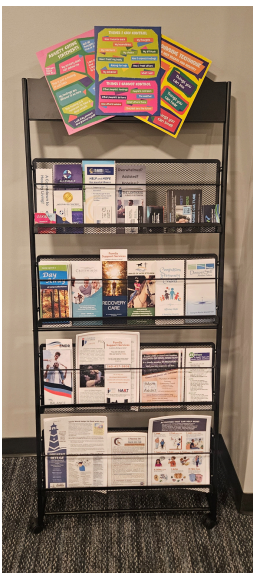
Ellen Luepke, Stephen Leader

Pastor Teeple, Pastor and Stephen Leader



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

New! Mental Wellness Center



The Peace Lutheran Mental Health Advocates have put together an information station regarding mental health issues. Look for the Mental Wellness Center on the rolling cart currently in the East Lobby by the choir loft door. This collection of resources includes topics such as anxiety, substance abuse, and trauma, among many, many others.

Peace Lutheran also offers support through GriefShare and Stephen Ministry. Please contact Cinda Gerbers- clgldh@aol.com or Chris Goeglein cgoeg55@gmail.com to be provided with resources in ANY way. All contacts will be held in the strictest confidence.

2024 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



**OUR BABIES
JESUS**

**OUR TODDLER
BARNYARD**



**OUR
BARNYARD
ANIMALS**

2024 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



OUR FLOCK OF SHEEP

OUR CHOIR OF ANGELS



OUR NATIVITY CREW

PEACE LUTHERAN 2024 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Dove Tales



Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15 NLT

Happy New Year, Friends! We have another whole 365 days to share God's gifts! Some of the humans I'll be visiting this year will be jumping with joy and others will be sad with despair. I look forward to being with each of them.

One of my visits since the last Newsletter was to Fairview Missionary Church. Their women's Bible Study group enjoyed meeting me. Then I was deployed to Hamilton Heights High School after the death of their principal. Four other Comfort Dogs went, too, so we could share lots of love. At Angola High School I visited many friends, both happy and sad ones. They said they really appreciate my visits.

At Cameron Hospital I met visitors, patients upstairs, friends who needed a work break, and new employees. One heard about me during new employee orientation and was very excited to meet us! I must confess that my handler had her work cut out on that visit. She managed to keep me on my best behavior as the front lobby was being decorated. Those enticing shiny gold and silver balls – tell me, weren't they there for me??? Tricky, tricky handlers – just to tempt me they let a Kleenex loose in the wind. I was laser focused as it floated down the sidewalk but they wouldn't let me have it. Okay, I'm not perfect but I am a perfect Golden Retriever!

With that in mind, I appreciated the kind words of the Angola Middle School staff who said they love that mischievous students are sweet when they are with me. I love those kiddos and everyone who works there so much!

My team and I are thankful to visit with both folks who are bursting with happiness and those who are heartbroken. That is our mission. You can join us as we care for others and as we spread happiness.

Wishing you comfort and joy!

Love,

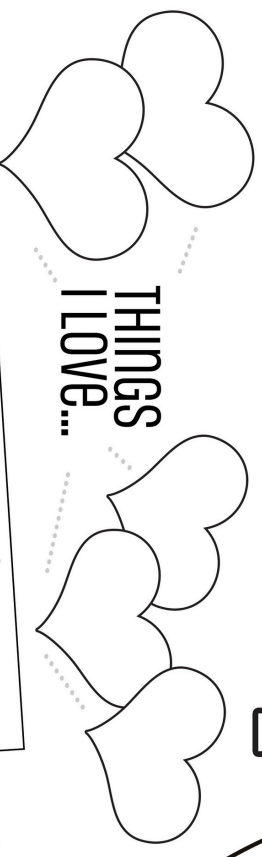
Dove

PS: To join our Comfort Dog team, contact Hope Korte at comfortdog@plms.org or speak with one of the pastors.



