

# THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

**\*Our Vision Statement: Sharing Peace Faithfully**

**\*Our Mission: To bring people into contact with the gospel, and help them grow in their relationship in God in Christ**

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## Going Nowhere in a Hurry

One of the minor pleasures I have in life is watching somebody speed by me in their car and maybe even see them weave in and out of traffic ahead, only to catch up to them at the next stoplight. Even when we miss every light and feel that frustration, traffic people tell us the extra time we lost is at most a couple minutes. Sometimes we have planned everything to the minute and feel anxious and upset by any delay or impediment, taking it to be a personal attack by the universe! And how does that make us feel?

“Moving fast is not the same as going somewhere,” is a quote I once read. The quote sure applies to more than traffic! How many times have we hurried our way through an event, a life stage, a blessing (simple or profound), and at the end felt cheated or empty or just plain frazzled? Was it because our thinking was dominated by how to get to the next whatever and the one after that?

Getting to *somewhere* is more than passing through life’s stages. It is about carrying some higher purpose with us everywhere we go. The police officer in Colorado who was killed had a solid job and career already but felt a higher calling – a calling of service. The teenager who takes time to notice other classmates is going somewhere long before any career or marriage or questions are settled of where to live. The divorced parent(s) who put the needs of their children ahead of their own desire for retribution against the ex-spouse are helping themselves and their children go somewhere. The retiree who looks for ways to add to the lives of others is going somewhere, too.

God blesses us with this sense of calling. We may not be able to figure out the specifics of “What should I do with my life?” at a particular stage of life or at any stage of life, but through it all the gift of God is not “hurry to the next station.” The gift of God is that you have a call from God now (and tomorrow) to have the heart of a servant. Jesus made it clear that gift has nothing to do with speeding by others and weaving in and out of what is ahead; such a life will get you nowhere. Instead, in this moment take your time and concentrate on God’s *somewhere!*

May you have a blessed Holy Week & Easter.

*Pastor Dave Hedlin*

**Please check our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest information, videos, and more!**

## Prayers Requested

Larry Parvin, Brandon Cramer, Joan, the family of Richard Yunker, Dave Kallstrom, David Dyer, Marilyn Krauch, Rick Davis, Beverly Decker, the Olino family, Dave Hennessey, JoEllen, Gary Sprandel, Hailey

## Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Tyrone Kaiser, son of Tom & Maureen O’Connell

the family of Theresa Skowronski, mother of Deb Howell

the family of Elinore Trotter, mother of Deacon Shari

## Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., Apr. 10

As a part of the 5:00 Saturday night service on Apr. 10, we will have an opportunity for people to come forward for special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.



## *Details for How We Worship*

### **EASTER**

Worship times are 5:00pm on Saturday & 8:30 & 9:45am on Sunday

- **All services will be outdoors** - either on the lawn & parking lot facing toward the education wing (long sidewalk) or if the weather doesn't cooperate facing the main entrance canopy.
- Nice enough weather, but you want to stay in your car? Then park on the south portion of the parking lot, facing west.
- All services will also be live-streamed, and via the FM 88.3 channel for those in the parking lot.
- Enter the parking lot via the Schoolhouse Rd. entry – driving around the Atrium Point complex to the south.
- Bring your own bread or cracker for communion.

### **ALL OTHER WEEKS**

#### FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

- \* Modified communion: You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. At the 8:30 worship, a pre-packaged grape juice & wafer will be available.
- \* There is a drop box if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.
- \* Bathrooms will be available, but people would be encouraged to use them only if necessary, and social distancing and masks are required.

#### DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAYS AT 5:00PM & SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

**Our worship location is centered under the main canopy.**

- \* Masks would be required if you get out of your car. (We have spare masks.)
- \* We will have sound projection/speakers for all to hear, plus the FM channel (88.3.)
- \* Worshipping outdoors allows us to sing!

#### ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE INCLUDING AN 8:30 VERSION

- \* We will continue to live-stream our worship services. We plan each week to record both Saturday and Sunday. Assuming everything works, all will be available through our Facebook site. **We also have an only-live-stream inside the sanctuary version at 8:30am for those for whom that option is meaningful.**

#### INDOOR WORSHIP only at 8:30am Sundays

Here are the notes if you are planning to come (registrations required)

\* **Masks will be required** from the time you leave your car until you get back in the car. If you forget yours, we will have spares. (Those who are less than 2 years old or those with special health issues are exempt.)

\* **Enter and exit through the Fellowship Hall door**

\* Temperatures will be taken and names will be checked off both to match the sign-up list, as well as if we needed to do contact tracing. You may have to wait a little bit, with spacing between households.

\* There will be no congregational singing of a hymn, except by one worship leader who will be shielded from the congregation. You *can* hum along!

\* We will have pews marked off so that socially distanced spaces can be maintained. Of course, household units can stay together in their pew. Ushers will be available to help guide people, filling in pews from the front of the sanctuary to the back, and at the end of service leaving from the back.

\* We won't be having nursery attendants, acolytes, refreshments, lay liturgists, lesson readers, etc.

\* Between services, the sanctuary and all other spaces will be electrostatically sprayed with a disinfectant that will cover all surfaces.

\* Bathrooms will be discouraged from being used but will also receive attention.

\* Communion will have options: continue to be "bring your own bread or cracker," or take one of the wafers (gluten free or regular) or take one of the pre-packaged kind.

\* If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

\* **We are going to need volunteer** ushers, temperature takers, and after worship sprayers. You can sign up on the website ([Sign Up](#)) or contact the office. These volunteers will need to provide a N95/KN95 mask for themselves. There will be no physical contact with anyone, but the temperature takers will be within the six-foot space for a few seconds.

Please pray for our world's healing, and for our congregation's ongoing attempts to stay faithful to God and God's leading!

### ***Will County Vaccination Website***

The Will County Health Department invites you to go to their website (<https://willcountyhealth.org>) to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Then they will call or email you when it is your turn to make an appointment.

## **Thank You Very Much!**

*The list that follows is for those who have done something for the first time. (If we miss someone, please let us know!) We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen, even though their names don't keep getting mentioned here.*

### **To:**

Kelly Muehlnickel, Marylynn Tyler, Kathy Drews,  
Donna Conway, Carol Hedlin – for special music  
Everyone who participated in the Virtual Talent Show

### **From:**

Resurrection Lutheran Church – for the support  
CASA – for the donation  
Guardian Angel Community Services – for the donation

## **Quick Reminders**

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Apr. 25.**

\* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

\* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give the individual the names and telephone numbers of people who could be contacted and if possible, have the person meet these people. Give them the suicide prevention hotline. **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives. Crisis Line – 815-469-6166, text -741741, and online - [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

### \* **Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Not currently meeting – please watch the newsletter.

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (except for the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated.*

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated.*

For other services offered, including individual

counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: [www.joliethospice.org](http://www.joliethospice.org) or call 815-740-4104.

\***Thrivent members** – For those of you who have Thrivent dollars to donate, don't forget Peace is one of those choices.

\***Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available** – Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.

\***Guardian Angel Community Services** – Sexual assault & rape crisis services, prevention education & outreach. Programs include medical advocacy, legal advocacy, individual counseling, group counseling, prevention education & professional training. 24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984.

\* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at [www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms](http://www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms). Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping, and other daily living services.

\***Cleaning for a Reason** – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to: [www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer\\_patients\\_acct.html](http://www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html).

