Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with

My righteous right hand.





355 E. State Road 120 Fremont, IN 46737 (260) 495-4306 www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

A LETTER FROM PASTOR RUDOLPH

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him...Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! - Psalm 98:1, 4

Recently, our Synod President, Matthew Harrison, gave this proclamation to the church: "...Whereas Lutheran education is built upon Christ and His Gospel, and we are confident in the knowledge that through His Word, Jesus is present in every classroom, guiding students and staff in truth and love; therefore, be it-

Resolved, that we use this celebration to renew our gratitude, reignite our mission and remind us of the joy we have in Jesus; and be it finally

Resolved, that January 25-31, 2026, be officially proclaimed as National Lutheran Schools Week in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Our church body is proud to be one of the leaders in Christian education around the country. The LCMS is the second-largest system of Christian schools in the United States, following only the Catholic school system. We Lutherans operate over 1,800 Lutheran schools around the United States with over 140,000 students. Our own Wee Creations is one of the many Early Childhood Centers which support 828 Elementary Schools and 97 High Schools. Additionally, we have many Lutheran Elementary Schools right here in NE Indiana, but the closest one to Peace is St. John Lutheran School in Kendallville, IN. We, here at Peace, are blessed to join in this great tradition of support for Lutheran Education! As you will read later in this newsletter, I hope you recognize that the staff of Wee Creations does incredible work and delivers God's great Gospel of Salvation to many children and families of our community (just look at the amazing numbers in the Wee Creations article!). To embrace this mission of OURS and to support OUR very own Lutheran School in its work of the Gospel, we will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week in a joyous fashion on January 25th!

In our regular worship services, we will take some time to thank God for the great ministry done right here in our own church building by praying for our teachers and staff, for the children and families, and for God to expand the impact of our school ministry through our work with the families who are enrolled with us now. But as Psalm 98 begins, let us also consider singing "a new song" as well, by looking at creative and innovative many ways we might expand our impact on these children and families while they are here AND after their kids have graduated Preschool.

Christian education is not just meant to end at four years old. God intends that we continue to learn and grow in faith toward Him throughout our lives, even into adulthood. So as our ministry at Wee Creations ends at age four, let us also give thanks for our Sunday School, which seeks to bring God's great Gospel to kids in grades K-12 and consider ways we can expand education ministry to children in elementary, middle, and high school as well. No matter what your experience is with Lutheran Education, let us give thanks for what it intends to do: to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, to all people so that they too may know the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ, just as we do!

Pastor Jared Rudolph



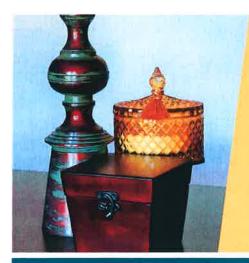
THOUGHTS AND MUSINGS FROM AN AGING PASTOR

While being a part-time pastor for about 20 years, I was a CPA in Fort Wayne for almost 50 years. From January until April 15, I prepared many tax returns, small business and personal. Almost every year I would have a client or two who were very upset with their parents because the parents never got around to preparing a will and other documents which would transfer their assets to the children with little assistance. Unless you have been in that situation you have no idea of the cost and time consuming process.

In addition to having those documents in one place, make sure your children can find the various things you want them to have. I have a place where, hopefully, I have everything my daughter needs to know upon my death. This information in one place is in regards to the funeral home, all the important people with their phone numbers, all of the passwords to my computer and phone, copies of my will and other related documents. I'm sure that I have forgotten something and if I think of it, I'll continue to add it to the pile.

If you really want to help your children, this is something you really need to do. God is going to call one or more of us home and I want you to make things simple for your heirs. If you need help from an attorney to do these things, we can refer you to a trusted attorney from our membership. I would also be happy to assist you in this endeavor.

Pastor Don Wunrow



MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP NOTICE

We will not resume formal Monday evening worship for the months of January and February.

Even though we are pausing formal worship during the season of Epiphany, communion will be made available on Monday, January 19 and Monday, February 2, at 6:30pm.

See below for more details!



"BACK TO THE BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101" NEW BIBLE CLASS

Why can we baptize babies? Why do we only commune at Lutheran churches? What questions do you have about God but never asked?

