

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1900 E. Lincoln Hwy. P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451

815-485-5327; www.peacenewlenox.org

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

Current as of April 1, 2022 (new/important items since 3/25 are in bold type)

Dave Hedlin, Pastor

Shari Trotter, Diaconal Minister

Our Vision Statement: *Sharing Peace Faithfully*

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

Please check in with our Peace website www.peacenewlenox.org regularly for updates. There will be occasional email updates as well, the last of which was 4/1. If you are not getting those emails, please let us know!

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & OUR ON-LINE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Sat., April 2 - Ladies Ensemble rehearsal - 3:00pm

Sat., April 2 - Drive-in Worship (88.3 FM) (**also live-streamed and on Facebook**) - 5:00pm

Sun., April 3 - 8:30am worship (in person **also live-streamed and on Facebook**) & 11:00am worship (in person - no live-stream)

Sun., April 3 - Sunday School 9:45am in person & Adult Class - 9:55am in person in the sanctuary or via Zoom

Sun., April 3 - Children's Choir - 9:00am

Mon., April 4 - Senior Exercise Group - noon

Tues., April 5 - Committee Chairs - 7:30pm

Wed., April 6 - Bible Study - 10:00am

Wed., April 6 - Senior Exercise Group - 11:15am

Wed., April 6 - Prayer Shawls - 6:00pm

Wed., April 6 - Adult Choir - 7:00pm

Wed., April 6 - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation - & Bible Buddies (3-6th grades) - 7:00 pm

Sat., April 9 - Drive-in Worship (88.3 FM) (**also live-streamed and on Facebook**) - 5:00pm (including special prayers for healing)

Sun., April 10 - 8:30am in person worship (**also live-streamed and on Facebook**) & 11:00 am in person worship (no live-stream)

Sun., April 10 - Sunday School - 9:45am in person & adult class - 9:55am in person in the sanctuary or via Zoom

Sun., April 10 - New member orientation - 9:55am (Room 3)

Sun., April 10 - Escape Room (7th - 12th & beyond) - 1:00pm

Mon., April 11 - Quilting (Ruth Circle) - 9:00am

Mon., April 11 - Senior Exercise Group - noon

Daily: Reflections from Pastor Dave. [Facebook video](#).

Drive-in/Online/In person Worship for April 2 & 3 - 5th Sunday of Lent

This week our worship schedule includes our regular schedule, with 5:00 drive-in worship on Saturday, plus 8:30 & 11:00am inside on Sunday. **5:00 and 8:30 services are live-streamed.**

Our [Facebook page](#) site continues to have the worship services recorded and available anytime. (You do not need to have a Facebook account to access this public page.) There will be hymns to which you can sing along, (words below this announcement, so be sure to print out the words if you're coming Saturday

evening) some scripture readings (Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8) prayers, communion, a sermon, teaching moment, children's sermon, special music. Please join in being together in God's name inside, from the parking lot, in your cars, or electronically and share the worship post with others! If you want more details, search/look for "How will worship work" at the end of the document.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers this week are given by Cathy Arenz in memory of Ted Sykes.

Words to This Week's Hymns – 4/2 & 4/3

Opening Hymn - *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* #335

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain. *Refrain*

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

Hymn of the Day - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* #803

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Communion Hymn - *Children of the Heavenly Father* #781

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Prelude at all services: "Agnus Dei" from REQUIEM (Opus 48) - Gabriel Faure

Postlude at all services: "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed" - Hugh Wilson

5:00pm Saturday special music by the Ladies Ensemble - "Lord, I Stretch My Hands To You"

8:30 & 11:00am Sunday special music - "Via Dolorosa" (The Way of Suffering) - Niles Borop/Billy Sprague

Thank you

Thank you to all the people who are watching our weekly worship and daily videos on line. (Bring some good news to people you know online and share them with others.) Thanks, too, for all your support financially, in prayer, with words of encouragement, acts of service and more! Thank you! **Your online gifts last week of \$2,160 and mailed in & weekend offering of \$8,150 help us to keep doing ministry locally, nationally, and around the world! For attendance, we had 257 Facebook views of the weekend's worship (plus You Tube and watching live), and for the in-person about 6 for the 5:00, about 86 at 8:30 and 70 at 11:00. Let the Word of God speak in our hearts and to the world.**

New/ Important for This Week's Bulletin

EASTER BREAKFAST & BASKETS - NEED TO SIGN UP BY APRIL 10

Our Fellowship Committee has decided to go for it....the Easter Breakfast, that is. So, there will be a full Easter menu of (most likely) eggs and sausages and bacon and french toast and potatoes and fruit and danish. The breakfast cost is on a donation basis. There also will be Easter baskets for the kids who have signed up. We will need many people to act as servers of the food Easter Sunday morning, set up on Saturday and clean up afterwards on Sunday. Use the [Sign Up](#) to let us know if you're coming and if you'll be able to help. Seating will be in Fellowship Hall (and if needed the classrooms.) Because of the need to let the caterer know the exact count this year, you will need to sign up by April 10; sorry, no last minute guests.

