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A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A Letter from Pastor Teeple

Dear friends in Christ,

As we step into the month of August, I'm reminded of the words from Lamentations 3:22–23: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (That verse might sounds familiar, because this passage is also where we find the words to the wonderful hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness.")

In the warmth of summer's light and the rhythms of a new season, we are given yet another opportunity to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the mercies of God that are indeed new every morning. August invites us into a season of both gratitude and action—looking back on God's faithfulness and leaning forward into what He is calling us to next.

First, let's look back:

It's hard to believe that it has already been one year since Pastor Jared Rudolph was installed as our Associate Pastor! And what a year it has been. Last summer, the Rudolph family arrived as a trio—this year, we rejoice with them as they are now a family of four, having welcomed sweet baby Hope into the world. We are grateful not only for their growing family, but for the faithful and vibrant ministry Pastor has shared with us this past year!

One year ago, we were also navigating the dust and excitement of our building project. Today, we give thanks that we are fully moved into our new offices, a milestone that represents not just construction completed, but a deeper investment in our mission and ministry together – and especially in our school Wee Creations! Enrollment at Wee Creations is able to host roughly 30 more families because of the expansion!

And speaking of growth, we will also celebrate a remarkable milestone this month: August 26 marks the 42nd anniversary of our congregation. From those first gatherings in Moore's Barn, to the sanctuary we worship in today, God has carried us faithfully. Our story is one of humble beginnings, bold faith, and enduring grace. May we continue to honor that legacy by staying rooted in the Word, devoted in prayer, and joyful in service.

Now, let's look forward:

As a church that seeks to live out our faith, I'm thrilled to announce our servant event on Thursday, August 21, from 12:30–2:30 PM, where we'll be packing meals with Feed My Starving Children in Shipshewana for the third time! This is more than a volunteer opportunity—it's a chance to put our faith into action, to extend God's mercy in a concrete way to those who hunger not just for food, but for hope. Let me encourage you to make time for this. When we serve together, we grow together.

Please read this newsletter with that thought in mind: Where is God calling you to be active in your faith here at Peace and out in the community?

As always, thank you for being a part of this family in Christ. May this month be filled with fresh joy, renewed faith, and open hearts ready to serve! Peace to you all in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jeff Teeple

A Letter from Pastor Rudolph

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who **endured** from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- Hebrews 12:1-3

"Run, Jim! Run!" That was the chant echoing throughout the New Orleans Superdome at the end of each day as we gathered in the stadium of the New Orleans Saints (fitting for a group of 20,000 Christians! Oh how I want to be in *that* number!). Throughout the week, a character in a skit, "Jim" as we found out, learned about what endurance really is and was encouraged by the thousands of high schoolers chanting, "Run, Jim! Run!" A simple illustration, but a great explanation of what it means to ENDURE in the faith as we saw in the theme verses from Hebrews 12. We learned that we ENDURE in these three ways:

- WE ENDURE IN JESUS As Hebrews tells us, Christ is the greatest picture of endurance.
 He experienced many things during His ministry and Passion. He was arrested,
 slandered, beaten, scourged, and crucified. Yet He willingly endured all of these things,
 for the joy that was set before Him. But that "joy" is us! We are the joy set before him, the
 joy of gathering us together in His Church and with Him for eternity! It was for our sake
 that He endured the cross.
- WE ENDURE AS A PEOPLE While the race we run in faith is individual, we are not alone in our faith. Every person must have their own faith and trust in Jesus, but we join together as God's Church, as His body gathered together, to encourage each other and support each other when things get difficult. What does a runner need when that pain starts in their side, or when dehydration starts to set in? They need someone to encourage them, to get them water, and to support them as they look to finish the race! So it is with the church. We gather together physically in worship, first, to receive God's great gifts, but we do it together because it's easier to endure hardship with others encouraging and supporting you through it all!
- WE ENDURE TO THE END No race is survivable unless there is an end goal. Our race as Christians is not over until we reach the shores of heaven itself, either by death or by Jesus's own return. If a runner were to start a race, but not finish, he does not claim the prize set before him, even if he stops just a few feet before the finish line. So it is with our faith. If we are Christians our entire lives but quit before we get to the finish line, we don't receive the prize of heaven. So we need to run our race with our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the person waiting at the finish line waiting to embrace us forever! It is this hope of "the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life of the World to Come" that motivates us to endure to the end.