Starting Monday, January 12 until Lent, Pastor Rudolph will be offering a new class from 5:30pm-6:30pm called "Back to the Basics: Christianity 101" for non-members, long-time

members, and everyone in between! Whether you have been a Christian forever or whether you are new to Christianity, this will be a perfect place to (re)learn what Christianity is all about!

This study will take place of formal Monday evening worship for the months of January and February. Communion will be served after class on Monday, January 19 and Monday, February 2. Bring your questions, bring a friend, and be ready to dive into God's Word!



Congregational Meeting Scheduled

The board of Peace Lutheran Church is calling for a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 4, between the two worship services. The purpose of this meeting is to have a congregational vote to call for a pastor since Pastor Teeple has taken a call to Germany. The call committee has already been busy with

some for the preparatory and foundational work to begin this process. At the January meeting, the pastoral job description and nomination forms will be available to review and consider.

Also starting January 4, the congregation is invited to participate in a self-assessment survey as a step in the pastoral call process. The survey will be available for approximately three weeks and all members are requested to complete the survey online. An offline option will be available. The data will be collected by the English District and is considered an important tool of the call process. Survey data results will be shared with our congregation during a future visit from Pastor Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop and Mission Executive.

More details will be made available at the January 4 congregational meeting.



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

We will be holding Men's and Women's Bible studies in between Sunday worship services during the Epiphany!

Men will meet in the Conference room (Pastor Teeple's old office) and women will meet in the Library. These studies will take place between worship services, at 9:15am, in place of the Adult Bible class. See Mary Anne Hibbard or Scott Miller for details.

Calling all High Schoolers! We will be having an informational meeting for our 8th-12th grade youth and their parents to present a new opportunity here at Peace. Our Youth Service Team will be going on a weeklong trip in Summer 2026 to engage our faith and serves our neighbors! If you or a high-school youth in your family would be



interested, please come and bring them for this parent AND youth meeting after the 10:30am service on January 11! This is the SAME date, but a NEW time, so please let other youth and parents know about the time change. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Rudolph.



The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is up in the West Lobby next to the mailboxes. It is not too late to sign up as there are still several Sundays still available. Cost is \$40. Not able to be at church? Contact Carol Gepfert, or the church office to sign up.



Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped beautify the church for the Advent season. Your hard work, time, and creativity are very much appreciated!



Wee Creations Ministry Wish Tree

Located just outside Miss Sara's office door, along the East side of the Fellowship Hall, is the Wee Creations Wish Tree.

Each room made color-coded tags for items they would like for their class. If you would like to give a gift to a classroom, please feel free to take a tag from the tree. Unwrapped gift item and tag may be returned to the office.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Peace Mortgage Update



Three years ago, we were wrapping up the rollout of our Capital Campaign for the building project and pledges and contributions were coming in. Two years ago, we were finalizing and signing paperwork to obtain our construction loan (and panicking because a superintendent we just met told us he was going to

put a fence up and block off the east parking lot TWO DAYS before Christmas Eve!).

The first week of January 2024, we broke ground on a \$3.5 million building expansion and a project that was expected to take a year from start to finish was completed in just under

9 months! As our three-year campaign concluded, we were left with a principal balance that we were able to pay off before the end of 2025!

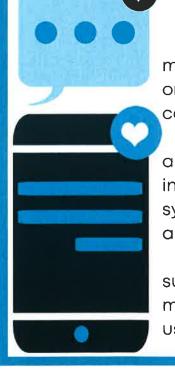
We are entering the new year **MORTGAGE-FREE! GOD IS GOOD!**

SUBSPLASH®

We have exciting news to share! We are in the process of moving from several different platforms such as ShareFaith online giving, Constant Contact, and Wordpress, to a new consolidated system called Subsplash.

Subsplash provides a better, smoother and easier experience and allows the church to save money in the long run! You will see in the next few weeks, changes to our mass communication system, such as text alerts and weekly e-news, and our website, allowing for a better communication experience.

We are grateful for you and your continued participation and support of Peace Lutheran Church. We look forward to sharing more updates and details with you in the near future. Please let us know if you have any questions!



Family Promise

Family Promise is an organization located in Coldwater, Michigan that provides housing, meals, and

other vital services to homeless women, children and families. Working with the community and area churches, Family Promise aims to prevent and end homelessness by helping them achieve sustainable independence.

