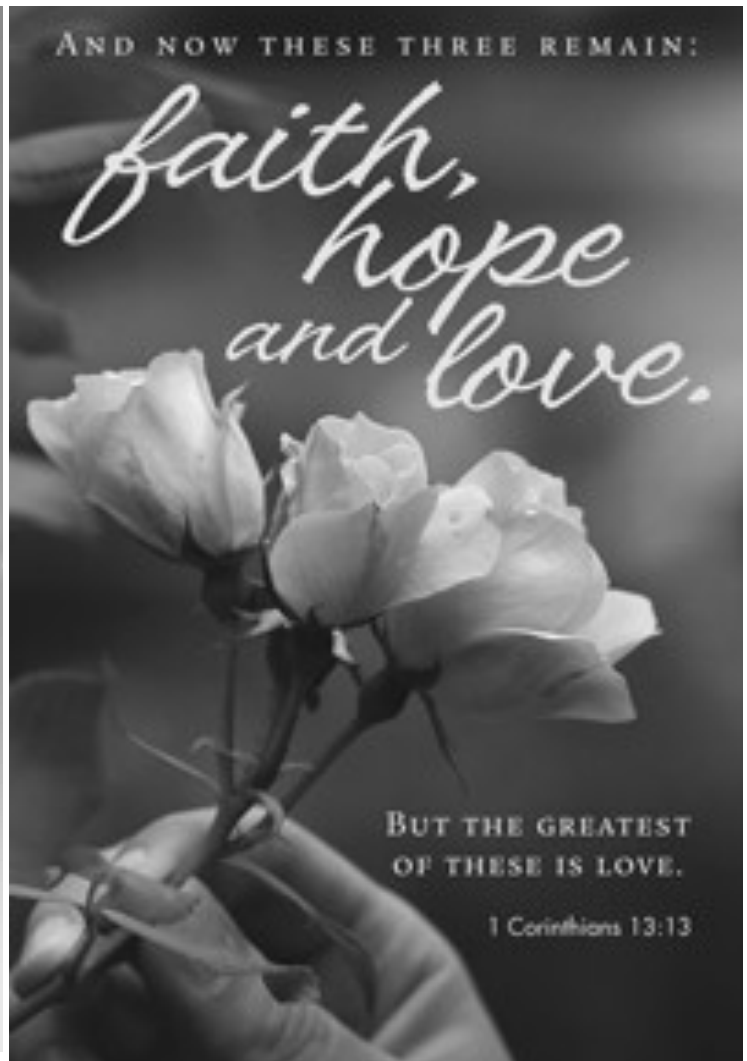
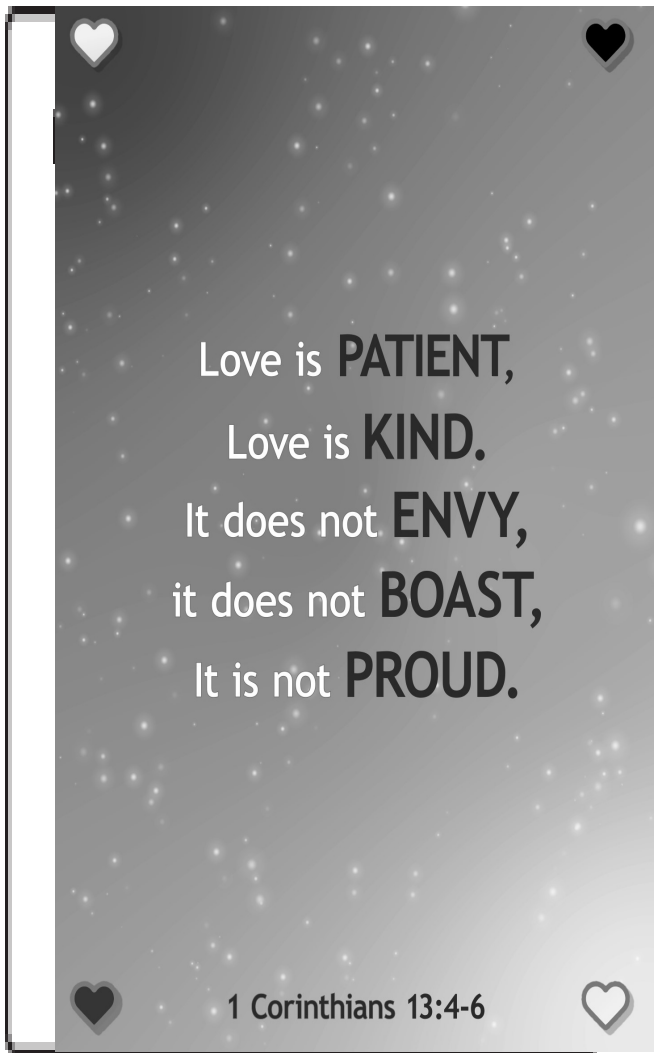