## **Addresses for Service Personnel**

Midshipman Trevor Horn PO Box # 12989 Annapolis, MD 21412	Sargent Devin Pafford 1208 Battery Creek Dr. Beaufort SC 29902
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MA2 Baker, Connor 5600 Shorewood Lane Norfolk, VA 23502	2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C Fort Polk, LA 71459
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LC Bonarek Shane  
MOS 351 Warehouse Specialist  
Unit 35002 - FPO AP 96373 5002

## **Military Pray for List**

Please pray for those who have returned from war who struggle to readjust to life and work through their grief. Donald Lazarz, T.J. Burns, Devin Pafford, Connor Baker, Jake Treasure, Allison DeVitto. Shane Bonarek

## ***Looking Ahead***

***April 1 – Maundy Thursday Facebook worship  
released at 11:00am***

***April 1 – Maundy Thursday (Virtual) Dinner in Your  
Room at 6:30pm***

***April 2 – New Lenox community virtual Cross Walk  
released at 10:00am***

***April 2 – Good Friday Facebook worship from Peace  
released at 11:00am***

***Apr. 3 – Easter Eve Worship 5:00pm on the grass or  
parking lot***

***Apr. 4 – Easter Sunday worship 8:30am & 9:45am on  
the grass or parking lot***

***Modified Easter Breakfast after worship***

***Apr. 10 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm***

***Apr. 17 – Blood Drive 9:00am - 1:00pm***

***Apr. 18 – Peace Page Turners 10:30am***

***New Member Orientation 11:30am***

***Apr. 25 – Reception of New Members 9:30am***

***May 1 – Baptism Orientation 3:30pm***

***May 1/2 – Stewardship Appeal Weekend***

***May 16 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1<sup>st</sup> option)***

***May 23 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2<sup>nd</sup> option)***

## **Groups**

### ***Ruth Circle Quilting – Apr. 5 & 19***

Ruth Circle quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00am. We are social distancing and are not having snacks at this time. Questions? Contact the church office.

### ***Prayer Shawl – On Hold***

We are not meeting in person, but feel free to keep making shawls at home and bring them by when it is convenient! Please email the church office if you have questions or would like more information.

### ***Trailblazers – On Hold***

We are still on hold but look forward to the day we can all be together again. Our group is for senior citizens and welcomes you to join us. Email the church office (or call Pastor Dave at home for now) for more information.

### ***Strong Seniors Exercise Resumes – Apr. 12***

We will resume meeting Monday, Apr. 12. We meet Mondays 12:00 - 1:00 and Wednesdays 11:30 -12:30 in Fellowship Hall.

## ***Peace Page Turners – Sun., Apr. 18***

Get your reading glasses on (if you need them.) Our next book discussion will feature *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. It is based on the true story of a Memphis adoption center that kidnapped poor children and sold them to wealthy families. You can pick up a copy of the book at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be April 18 and the time will be 10:30am. Be sure to let us know you're interested so we can give you the Zoom codes you'll need, or you can show up in person.

## ***Ping Pong Club***

The ping pong club meets on the third Sunday of the month at noon. If you think you may want to join, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders.

## ***Golf Group***

The golf group is getting ready to resume soon! We will start playing around April 1st and/or when the temperature hits 50 degrees in the morning. The format will still be "best ball". We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. We have been playing on Wednesdays at 10am. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Questions or to sign up, contact the church office at ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Alzheimer's Association Support Group***

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for information and support? The Alzheimer's Association Support Group is hoping to resume at some time, but not yet. For more information on when the group will resume meeting, contact the church office (815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)).

## ***Addiction and Family Support Group***

The Addiction & Family Support Group meets at Peace on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm. This support group meeting is for those struggling, those who love someone struggling, or those who just want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and prescription pain medications in our community. For more information, contact the church office.

## ***GriefShare Ministry***

Please watch the newsletter & bulletin for when we will be able to resume meeting. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you heal after losing a loved one. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days. For more information, please contact Janet at [griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com](mailto:griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com).

## ***Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry***

If you would like special prayers said for someone, just let the office know of a particular need. We will send out an email to the volunteers with that need. (If you would like to be a part of this Peace Circle of Prayer, let us know, including what email address we should use.)