In 2024 they served 32 individuals, 14 children, and 25 families. 100% of their clients exited to secured permanent housing. I look forward to sharing the 2025 stats once they are available.

Peace Lutheran helps to provide residents with meals every other month. Our next opportunity to serve will be the week of January 19th. Look for the signup sheets on the information desk if you would like to contribute to these meals. Contact Connie Sweeney with any questions (260-665-5146).

Thank you. Sewing Sisters!

This past December, Peace Lutheran's Sewing Sisters were able to provide 78 quilts to be distributed through Lutheran Social Services of Fort Wayne.

Thank you, Sewing Sisters, for all your hard work to provide these warm and loving gifts!





Help save a life.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



Peace Lutheran Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 21 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.



Operation Christmas Child Update

Peace Lutheran Church and Wee Creations packed 124 shoeboxes and collected an additional 1,303 shoeboxes in 2025 for Operation Christmas Child!

Peace began packing shoeboxes in 2006 and has served the community as an area collection center ever since. Over the past 20 years, Peace

collects approximately 1,300 shoeboxes each season. The most we have collected was in 2016, with 2,158 boxes. Once these boxes leave our church, they are taken to a regional facility, where they are forwarded on to the national distribution center and then handed out worldwide.

Operation Christmas Child distribute boxes at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. These shoeboxes serve as a tangible expression of God's love to children.

(Special thanks to Donna Biddle for Peace's shoebox statistics!)



Blessing Boxes

Located just inside the entrance of our west parking lot, these blessing boxes serve as a small scale, outside self-serve food pantry.

Items in the boxes are available to anyone struggling with hunger or food insecurity. Items may be taken anonymously and without judgement or cost. If you, or someone you know, are challenged by an over-stretched grocery budget, we encourage you to stop by and take all that you need to see you through.

The blessing boxes also provide a special opportunity to serve others in our community. You are welcome to place non-perishable

food items inside the boxes at anytime. Donation items may also be place in the boxes at anytime. Donation items may also be placed in the designated basket under the mailboxes in the West Lobby.

Popular items in the Blessing Boxes include:

- · mac and cheese
- instant mashed potatoes or dry pasta
- snack crackers, like Goldfish and Cheez-Its
- breakfast cereal
- creamy peanut butter

Please note: no glass containers or jars, as these may break in colder weather.







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





Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study

We look forward to resuming our Thursday morning Adult Bible Study on Thursday, January 8, at 9:30am.

LERT: It's about service, not disasters!

Our Disaster Response team would like to invite all interested members to a formation meeting on **Tuesday**, **January 6**, **at 4:30pm**, here at Peace. We will be talking about what ways this group can help individuals and organizations across our church and community NOW, even in peaceful times before disaster strikes.

If you would like to be involved in a group focused on helping the people of our church and community with various tasks and service projects, please join us! You do not need to be LERT trained to attend. You only need to be interested in serving people in need! Please see Pastor Rudolph for details or questions.



Men's Bible Breakfast Saturday, January 10

Saturaay, January 10 8:00am

Peace Fellowship Hall

All men are welcome to attend breakfast, which will be followed by a short Bible study.

CHAIR YOGA

Wednesday afternoons 12:30pm-1:30pm Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

We look forward to resuming Chair Yoga on January 7!

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

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.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

Why the name Stephen?

In Acts 6, Stephen was among those chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since Jesus' time, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with



What does the Stephen Ministry logo mean?

The Stephen Ministry logo represents a care receiver's journey from brokenness toward wholeness through the cross of Jesus. In this way, it illustrates "Christ caring for people through people."

caring ministry skills by your Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

In what types of situations do Stephen Ministers provide care?

Stephen Ministers provide care to individuals facing difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles.

How does Stephen Ministry benefit our Pastor?

Stephen Ministry supports our pastor by deepening, expanding, and extending the caring capacity of our church. A team of Stephen Ministers, along with Pastor Rudolph, provides ongoing care for more people than the pastor could provide alone. This also frees our pastor to invest more time in other important ministry areas.

Who should I talk to if someone I know, or myself, is hurting and is in need of care?

Of course, *Pastor Rudolph* is always a person to talk to, but our Stephen Leaders are always available as well to help explain the process of receiving care. *Ellen Luepke* and *Rick Kirkton* can answer any questions regarding receiving spiritual and emotional care.