PRINTS OF PEACE

February 2021

Sow the seed in Word and deed; lead and feed and give heed to human need.



The Prints of Peace newsletter is published monthly by:

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This is your newsletter. We welcome all your comments, criticism, letters, articles, questions and whatever else you might have for the newsletter. We would like to thank all those who have contributed articles and who shared their time for this month's issue.



Lent: The “I Give Up” Season

Dear brothers and sister in Christ!

It seems it wasn't that long ago we were celebrating the appearance of our Lord as the Child of Bethlehem laying in a manger. Those were amazing times as we “pondered in our hearts” the testimony of the eye-witnesses concerning all that was revealed about His coming into the world as the God/man. We would like to live in those days every day. They are days of Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope for all.

The Liturgical Calendar nevertheless keeps marching on from Advent, through Christmas, and into Epiphany. And now we are ready to delve into the season of self-examination in the light of Christ who has been revealed to us.

Lent is that time of year marked by various traditions which have sprung up over time. Some have been greatly hampered by the current pandemic. Gathering for fellowship means have tended to fall by the wayside. Even the mid-week worship itself, specifically designed to prepare our hearts for Good Friday and beyond, have fallen onto hard times with attendance being less and less each year. But some traditions remain, such as the giving up of meat on Fridays. This has given rise to the wonderful “Friday Fish Fry” at the local Roman Church. Although I disagree with the theology behind it, I nevertheless participate.

The tradition of “giving something up for Lent” is a popular one. As the days draw closer to Ash Wednesday people begin talk about what they are going to *give up*, and asking about what others will be *giving up for Lent*. The sentiment is good. But it's beneficial only when understood and practiced rightly, in a God-pleasing way.

We “give up” something for Lent as good bodily preparation for our *spiritual* benefit. As Lutherans, that means we set aside the worldly thing in order to focus on Christ and his Word. So, for example, we may give up one meal a day during Lent, not so that we can lose weight, but that we might use the time to be fed by the “Word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord”. It means that we might give up the weekly outing to the local restaurant, or ordering in pizza, and instead give those funds to help the congregational food pantry, while also feeding ourselves with the “Bread of Life”. Fasting and the giving of alms are only good when it proceeds from the heart of faith that desires to turn to Lord.

Prayer always remains an important aspect of the Baptismal life of the Christian. And during this season of preparation we turn our hearts to the Lord in repentance for our sins, but also for the sins of the nation, that God would show His patience and mercy on us all.

Yes, Lent can be seen as a time of giving up things that we enjoy. But if that is all it means, than it becomes merely a show and opportunity for pride. The best is as Jesus Himself spoke about with our fasting, prayers and alms: do it quietly and without much ado, for then your Father who sees in secret will bless you.

Pastor Barnes

2021 FLOWER CHART and ETERNAL CANDLE CHART are located in the Narthex. Cost of Flowers for 2021 is **\$25.50** and you may take your flowers home with you following the 10:00am service. Cost of Eternal Candle for 2021 is **\$6.00**. Sign up today to reserve your date.

An interlocking community

Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.—Max Lucado, Fearless

A prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds, I cry to thee,
I that am dust, and blown about
by every gust I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters, unto thee I call.
I that am weed upon the waters borne,
and by the waters torn, tossed by the waters,
at thy feet I fall.

—Mary Coleridge





Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place. Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for Time, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish. “Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

PLEASE LET US KNOW—When you are hospitalized or plan to be hospitalized - Pastor Barnes, 322-6233 or the church office at 285-3769. Remember due to HIPPA Guidelines the hospital will not notify your church without your permission.