## ***Earth Day – Apr. 17/18***

In worship on April 17 & 18 we will note the gift of this wonderful planet and all of God creation and remind ourselves of our privilege to be partners with God in its stewardship. One positive result of the pandemic has been saving a lot of trees, even at our church. Here is a sample assembled by our office regarding just the newsletter.

What has it meant for us and planet Earth that we have been sending the newsletters by email instead of by mail for the last 12 months? How about the fact that we saved 33,120 pieces of paper = 66.5 reams = 3 ½ trees! (Plus, the cutting, transportation, processing, etc.) Then, let's add the fact that we didn't consume 184 sheets of labels with more kinds of environmental savings. After the pandemic is over, we'll keep sending the newsletter electronically unless you ask for a paper copy (and we'll happily accommodate that request.)

## ***Faith Development/Education***

### ***Everybody Read***

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we will pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then those who are willing, write a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. April's passage is Jeremiah 31:31-34.

## ***Holy Week Worship Plans***

Recorded worship services will be released for these worship services....

April 1, Maundy Thursday, released at 11:00am

April 2, Good Friday, New Lenox community virtual Cross Walk, released at 10:00am

April 2, Good Friday, worship at Peace released at 11:00am

April 3 & 4, live & live-streamed worship services for Easter will all be outside from the lawn or parking lot depending on the weather. (We decided that we would rather all be able to gather together outside rather than deny some people from being able to come inside the building because of limits, plus we can sing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" in full voice with all of us singing!)

Easter worship times will be Saturday night at 5:00pm, Sunday morning at 8:30 & 9:45am.

## ***Sun. Morning Adult Class – Apr. 11 & 25***

Because of more relaxed COVID options from the state, you can have your choice of Zoom or in person for this week's Adult Class. If you are planning to come, please let us know whether in person or via Zoom. Our next classes are April 11 - "Immigrants in the Bible" (a look at immigration then and reflections on the challenges of now) & April 25 - "Facets of Forgiveness."

## ***Vicar Mike Update***

We wanted to give you an update on Vicar Mike's year. While finishing his final year in seminary, he also has entered the call process to be a pastor in a congregation. For now, he has been assigned to the Upper Great Lakes Synod, which basically is northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We will update you again when we know which congregation will be so fortunate as to have him as its pastor. Meanwhile, click on this link and you can read a piece that includes a blurb about him in the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago's *Epistle* magazine.

<https://www.lstc.edu/assets/pdf/news/Winter%2020201%20Epistle.pdf>

## ***From Deacon Shari Trotter***

Dear Members and friends of Peace,

At confirmation last night we discussed the commandment that says, "You shall not kill". It turned into a very interesting discussion. There are so many ways where this commandment becomes negotiable. What about war? What about self-defense?

The commandment becomes even harder when we understand God's true intent behind it. You can kill someone without taking their life. Pastor Dave talked with the kids about the importance of words. Words mean something. You can kill someone's spirit with the wrong words.

In our culture words are used very liberally and are not weighed with enough care and concern. Think about our country's political life. Nasty and dismantling words are bipartisan. It is easy to let a word slip from your mouth and immediately regret it. Social Media has significantly multiplied the way in which words can affect someone. Words do not only live for the second that they are spoken. Words typed on a computer screen last forever.

Often, we listen to Jesus words and are confused. Jesus uses parables and questions, and they are often hard to decipher. However, Jesus measures his words. He spoke with grace filled language and put care and concern for God's people always first. How can we learn to speak like Jesus? Jesus also spoke with honesty, calling out systems in his culture that were abusive.