Please join us Saturday, January 31, from 5:30pm-7:00pm for Peace's first "Merciful Mamas" gathering!

We welcome all moms, from those trying to conceive to empty nesters and anyone in between. It will be a time of prayer, fellowship, and devotion as we share the joys and struggles of our journey.

This event will take place in the gymnasium from 5:30-7pm and will include a kid-friendly meal. If you don't have childcare available, volunteers from our congregation will be available to watch the kiddos for fun time in the gym. Please see Kelley Smith or Tirzah Rudolph for more details!

DOVE Tales

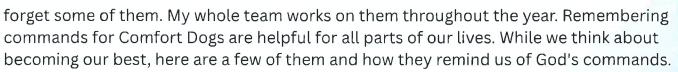
And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 ESV

Happy New Year, all my friends!

Gee, last year flew about as fast as snowflakes I try to catch before they melt (I hope you've enjoyed the snow as much as I have)! Did you make resolutions?

Mine is to work on obeying my commands. I almost



Come: I run to my handler.

Matthew 11:28 ESV- "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

With me: I walk patiently with my handler.

John 8:12 ESV- "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Wait: I don't move until I'm given a new command.

Lamentations 3:25 ESV- "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him."

Dress: I get my collar and vest on to go to work.

Ephesians 6:11 ESV- "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Think of me when you work on your resolutions and may they bring you closer to God. Let's compare how we're doing when I see you at church!

Love, Dove

PS: Come join Team Dove. Email Stephanie Paradine at comfortdog@plcms.org



SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

from the NATIONAL INSTITUTE of MENTAL HEALTH

https://www.nimh.nih.gov/sites/default/files/documents/health/publications/seasonal-affective-disorder-508.pdf

WHAT IS SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER?

Many people go through short periods when they feel sad or unlike their usual selves. Sometimes, these mood changes begin and end when the seasons change. Many people feel "down" or have the "winter blues" when the days get shorter in the fall and winter and feel better in the spring when longer daylight hours return.

Sometimes, these mood changes are more serious and can affect how a person feels, thinks, and behaves. If you have noticed significant changes in your mood and behavior when the seasons change, you may be experiencing seasonal affective disorder (SAD). In most cases, SAD symptoms start in the late fall or early winter and go away during the spring and summer, known as winter-pattern SAD or winter depression.

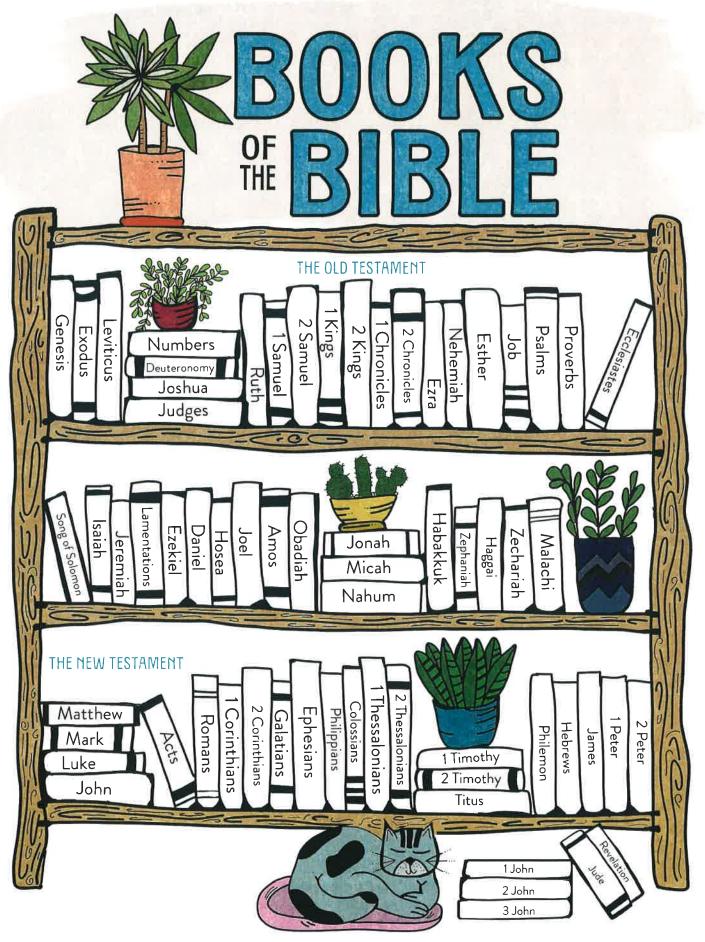
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SAD?