So run this race with endurance! You are not going through life alone. Endure hardship with Jesus, knowing that He understands and cares for you at all times. Endure together as a Church, encouraging one another. Come to worship and bear each others' burdens. And Endure to the end, knowing that the prize of eternal life in Christ is worth enduring until we reach the goal.

Pastor Jared Rudolph

Dear Peace Family,

We are standing at the threshold of something truly special!

Three years ago, we stepped out in faith together, launching a capital campaign to support the future of our ministry and mission. And now, as we enter the final months of 2025, we find ourselves in the home stretch – closer than ever to realizing a long-held dream.



Recently, our church received a stunning gift: \$250,000 from a family outside of our congregation who believes deeply in the future of the ministries of Peace. Because of that gift, our future mortgage hasbeen reduced to just \$118,376!

Can we take a moment to let that sink in? From where we started with a building project of \$3.5 million... to here? It is absolutely amazing! **God has been so faithful – and so have you!**

And there's more: Based on current pledges, we expect to receive another \$40,000 by year's end. That would leave us with just \$78,376 remaining on our future mortgage.

That's within reach. That's a milestone we can meet – together.

Just imagine: entering 2026 completely mortgage-free. No debt. Just wide-open opportunity to invest in ministry, mission, and the next chapter of God's work through this church. If you've been waiting for the right time to give – or feel led to make a final pledge or one-time contribution – this is it. Maybe it's a stretch. Maybe it's a leap of faith. But whatever you're able to give – large or small – it brings us closer.

You are part of a story that's bigger than a building. It's about lives changed, faith deepened, and a community rooted in hope. Thank you for every prayer, every sacrifice, and every step you've taken with us.

Let's finish this journey strong – and begin the next one with hearts full of praise! With deep gratitude and great expectation,

Kristin McGee

Business Administrator



Our revenue has been consistently over budget this year while we have been able to keep our expenses under budget. We are still recording a loss year-to-date, but the loss is not as great as we anticipated. These numbers do not include gifts that have been given to various funds, ministries or the capital campaign/mortgage reduction. Thank you all for your FAITHFUL giving!!



HOSPITALITY SIGN-UP

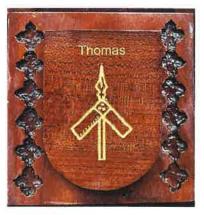
A Sign-up sheet is available for those interested in providing snacks between Sunday worship services for the fall/winter season. We are looking for approximately four dozen cookies, doughnuts or coffee cake by 8:45am each week, starting September 7.

The sign-up sheet may be found in the kitchen serving window.

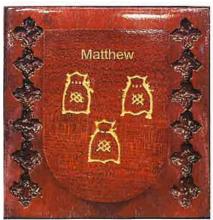
THE OLD SANCTUARY CROSS: The Shields of St. Thomas and St. Matthew

St. Thomas is often remembered for his moment of doubt following Christ's resurrection—but his story is one of deep faith and commitment. His shield reflects this journey and typically features a spear and a builder's square, both rich in meaning.

The spear represents the traditional account of St. Thomas's martyrdom, as he is believed to have been killed by a spear while preaching the Gospel in India. The builder's square symbolizes his role in helping to build the early Church, and according to legend, his skill in architecture and building was used during his missionary work.



Together, the elements of St. Thomas's shield tell a story of transformation: from doubt to bold belief, and from questioning to unwavering mission. For us today, the shield of St. Thomas is a reminder that faith can grow even through uncertainty, and that God can use our gifts—whatever they may be—for His purpose in the world.



St. Matthew is remembered through his shield that features three purses or money bags, a direct reference to his occupation as a tax collector before he was called by Jesus to become a disciple.

At first glance, the image of money bags may seem out of place among symbols of faith—but for Matthew, they tell a powerful story of transformation. As someone once focused on wealth and worldly gain, his encounter with Christ marked a turning point. Leaving his old life behind, he embraced a new mission: to follow Jesus and later share the Gospel as one of its first writers.

St. Matthew's shield reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. It symbolizes repentance, redemption, and the call of God, encouraging us all to reflect on the ways Christ can transform our lives, too.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our outreach ministry by supplying food, cleaning supplies, transportation of meals, donations of money, and prayers last month! We received 2 thank you notes:

"Thank you for the meals that you make for us! Your support is greatly appreciated. Bless You!" Angel Wilkins Family Promise of Branch County

"Thank you so very much, the meal was really good! God Bless!"

Michele Ann & Kaden

Our next opportunity to serve will be the week of September 22. Please contact Connie Sweeney at (260)665-5146 with any questions.