We can use words that build up one another. We can show our children what it means to give your words weight and integrity. When you say I love you, let the word love carry with it the weight of the love of God. When you say I hate something may it be towards systems that wound God's people and not towards one of God's creations. Dear God, May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you. Amen

God's Peace,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

## ***Wednesday Bible Study***

Each Wednesday for many weeks now, people have been joining our Bible Study through the wonders of Zoom! (We offer an in-person version for those who hate Zoom.) We meet on Wednesday at 10:00am. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join this class!

## **General Announcements**

### ***Sunday School Curriculum Task Force – Mon., Apr. 5***

Next meeting will be Monday, April 5, at 7:00pm via Zoom to look ahead to our Sunday School curriculum and plans for the fall of 2021!

### ***Blood Drive – Sat., Apr. 17***

Our next Heartland blood drive will be Sat., Apr. 17 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment. Also note, Versiti will be no longer be offering Covid antibody testing.

### ***New Member Orientation and Reception – Sun., Apr. 18 & Apr. 25***

We are privileged once again to invite more people to become formal partners with us in our mission of spreading the Gospel and growing in faith. Because of the strange times we are going through, it will be a different version of our new member orientation and reception! Part 1: Sun., April 18, at 11:30am, either in person in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. The Reception of New Members will be on Sun., April 25, during worship at 9:30am. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, email [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or call the church office at 815-485-5327 or see Pastor Dave. (We will need to omit the sponsors and new member luncheon for now but hope to make it up to the new members later.)

### ***Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 1***

Saturday, May 1, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

### ***Hymn Picking – By May 2***

Picking hymns, as with so many other activities, is not the usual plan. If you are interested in helping to pick the hymn of the day from June through November, let us know in the office. We'll send you a packet of materials, from which you can give input. Then Deb Howell will coordinate all the responses. All that needs to be done by May 2.

## ***Faith & Life Experience***

*We are going to feature stories about people from Peace from time to time.*

*Enjoy this one from Jess Lindeman*

Growing up, my family went through the motions of religion. We attended mass when it was possible to get four children, under the age of 12, out of the house before 7:30am. I went to Sunday School periodically, completed the sacraments, and I even sang in a church band! One night during CCD I had asked a slew of questions and my last question must have gotten on teacher's last nerve. I asked, "So how do you know all this God stuff is real?" She replied, "You need to put your head down and be quiet now." Giggles from around the room injected a heat into my face, my stomach, and my heart. After that I was very quiet during CCD and God sat quietly in the background waiting patiently, as I tripped and fumbled, for years.

Fast forward, we were introduced to Peace Church about 15 years ago. The first year we sporadically attended service. We would drop our spawn off at Sunday School each week, and head to coffee to catch up with the adults. One week I was asked if I wanted to teach the 4-year old's Sunday School class. Pastor Dave asked me in person; it was before we were tethered to our email. I was cringing inside. I had no idea how to teach a Sunday School! I really didn't know much about the bible. I was reassured that it was easy, and that I would have anything I could need to teach for the year. I said, "Yes." It helped having my husband, as a co teacher, too.

My first class; I fell in love listening to these little humans tell me about what happened during their week. Weaving Jesus into their lives became something that I looked forward to every week. And that is how I became Miss Jess. I taught P4 for 12 years after that and the last two years I have had the honor of being the superintendent.

So, when one of our youth asks me, "Miss Jess, how do you know this God stuff is real?" I tell them, "It is our belief in God that makes this God stuff real. He is that feeling you have when you get a hug you really need. God is real when someone helps us when we are having trouble. We know that God is real when we have the things we need because, he promised we would. And if we gotta get deeper than that, let's go find Pastor Dave or Deacon Shari." The truth is you don't have to be super Jesus-y to teach. If you have a good heart and the willingness to pass on the Good News to our kids, that is all it takes. The rest you will learn as you go. The kids in our congregation are amazing and it is a privilege to know them throughout the years. I would love for the adults in our congregation to have the same experience. If I can do it, anyone can do it!