JESUS LOVES

LOVERS



H	Z	F	N	C	O	Q	N	A	Y					
E	P	R	J	E	L	J	G	R	D	K	H			
A	R	T	E	S	G	O	L	V	L	I	N	H		
T	T	Y	S	J	E	L	O	L	O	N	W	D	O	
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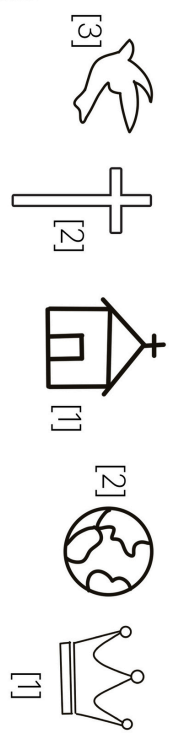
- REJOICE
- HEART
- LOVE
- FOLLOWS
- ANGEL
- HOPE
- GENTLE
- JESUS
- KIND
- JOY

START

FINISH

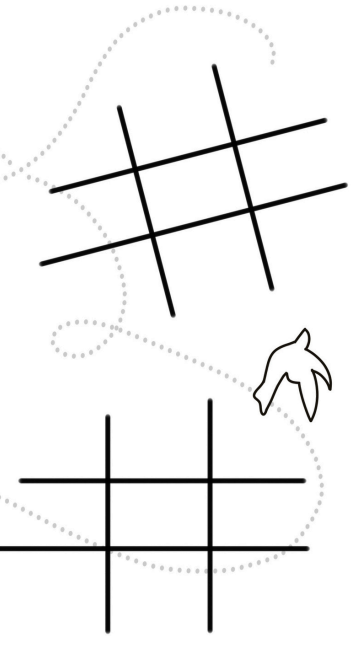
ISPY...

Find & color the below images on the page



How many can you find on the page?

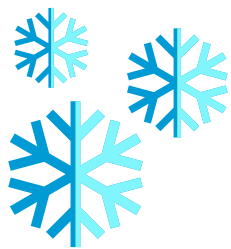
- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 9



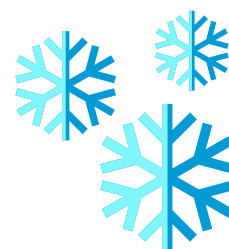
AS THE FATHER HAS **LOVED ME,** SO HAVE I LOVED YOU. NOW REMAIN IN **MY LOVE.**

John 15:9, NIV

COLOR THE BOOKMARK & THEN CUT IT OUT.



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Alice Phillips	1/17	Brad Fincher
1/2	Bob Mann		Brian King
1/3	Hannah Bruick		Harry Koester
	Kara Laughlin	1/20	Pam Lehman
1/5	Steve Soldano		Leeah Reidenbach
1/6	Aarom Emch	1/21	Kay Donaldson
	Don Schuller		Dave Handlin
	Pam Hall	1/25	Bob Shirey
1/8	David Phillips	1/27	Kim Hogan
	Hannah Hagerty		Delaney McGee
	Linda Raichart	1/28	Bonnie Schlegel
1/9	Emery Laughlin		Weldon Baas
	Grace Shelburne		Traci Bruick
1/11	Ralph Traycoff	1/29	Ross Sumney
	Carter Vonderau	1/31	Hank Helmke
1/12	Dave Armstrong		
	Brady Johnson		
	Daniel Koch		
	Jennifer Alfeld		
1/13	Chris James		
1/14	Leslie Ann Engle		
1/16	Boston Baas		
	Doug McNamara		
	Connie Pociech		

ANNIVERSARIES

1/15/2011	Chad & Kris Murphy
1/18/2014	Jack & Wendy Yahne
1/21/1995	Dave & Jenni Sorg
1/26/1981	Steve & Stephanie Paradine

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS

1/5	Available
1/12	Rick & Gay Kirkton
1/19	Brian & Shannon King
1/26	Dot Othersen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Church Office Closed		Pastors' Day Off	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Epiphany (Recognized) 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship/HC	Epiphany 10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 4pm - Upward Sports	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 5:30pm - Gym Reserved Special	9:30am - Bible Study 4pm - Upward Sports	Pastors' Day Off 10am - SM Superv. Conference	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship	10am - Women's Study- 12:30pm - Elders' Meeting-Library 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 4pm - Upward Sports 6:30pm - BOD Mtg.	Newsletter Deadline 9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 12:30pm - "A Walk Through the 5:30pm - Gym Reserved Special	9:30am - Bible Study 4pm - Upward Sports	Pastors' Day Off	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am - Worship 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship/HC	Family Promise Meals Week 10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 4pm - CD Mtg 4pm - Upward Sports	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 5:30pm - Gym Reserved Special	9:30am - Bible Study 4pm - Upward Sports	Pastors' Day Off 10am - SM Superv.	5pm - Upward Sports Celebration
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
NLSW Sundry 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship	10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 12:30pm - "A Walk Through the 1pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 5:30pm - Gym Reserved Special	9:30am - Bible Study	Pastors' Day Off	