The signs and symptoms of SAD include those associated with depression. Not every person with SAD experiences all the symptoms listed below but can include:

- Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" mood most of the day, nearly every day, for at least 2 weeks
- · Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- Feelings of irritability, frustration, or restlessness
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- · Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities
- Decreased energy, fatigue, or feeling slowed down
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions
- Changes in sleep or appetite or unplanned weight changes
- Physical aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not have a clear physical cause and do not go away with treatment
- Oversleeping (hypersomnia)
- · Overeating, particularly with a craving for carbohydrates, leading to weight gain
- Social withdrawal (feeling like "hibernating")

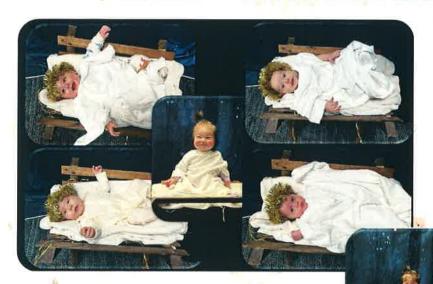
HOW IS SAD TREATED?

Treatments are available to help people with SAD. They fall into four main categories that can be used alone or in combination: light therapy, counseling, antidepressant medication, Vitamin D. It is helpful to discuss a personalized treatment plan with a health care provider. A healthcare provider can help you decide not only the best treatment option but the best timing to help prevent SAD depressive episodes.





2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



OUR BABIES
JESUS

Our Wee Creations Christmas Program was a big hit! We have seven classrooms now and our four older classrooms participated this year (51 children ages two through five). We were blessed that the weather cooperated! The children did a wonderful job telling the Christmas story to our guests. Pastor counted 291 family members in attendance! We filled the church to capacity!