Peace ~ *Miss Jess*

## ***Lawn Mowing – Signs of Spring***

Christians are anything but pessimistic about the future. There will be grass growing someday. Because we hire a company to mow the north half of the lawn (eliminating the part with the slope along Hwy. 30, which is quite steep) and the part along the east side of the parking lot, it usually takes between 1 & 1½ hours to mow what's left (basically it's south of the building.) Most of the time you can pick whether to mow on Friday or Saturday and you will still get to ride the John Deere! So, if you'd like a turn to mow this year, let us know at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Altar Flowers***

Because we are hopeful that we will be able to keep worshiping for a while at the Sunday 8:30am services, we will once again start getting altar flowers. Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them. You may call or email the church ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.) Just let us know for which date from now to the end of 2021 you would like to provide them. The cost per arrangement is \$20.

## ***Hand-in Hand Parenting Opportunity***

There is a great parenting resource that is just a click away: [www.handinhandparenting.org](http://www.handinhandparenting.org). There are many tips on the site for everyday issues parents face. There is an online starter training class for a more thorough treatment for how to deal with various issues in dealing with kids. Also available for professionals (social workers, counselors, day care workers, etc.), thanks to a generous offer from one of our member families, we have a bonus opportunity available. If someone in that group is willing to be trained for Hand in Hand's intensive training 8-week course (about 6-8 hours per week), the entire tuition amount will be covered. All we ask is that you then lead a class (or series) at Peace. You would also hopefully use your training to help others or do classes for other organizations (could be for a fee.) If you are interested, contact Pastor Dave. For professionals, there is CEU credit available.

## ***Thanks and Reminder for Amazon Smile***

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Peace Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). (If it is your first visit to the site, <http://smile.amazon.com/> you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Peace Lutheran Church of New Lenox is available to be chosen, as are other worthy causes.) They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. We want to thank you who have done that. We got a deposit for \$139.26 for the latest quarter!

## ***Operation Care Package Collection***

Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer 501 C-3 Public Charity that mails care packages to deployed troops weekly. Starting April 5, we will be collecting bar soap and packs of new washcloths to include in the packages. If you would like to donate items, please look for the patriotic quilt & basket in the narthex or you can leave your items in the gray bin outside the church doors and we will take them from there. Thank you for caring.

## ***Business Attire Collection***

Over the years Peace has generously provided to people who are unemployed find jobs by dressing for success. We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes. Look through your closets for suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! Please bring your items to church and put them outside the front door and we'll take them from there.

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off items already. So far, we have collected:

Women's skirts - 12, pants - 14, dresses - 20,  
shirts - 34, sweaters - 31, blazers - 27, belts - 18  
nylons - 5, shoes - 1, jeans - 3  
Men's pants - 13, shirts - 24, sportscoats - 4,  
belts - 8, jeans - 6, ties - 16, socks - 2.

## ***Wish List***

From time to time, people want to make "above and beyond" financial gifts to the church. These gifts are not in place of regular, faithful stewardship – giving from the heart, off the top. Instead, they are signs of extra gratitude/joy for the blessings of God. If you would like to make one of those gifts, see Pastor Dave for a list of items that are on his wish list (beyond the budget.)

## ***Because of You and Your Gifts***

As the largest provider of Foster Care Services in Illinois, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) cares for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect and places them with foster families who receive training and support from LSSI. The specialized Therapeutic Foster Care program places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single family homes rather than institutional settings. Since May 2017, the Therapeutic Foster Care program has enrolled 59 children, with 33 successfully completing the program.