Grief Share



What is Grief Share?

For over 25 years, GriefShare has been helping people find comfort after the loss of a loved one.

GriefShare is a 13-week program to help those discover what to expect and what is "normal" in grief. This support group also teaches helpful ways of coping with grief in a safe and welcoming environment.

Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting GriefShare classes:

Every Tuesday, starting August 12-October 28 4:00pm-5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns regarding GriefShare or would like to pre-register, please contact Luanne Haupt or the church office.



Thank you to everyone who sent cards and prayed for me during my recent surgery for kidney cancer. I am currently cancer free and doing well.

God is good! Stan Sweeney



HEARTS OF MERCY AND COMPASSION



Another baptism was celebrated at Peace on July 6th. On behalf of the congregation, the Hearts of Mercy & Compassion (HMC) team gifted a Heart to Jese Jene Mann, son of Andrew and Brianna Mann. This Heart symbolizes love, hope and God's saving grace. It was a beautiful expression of faith and a touching reminder of the new life we have in Christ!

CHAIR YOGA

Wednesday afternoons 12:30pm-1:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can improve flexibility, decrease stress, and reduce joint strain.

Chair Yoga continues through the end of August. The suggested fee for each class is what you can afford up to \$5. Additionally, items will be collected at each class for donation to the Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary. See Jessica Durham with any questions.



We will once again be a part of a Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack Event on Thursday, August 21, 2025 from 12:30-2:30. Volunteers will head to Michiana Event Center in Shipshewana and pack nutritious meals specifically designed to assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition. We will take the church bus for those who desire transportation. Any questions please see Pastor Teeple.

Sign-up sheet is available on the information desk in the East Lobby.

Zoom Bible Study Summer "Reunion"



In July, some of the participants of our Wednesday morning Zoom Bible Study were able to gather together in person! One of our participants, who lives in Missouri, was passing through our area and we spent time catching up and praying together!

Our group began meeting on our computers during the pandemic in 2020

and have continued faithfully for five years. Needless to say, it was wonderful to be in the same room with each other!

If you would like to be a part of this special group, we would love to have you join! We will be starting again in the fall after Labor Day.

New Notecards Available

"I See You" Project

Have you ever wanted to acknowledge someone for an act of kindness? Or wanted to praise them for going out of their way? Peace is excited to announce the "I See You" project, to help you do just that!

In conjunction with the current Card Ministry, this project provides small note cards where our members can send a quick note to someone, in recognition of Christian love and service. These cards may be found on the information desk in the East Lobby. Simply pick a card, write a note, and then share it with the person!

Worship Invites

Peace now has worship invitations available. Feel free to use these cards to invite friends, family, and strangers to join you in worship!

These cards will be available beside the "I See You" project cards, located on the information desk.







In the summer of 2025, your Stephen Ministry leaders have been sharing the many areas in which Stephen Ministers can walk along side of you as you pass through a difficult period in your life. It doesn't have to be a "crisis," although they are prepared and trained to do that, too. We are here for any changes in your life that temporarily need some time to adjust, with someone who has a pair of listening ears and an open heart. All with the promise of strict confidentiality.

Here are areas which might apply to you:

- Vocational change
- •Retirement
- Relocation
- ·Change in living arrangements
- Financial Difficulties
- Bankruptcy
- Mortgage issues
- Increased expenses on a fixed income

Please call one of us and find out further information how a Stephen Minister could be just the support you might need in one of these areas above or those listed in the June/July newsletter.

Your Stephen Minister Leadership Team Pastor Jeff Teeple, Rick Kirton, Ellen Luepke





Peace contributes monthly to the Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary through the donations of members. There is a large blue bucket that sits underneath the mailboxes; that bucket is our donation bin for the Food Co-Op. Please consider donating each month!

While all donations are welcome anytime, August will focus on lunch items such as:

- peanut butter
- jelly
- applesauce
- pudding cups
- raisins
- fruit snacks

snack crackers such as Goldfish or Teddy Grahams



DOVE Tales

He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Psalm 104:19 ESV

Hi everyone!

I hope you enjoyed your long summer nights!

Maybe you saw me at church or Lake James

Chapel, at the Healthy Hamilton event, or visiting

Walmart. I also went to see EMS first responders
and dispatchers. Everyone showered me with love!



At Cameron Hospital a lady sat on her walker seat for 20 minutes so we could visit. Another patient said she could make it through the afternoon after our time together. Even the employees are always happy to see me. Look for my stuffy at the hospital's check-in desk!