PEACE ROOF – The Roof Fund has reached \$18,125 as of December 31, 2020. While the goal is \$22,500, a recent roof company estimate may mean that goal can be reduced slightly. It will be a blessing for Peace if fund raising is finished before the new estimate is no longer effective this spring. Your offerings for the Roof Fund, above and beyond regular weekly/monthly offerings, are welcome. You may use the Debt Reduction envelopes in your envelope boxes, marking them and your checks as Roof Fund, and place them in the offering plates.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO PORTALS OF PRAYER - It is time to renew or begin a subscription to the Portals of Prayer. Cost for the year for the regular edition of Portals of Prayer is \$5 per copy and cost for large edition Portals of Prayer is \$17 per copy. Let us know you want to begin or renew your subscription to the Portals of Prayer—you may contact the church office 285-3769 or note on the back of your registration card. Please make checks out to Peace Ev. Lutheran Church noting you are paying for a subscription to Portals of Prayer.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LUTHERAN WITNESS - It is time to renew or begin a subscription to the Lutheran Witness. Cost for the year is \$15.96 which is due the last weekend in February. Please let the church office know if you want to begin or renew your subscription. Checks should be made out to Peace Ev. Lutheran Church noting you are paying for a subscription to the Lutheran Witness.

If you would like to include a friend, family member or yourself on the **PRAYER CHAIN** please contact the church office 285-3769 or Carol Long 371-5783.

Mailing in Offerings

Thanks to all those who mailed in their offerings to the church. Please ensure the safe delivery by inserting your offering envelope in a regular mailing envelope. The paper of the offering envelope does not always survive the sorting machine at the post office. Thanks to those who have been doing that. Your Finance Committee and Stewardship Board.

New Year, New Envelopes, New Pledges

We hope you have picked up your envelopes for 2021. Please discard the envelopes from last year. A few of the envelope numbers have been reassigned. Please remember to honor the amount of your tithe as per your Commitment from last November. Thanks for living out your Christian Stewardship by sharing your Time, Talents, and Treasure. The Stewardship Board



The power of love

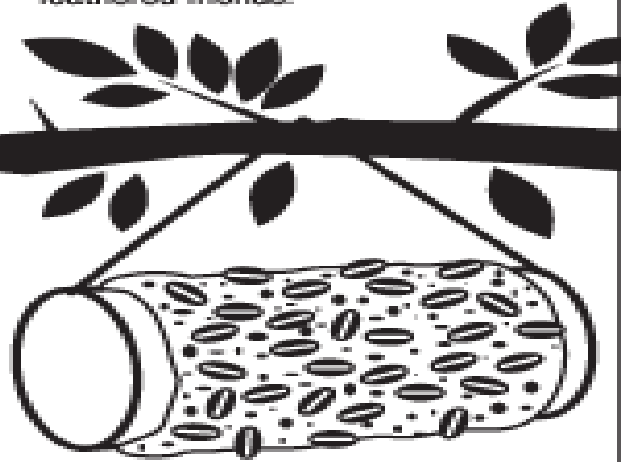
By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love’s practicality in everyday life: “Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way.” He also calls love “the WD-40 of relationships” because it “can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can’t seem to penetrate.” St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God’s help, can change hearts and lives. “Love all [people], even your enemies,” he advises. “Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother.”

Love bites!

Retailers eager to capture some of the \$20 billion that Americans spend every year for Valentine’s Day gifts are moving beyond candy and flowers. For an outside-the-box edible present for that special someone, now you can purchase a bouquet of bacon roses, pickles or even Olive Garden breadsticks. If money is tight, you can visit Waffle House on February 14, the one night it takes reservations. Last year, a most unusual Valentine’s Day promotion had no takers. A reptile park in Mosca, Colorado, offered a two-for-one deal on gator-wrestling classes, but no one “snapped” up the opportunity. Maybe another heart-shaped box of chocolates

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



General Fund information as of December 31, 2020

General Fund Balance on 12/1/2020	4,197.81	General Fund Balance on 1/1/2020	14,391.60
Receipts for December	14,498.82	Year-to-date receipts	147,711.24
Disbursements for December	14,254.90	Year-to-date disbursements	157,661.11
Balance 12/31/2020	4,441.73	Balance 12/31/2020	4,441.73

In November 2014 Voters authorized obtaining a line of credit to be used to prevent the General Fund from borrowing net new funds added to the Dedicated Funds since 9/1/2014. No funds have been borrowed on a line of credit through 6/30/2019.