## ***Questions Kids Ask About God***

While we wait for more opportunities to share our *Questions Kids Ask About God* book with others, we recognize the questions don't stop. Here are some that were from our Sunday School last year: 1) Was the story of Cain & Abel a real event or was it a lesson to learn from? *The story is from a time before there were people writing history, so we don't know if there were two such brothers with those names. But the story is 100% true in how it reflects that siblings are sometimes mean to each other and jealous of each other. God's desire is that we love one another even though we may not always get along.*

2) Was Jesus bullied? *We read many stories of how people treated Jesus very mean! There are more stories when people tried to force Jesus to do things he didn't believe in. So, yes, Jesus was bullied.*

3) How old were Adam and Eve when they died? *The Bible in its original language doesn't use the name "Adam" or "Eve." It refers to the "man" and the "woman" because it wants to tell the story of all of us and not just two people back in history! We are the ones whom God creates, just like the earliest people on Earth! So, no, we don't have a real age at death for the people in the story the way we would today. .*



## ***Daily Devotionals Available***

There is a black bin outside the front door labeled “devotional booklets.” You can come by the church and pick one up at your convenience. If you want it mailed to you, just let us know via [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org). Also, the ELCA’s publishing house, Augsburg-Fortress, has made *Christ in Our Home* available free online: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home>.

## ***Your Offerings Matter & Are Appreciated!***

You can either donate online or mail in your offering (PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451). If you know your envelope #, write that on the check. If you don’t, we’ll gratefully look it up so that you get credit! No matter how: thanks for your offerings – they are making a difference at Peace, in our community, in our country and around the world!

## ***Caregiver Tip of the Month***

Take deep breaths. Meditate. Walk. Listen to soothing music. Sit outside and get some fresh air. Listen to the spring birds early in the morning. Read. Absorb the silence. Embrace a new day. Journal. Write a letter. Garden. Do a craft. Challenge yourself to try something new. Yoga. Try a new recipe. Join a Zoom social group. Call or Zoom with a friend or family. Ask for help - it’s ok to ask. Pray. There are endless possibilities that can help you to stay focused, relaxed, and stress free. You don’t have to move mountains everyday because God knows you are already doing that for your loved one, so, just for today, move a mountain for YOU!! (*For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.*)

## ***2021 Member Directories***

Our new phone/address directories are now available. They also include a business and service directory. Look for them in the black bin to the left of the church doors. If you would like a copy but are unable to pick one up, please let us know in the church office.

## ***Helping Santa Cruz’s Food Pantry***

We have an ongoing partnership with Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in Joliet. They have a food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring donations anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall. The pantry is in need of the following specific items: **especially cereals, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaning products, personal care items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, easy-open snack-type items (protein bars, cookies, chips, nuts), coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.**

## ***Mental Illness Support Available***

One in four people will struggle with mental illness in any given year. NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Will Grundy offers, at no charge, education programs and support groups in our mission to “support individuals with mental illness and their families through advocacy, education and outreach.”.

Upcoming dates for meetings are:

Mon., Apr. 5 6:30-8:00pm Messiah Lutheran Church – Joliet. In person or via Zoom

Sun., Apr. 11 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

Thurs., Apr. 15 6:00-7:30pm via Zoom

Mon., Apr. 19 6:30-8:00pm Messiah Lutheran Church – Joliet. In person or via Zoom

Sun., Apr. 25 4:00-5:30pm via Zoom

To sign up or for more information go to:

[info@namiwillgrundy.org](mailto:info@namiwillgrundy.org)

[www.namiwillgrundy.org](http://www.namiwillgrundy.org)

or call 815-409-7917.

## ***Helpful Resources Dealing with Addiction and Recovery***

Check out our new webinar series that unites recovery speakers from across the country in order to share a collective set of strategies and expertise. They include tips for staying sober and living meaningful lives in physical, mental and spiritual recovery despite physical distancing. Click on the link below to watch them any time you want and as many times as you need.

[Living in Recovery Speaker Series | Let’s Talk | Hazelden Betty Ford](#)

## ***Foster Parents Needed***

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is in need of Foster Parents. Foster Parents can be married or single and once qualified, receive ongoing support, training and a monthly stipend. Online informational meetings are held regularly. Learn more at [LSSI.org/events](https://LSSI.org/events).