OUR TODDLER BARNYARD



2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



OUR TODDLER ANGELS

OUR BARNYARD ANIMALS





OUR CHOIR OF ANGELS



2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



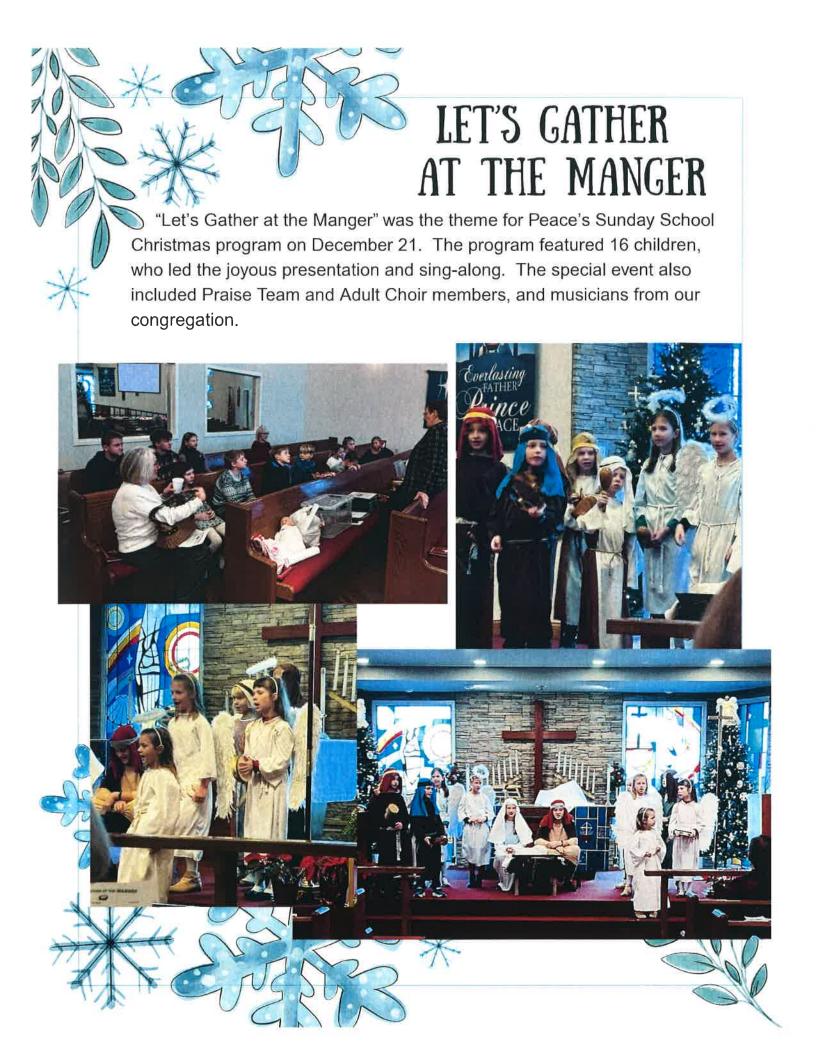


OUR NATIVITY CREW









Peace Resources

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION
CHURCH PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306
OFFICE EXTENSIONS:

Secretary- 301

Pastor Jared Rudolph- 303

Kristin McGee- 304

Wee Creations Office- 305

Church Service Hours-321

We welcome you to join us for our Sunday Worship Services 8:00am & 10:30am

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jared Rudolph - PastorRudolph@plcms.org
Sara Miller - Director@weecreations.org
Kristin McGee - Admin@plcms.org
Emily Disbro - secretary@plcms.org
Stephanie Paradine - 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 Secretary Emily 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

1/1 Alice Phillips 1/17 **Brad Fincher Bob Mann** 1/2 Brian King Hannah Bruick 1/3 Harry Koester Kara Laughlin 1/20 Pam Lehman 1/5 Steve Soldano Leeah Reidenbach Courtney Tuttle 1/21 Kay Donaldson 1/6 Aaron Emch Dave Handlin Don Schuller 1/25 Bob Shirey Pam Hall 1/27 Kim Hogan 1/8 David Phillips Delaney McGee Hannah Hagerty 1/28 Bonnie Schlegel Linda Raichart Weldon Baas 1/9 **Emery Laughlin** Traci Bruick Grace Shelburne 1/29 Ross Sumney 1/11 Ralph Traycoff Carter Vonderau

1/12 Dave Armstrong
Brady Johnson
Daniel Koch
Jennifer Alfeld

1/13 Chris James1/14 Leslie Ann Engle

1/16 Boston Baas

Doug McNamara

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



January 2026

SU ND AY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	F RID AY	SATURDAY
				1 WCM Church office closed	2 closed	3 9:00am Handbells
4 Epiphany 8:00am	5 NO Worship today 10:00am	6 10:00am WCM Chapel	7 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am ZOOM Bible Study	8 9:30am	9 10:00am Stephen Ministry	10 8:00am Men's Bible
Worship/HC 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship/HC	Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Scouts	4:30pm LERT Info Mtg 5:00pm Upward- Gym	12:30pm Chair Yoga 12:30pm Through the Bible Study 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Upward- Gym	Supervision	Breakfast
8:00am Worship/HC 9:15am SS/BC 10:30am Worship 11:30am Youth Group	10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Back to Basics Study 5:30pm Scouts	13 10:00am WCM Chapel 5:00pm Upward- Gym	9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am ZOOM Bible Study 12:30pm Chair Yoga 6:00pm Handbells	9:30am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Upward- Gym	16	17
8:00am Worship 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship/HC	19 Family Promise Mea 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Back to Back to Basics Study/H C 5:30pm Scouts	10:00am WCM Chapel 4:30pm CD mtg 5:00pm Upward- Gym	7:00pm Adult Choir 219:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am ZOOM Bible Study 12:30pm Chair Yoga 12:30pm Through the Bible Study 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	9:30am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Upward- Gym	Supervision	24
8:00am Worship/HC 9:00am SS/BC-9:15am 10:30am Worship	26 National Lutheran Solutional Lutheran Solutional Lutheran Solution Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Back to Basics Study 5:30pm Scouts	27 hools Week 10:00am WCM Chapel	28 9:30am Sewing Sisters 10:00am ZOOM Bible Study 12:30pm Chair Yoga 1:00pm Blood Drive 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	9:30am Adult Bible Study	30	5:30pm Merciful Mamas Mtg