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15												1	2	3											

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2/3 Don Jochims | 2/25 Tim Hagge |
| 2/3 Mike Sheets | 2/25 Andy Williams |
| 2/6 Mike Callahan | 2/26 Paula Edwards |
| 2/6 Paysen Friend | 2/27 Gerald Heuer |
| 2/7 Adiana Taylor | 2/27 Connie Warren |
| 2/11 Jessica Crabbs | 2/28 Joan Sanders |
| 2/11 Brooke Waugaman | |
| 2/12 Reece Martin | |
| 2/13 Kate Trevino | |
| 2/14 Shawn Carpenter | |
| 2/15 Bruce Mickelson | |
| 2/18 Nanette Schroeder | |
| 2/19 Ashley Hike | |
| 2/19 Shaun Schroeder | |
| 2/19 Roger Wheatley | |
| 2/19 Vickie Whipple | |
| 2/20 Alexander Gordon | |
| 2/21 Jeff Hansen | |
| 2/22 Ron Schwebke | |
| 2/23 Sonya Johnson | |
| 2/24 Liam Campbell | |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 2/1 Glen and Nancy Roberts | 18 |
| 2/13 Albert and Renae Hooper | 39 |
| 2/14 Eric and Nicole Irons | 29 |
| 2/22 Peter and Michelle Wegner | 10 |



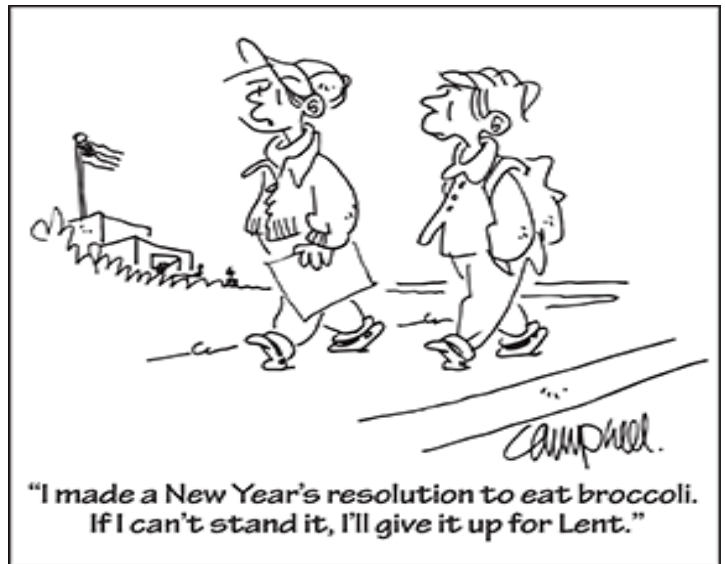
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2/6 Madeline Wegner | 2/23 K. C. Reed |
| 2/9 Adam Irons | 2/24 Kamara Hess |
| 2/9 Richard Nehring | 2/26 Cynthia Beard |
| 2/11 Lori Peters | 2/26 Mike Sheets |
| 2/12 Merle Schneider | 2/27 David Wegner |
| 2/14 Jared Hess | 2/28 Elvin Irons |
| 2/14 Karissa Hess | |
| 2/15 Dakota DeForest | |
| 2/15 Roger Sanders | |
| 2/16 Steven Edwards | |
| 2/16 Brandon Holkan | |
| 2/16 Sonya Johnson | |
| 2/16 Ashley King | |
| 2/16 Larry Routh III | |
| 2/16 Amber Routh | |
| 2/16 Marvis Routh, jr. | |
| 2/16 Marvis Routh | |
| 2/16 Nicolas Routh | |
| 2/16 Victoria Routh | |
| 2/18 Reagan Welch | |

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Goigotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V



SERVING THE LORD THIS MONTH

LAY MINISTRY

2/6 Mike Sheets
2/7 Joe Wyckoff
2/13 Troy Trevino
2/14
2/17 Ron Harder
2/20 Chuck Helmuth
2/21 Ken Drewes
2/27 Ron Harder
2/28

USHERS: Marilyn Rehbein, Roger Wheatley, Don & Denise Clouse
Ash Wednesday: Marilyn Rehbein, Art Prouty, Steve Kannenberg
2/24 Lenten Service: Harders & Clouses

FINANCE COMMITTEE TEAM

Roger & Lyn Wheatley

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday: Denise Clouse
Sunday: Ron & Kathy Harder and Mike & Nancy Grubb

GREETERS

Denny & Trudy McFall & Ken & Barb Drewes

FLOWERS

2/7 Open
2/14 Amanda Dittmer
2/21 Open
2/28 Barb & Ken Drewes

ETERNAL CANDLE

2/7 Open
2/14 Open
2/21 Ron & Kathy Harder
2/28 Open

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 7, 2021

WHAT IS SOUPER BOWL OF CARING?