## ***Check Out Our Social Media Pages***

Follow Peace on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox. **You can help to promote our pages and our church by following our pages and engaging our content by commenting, liking, and sharing our posts. It's a simple evangelism tool!**

## ***Golden Opportunities Books – Price Reduced to \$15***

We just got word that the 2021 edition's price has been reduced to \$15, with \$5 of that going to support youth ministries in our church. If you'd like a copy, let us know and we'll make arrangements to get one to you!

## **Youth Events**

### ***Confirmation – Zoom at 7:00p.m.***

Remember to turn in your sermon notes. You can do this online, email, or call us at the office.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade April 7 & 21

8<sup>th</sup> Grade April 7 & 14

### ***7/8th Gr. & Peace 360 Bonfire – Apr. 18***

7-12 graders we hope you can join on April 18 from 6-8PM. We are going to have a bonfire, make some smores, and have fun outside! (Rain date will be Sun., Apr. 25) Please use the online sign up or email us to let us know your youth is interested in attending. [Bonfire Sign Up](#)

### ***Sunday School***

We are hard at work with our Sunday School packets! Remember when your youth(s) do a lesson you can go online to and fill out the form on our website:

<http://www.peacenewlenox.org/ministries/youth-ministry/sunday-school/>

ZOOM meetings are on Sunday at 10:30am and codes will go out on Saturday.

**Apr. 4** NO ZOOM - HAPPY EASTER SUNDAY

**Apr. 11** Lesson 25 Packet Zoom meeting P3-K grade

**Apr. 18** Lesson 26 Packet Zoom meeting 1 & 2 grade

**Apr. 25** Lesson 27 Packet Zoom meeting 3-6th grade

**May 2** Last Day Celebration! All Grade Zoom

### **Scholarship Opportunity**

If you have filled out your scholarship application and turned it in, we will have interviews on April 11, via Zoom. Codes will be sent to your email on April 9, please be sure to check your email.

# The Joy of Giving

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

This year for our stewardship appeal our church will be doing something counter-intuitive to what is going on around us in the world. We are going to focus on the joy of giving! It is not as though we are blind to all that went wrong last year or now. COVID knocked out all kinds of celebrations and plans and even ordinary get-togethers. (We didn't even have our annual stewardship appeal in 2020 because we weren't sure how to conduct it.) The number of worries and concerns was greater than many of us could fathom. Some of you had very significant losses. But the more the pile grew, the more many of us took stock of what we have and how grateful we are for that. We thank God for ordinary things like stocked grocery shelves, and we thank God for profound things like vaccines.

Taking stock of life, we come around to a sense of gratitude. Everything we have – from our intelligence to our breathing – are gifts to be enjoyed and passed along. The ***Joy of Giving*** theme seeks to lift up how our gratitude leads to sharing of gifts of time, money, energy, selves. It brought and brings joy both to ourselves and others. **THANK YOU** for helping make this happen already, and for your prayers and consideration for what lies ahead.

We ask for your involvement in the ***Joy of Giving*** stewardship appeal by reflecting personally on the gifts you have received, praying for the success of our appeal and as an act of gratitude and praise make a joyful, generous commitment to God's work through Peace. Beginning after Easter, we will highlight some of the joys of giving individuals will have shared. We will note how our church has responded to the challenges. We also will communicate how the wider church has used our gifts to make a difference. Please read through the materials as they come and prayerfully consider how God is leading you to respond. We look forward to receiving the completed Giving Intentions Cards that you will receive at the end of April as a part of the ***Joy of Giving*** appeal.

Again, we sincerely want to say thank you and to invite you to be a part of the ***Joy of Giving*** appeal. As a culminating celebration, we will have a Celebration Weekend at worship on May 1 and 2. Peace Church is made up of amazing people who continue to open their hearts and respond to God's leading in joy. We are truly blessed!

Yours in Christ,  
Kathy & Paul Sons, Pastor Dave