Autumn is just around the corner and new adventures await. Super long days are getting shorter now and I'll soon be visiting schools again. Here are some pictures from my summer photo album – enjoy!

Love,

Dove







Seasonal Affective Disorder: It's Not Just the 'Winter Blues'

Article information from:

https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/forefront/health-and-wellness-articles/seasonal-affective-disorder-how-to-spot-and-treat-the-winter-blues

If the shorter, darker days of winter seem to trigger a change in your mood and energy levels, you may call it a case of the "winter blues". But winter is not the only season that can leave people feeling blue.

The medical term for winter blues is seasonal affective disorder (SAD). It's a type of depression prompted by a change in seasons — mainly fall and winter — when we experience less daylight and sunshine. It affects as many as 5 percent of people in the United States each year. While SAD is most commonly associated with the fall and winter months, it can also occur in the summer. Known as summer-pattern SAD, triggers may include factors like excessive heat, longer daylight hours, or disrupted sleep patterns.

Fortunately, there are easy steps you can take to make the dark days brighter at any time of year, including lifestyle changes, medication and therapeutic treatments.

Self-care tips to protect against summertime sadness

- While sunlight and warm temperatures can give us a quick mood boost, make sure that
 you stay cool on particularly hot days and during increased humidity. If you notice that
 you're becoming more irritable or agitated find an air conditioned environment and
 regulate your temperature when you need to.
- While you may feel pressure to socialize during the summer, know your limits and say no to uncomfortable or unwanted situations and events.
- Stay active by exercising. But if it's too hot to exercise outdoors, consider taking a brisk walk indoors or when the sun goes down.
- It's important that you try to maintain schedules and routines that support your mental health and wellness. Prioritize your sleep schedule and overall quality of sleep.

Diet, exercise and self-care tips for managing SAD year-round

- Eat proteins (meats, lentils, eggs, chicken, fish) to increase serotonin and tryptophan levels, along with high-fiber foods (such as oats, bran, broccoli, avocados and nuts). An essential amino acid, tryptophan helps make serotonin
- Exercise regularly to boost endorphins and decrease symptoms of SAD.
- Get your vitamin D levels checked. Vitamin D helps with mood, concentration and focus; it is depleted by lack of sunlight.

Throughout the summer, we often feel like our normal routines are flipped upside down; kids are out of school, events and activities increase. We still have to work or go to school. Information source found at The University of Chicago Medicine website.

If you are having thoughts of suicide, seek help immediately. Go to your nearest emergency room or call 988 to reach the <u>988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline</u> (previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline). You can also text HOME to 741741, where a volunteer from the <u>Crisis Text Line</u> will assist you in getting help.

WEE CREATIONS NEWSLETTER

4TH OF JULY FUN!

Wee Creations children celebrated the 4th of July last month by creating fun themed decorations and fireworks handprint art.

FIELD TRIPS

Green Room students enjoyed several field trips over the past few weeks. They were able to visit the buffalo farm, and saw two shows based on popular children's books at Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, MI.

WATER PLAY

Staff and children of WCM were able to beat the heat this summer with several water play days. Children kept cool by enjoying outdoor water games and playing at water tables.

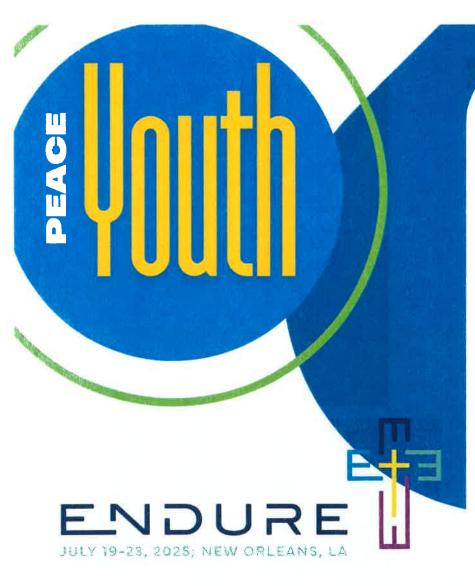










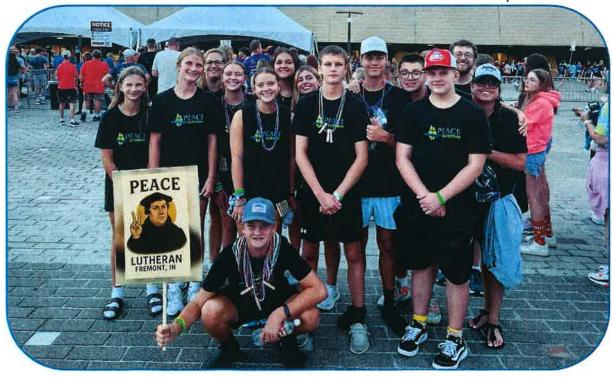


National Youth Gathering

Peace Lutheran Youth members left at the end of July for the National Youth Gathering held at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, LA. This five day event took place July 19-23.