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is an effort to glorify God and care for "the least of these our brothers" by encouraging people to give at least one dollar each as they leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday Weekend (February 1-2).

WHEN AND WHERE DID THE "SOUPER BOWL" START?

The effort began with the Senior High Youth Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C. in 1990. The partnership has grown from 22 churches the first year to 11,300 congregations representing every U.S. State and Canada generating \$2.5 million this past year. Over \$7 million has been raised since the effort became national in 1993.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Everyone! The Souper Bowl began in response to God's love. We are grateful to all who join with us in "loving God and ... loving neighbor" in this simple but a significant way.

All proceeds are designated to the special ministries of the Board of Human Care Ministry.

PLEASE HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED. Although we no longer have a food pantry here at the church, food donations are needed more than ever. Peace Lutheran will continue to accept **non-perishable** food items. We will take all food donations collected to Bidwell Riverside Center at 1203 S.E. Hartford for distribution to people in need. The food donation baskets are located in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary. **Any non-perishable food item.** Your gifts are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support, The Board of Human Care Ministry

The church office will be staffed Monday through Friday in the afternoons by Jan Scott. If anyone needs to contact Jan, please call 515-681-9276.



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."

Qualified Charitable Distributions to Peace Ev. Lutheran Church

(Angela Reed, CPA; member Stewardship Committee - Peace Lutheran Church)

IRA charitable donations to Peace Lutheran Church (Peace) are an alternative to taxable required minimum distributions (RMD).

If you are age 70 1/2 or older and making donations to Peace, you may benefit by donating RMD or other amounts from your IRA directly to Peace. You can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to Peace.

Benefits:

QCD amounts to Peace count towards your RMD.

QCD amounts are exempt from federal and Iowa income tax.

QCD amounts are not part of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for federal and Iowa income tax purposes.

1. Lower AGI may help you qualify for other tax breaks such as lower threshold in order to deduct medical expenses.
 2. May reduce taxes on your Social Security benefits.
 3. May help you avoid a high- income surcharge for Medicare Part B and D premiums (which kicks in if AGI hits certain levels).
- Charitable contributions don't yield a tax benefit for those individuals who no longer itemize their deductions so those who are age 70 1/2 or older and are receiving RMDs from IRAs may gain a tax advantage by making annual charitable contributions to Peace via a QCD from and IRA.

What are the Rules:

Only individuals can make QCDs.

The IRA owner must actually be at least 70 years and 6 months old on the date of the QCD.

The charitable recipient must be a qualified charitable 501c(3) organization such as Peace.

Individuals are limited to \$100,000 total QCDs per calendar year.

QCDs may only be made from IRA's.

If your IRA includes nondeductible contributions, QCDs are presumed to come from the pretax portion of the account and specifically not from the after-tax portion. This isn't like other IRA distributions that are done pro rata.

The check has to be made out to Peace by your IRA custodian.

QCDs are not claimed as a charitable donation if you itemize on your tax return.

Tax Reporting:

Reporting your QCD correctly on your tax return is critical. Your IRA custodian will report the amount of money that was distributed on Form 1099-R, but the form doesn't specify whether it was a withdrawal or a tax-free transfer to Peace. When filing your tax return, report the total distribution on line 4a of your Form 1040. Then subtract any portion that was a QCD and report the remaining amount on line 4b, writing/noting "QCD" to explain why part of the distribution isn't taxable. If you gave your full RMD to Peace and didn't have other distributions, you would write/note \$0 on line 4b and "QCD" next to it.

Consult your personal financial adviser and tax professional before making any decisions.

C:\Angela Data\peace stewardship\Qualified Charitable Distributions to Peace Lutheran Church.docx

PLEASE JOIN US on Saturdays at **4:00pm** for worship service. There will be no singing and masks are required. Regular worship service on Saturdays at 5:00pm will continue.