The Gathering brought together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. It also provided young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equipped them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

Eleven Peace youth were in attendance. Amber Vonderau, Sara Miller, and Pastor Rudolph served as chaperones.















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

We welcome you to join us for our Worship Services

Sunday

Monday

8:00am

6:30pm

10:00am

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.

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
Amber Vonderau - amber@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 the secretary and she 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



BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Dean Meridew	8/19	Kay Schulz
	Gail Rhoades	8/20	Kara Frastaci
	Jackie Richter	8/22	Joyce Schuller
8/2	Peter Keck		Jennifer Shirey
	Bruce McAfee		Daryl Fortuna
8/4	Dave Clary	8/23	Owen Ross
8/5	Delores Ward		John Hartman
8/6	Dyer Ball	8/25	Thom Horton
8/8	Donna Burkholder	8/27	Jim Miller
	Rod Olson		Linda Emch
8/9	Adam Brown	8/28	Ken Frenger
8/10	Judy Hieber	8/29	Marie Lahnum
	Rick Hanke	8/30	James Ross
	Alex Lahnum		Aiden Koch
8/14	Jerry Lake		

Donna Cooper

Maddie Toigo

8/16 Shirley Etzler

ALTAR FLOWERS 8/3 Jim & Missy Thiele

8/3 Jim & Missy Thiele 8/10 Don & Ellen Luepke

8/17 Bert & Kay Shulz

8/24 Mark & Jean Bienz

8/31 Cindy Wiebke; Shirley Etzler

ANNIVERSARIES

8/1/1965 Al & Inge Hermann
8/1/1998 Jon & Sarah Koch
8/4/1979 Jeff & Cindy Wilson
8/6/1966 Don & Ellen Luepke
8/6/1966 Ralph & Diana Traycoff
8/7/1993 Dave & Michelle Armstrong
8/8/1964 Fred & Bonnie Schlegel
8/11/1979 Andrew & Chris Goeglein
8 /14/1998 Dan & Marla Toigo
8/14/1999 Curt & Kelly Shelburne
8/14/2010 Jeff & Cathy Frastaci
8/14/2010 Bill & Roxanne Metzger
8/14/1977 Tom & Sandy Crabill
8/15/1981 Bruce & Carol McAfee
8/21/1965 Bert & Kay Schulz
8/23/1964 George & Anne Griffith
8/23/1969 Mike & Leslie Carr
8/23/1986 Mark & Jean Bienz
8/27/2005 Adam & Ashley Brown
8/27/1960 Ken & Kay Donaldson
8/29/1989 Phil & Barbara Ellis
8/29/2009 Shane & Hilary Ross
8/30/2002 Terry & Leslie Engle

	Church
2025	Lutheran
August	Peace

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FR ID AY	SATUR DAY
					1 Pastors'Day Off	2
3 8:00am Worship 10:00am Worship/HC	4 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship/HC	5 10:00am WCM Chapel	6 9:30am Sewing Sisters 12:30pm Chair Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball	7	8 Pastors' Day Off 10:00am SM Supervision	6
10 8:00am Worship/HC 10:00am Worship	11 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship	12 10:00am WCM Chapel 4:00pm GriefShare 6:30pm BOD mtg	13 9:30am Sewing Sisters 12:30pm Chair Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball	14	15 Pastors' Day Off	16
17 8:00am Worship 10:00am Worship/HC	18 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship/HC	19 10:00am WCM Chapel 4:00pm CD mtg 4:00pm GriefShare	20 9:30am Sewing Sisters 12:30pm Chair Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball	21 12:30pm Feed My Starving Children	22 Pastors' Day Off 10:00am SM Supervision	23
24 8:00am Worship/HC 10:00am Worship	25 5:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Worship	26 Peace Anniversary 1983 10:00am WCM Chapel 4:00pm GriefShare	27 9:30am Sewing Sisters 12:30pm Chair Yoga 4:30pm Pickleball	28	29 Pastors' Day Off	30
31 8:00am Worship 10:00am Worship						