HELP THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry we support through our offerings, is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an [interfaith call for peace](#) in the region. If you wish to make a special donation to the cause, you can go to the ELCA website, or use this link:

<https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response?erid=315faca8-b6ed-47e6-bde4-bfe361787659&trid=315faca8-b6ed-47e6-bde4-bfe361787659>

VARIETY SHOW 2022 - TAKE A LOOK

This year's Variety Show is ready for you to view, with more than 150 views already! Look at our www.facebook.com/peacenewlenox site and enjoy 30 minutes of our variety show without a single commercial interruption.

APRIL HELP OTHERS EMPHASIS IS PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Your generosity is amazing, and we continue to want to connect that to people in need. This month we are collecting personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, soap, deodorant, travel size

shampoo/conditioner, combs, women's hygiene products, sunscreen & lip balm). The youth group will be using these items to put together Blessing Bags that will be delivered to MorningStar Mission. Any and all kinds of these items are welcome. The total count for last month's collection of spaghetti sauce & pasta was 300. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES - 9:55am

Please join us for another year of adult classes. Here is the line up for the next few weeks. For the sake of all, we will spread out in the sanctuary, and offer the class on Zoom as well. (Let us know if you'd like the codes.)

April 3 - What's New on Your/the Menu?

April 10 - Why Start with Jesus in Life? (A reflection on the paradox of Holy Week)

April 17 - (no class - Easter breakfast)

April 24 - Conflicts and Motives (We can help lower the temperature Conflict arises)

May 1 - Gratitude in the Face of Life Not Being a Straight Line

PEACE PAGE TURNERS NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION - SUN., MAY 15 - 9:55am

Our next book, a novel written by Louise Erdrich, is *The Night Watchman*. The date has been changed to Sun., May 15, and the time will be 9:55am (to match all the other Education Hour times.) You may come in person, or attend via Zoom. (Be sure to let us know if you're attending online so we can give you the Zoom codes you'll need.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - SUN., APRIL 3

We would like to invite youth, 2nd- 8th grade, to join us in Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 9:00 - 9:30am. No sign up required, just come to Fellowship Hall! Any questions please call or text Leslie Walton 708-828-2090.

3rd-6th GR. BIBLE BUDDIES - WED., APRIL 6

Come join us for Bible Buddies! While our 7th & 8th graders are in Confirmation class, we invite our 3rd-6th graders to come and hang out with Miss Jess, from 7-8:00pm. Please let us know if you're planning to come. [Bible Buddies sign up](#)

RUTH CIRCLE QUILTING - MON., APRIL 11 & 25 - 9:00am

Quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00am. We are socially distancing in Fellowship Hall, and are resuming treats because everybody's been vaccinated!!! You are welcome to join this great group! Questions? Contact the church office.

VBS PLANNING MEETING - WED., APRIL 20 - 9:00am

Our amazing Vacation Bible School planning crew is creating another outstanding opportunity for kids (and volunteers) to grow closer to God. The dates will be Tues., July 12- Fri., July 15. Our theme is "*All Aboard God's Love*". It will be mostly inside.

The next VBS planning meeting will be Wed., April 20 at 9:00 a.m. If you'd like to help in any way (including planning), please let us know. Use the sign-up or call the office.

PRAYER SHAWLS - WED., APRIL 6 - 6:00pm

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00pm, with the next being April 6. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Any questions, please contact the church office.

BLOOD DRIVE - SAT., APRIL 9 - 9:00am - 1:00pm

Our next blood drive will be Sat., April 9, from 9:00am -1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5597808 to make an appointment or call the office and we'll schedule it for you.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR HEALING - SAT., APRIL 9 - 5:00pm

As part of the 5:00pm Saturday night service on Apr. 9, we will have an opportunity within the prayers of intercession to especially note those who need special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND RECEPTION - SUN., APRIL 10 & SUN., APRIL 24

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 continues to be a different version of our new member orientation and reception! Part 1: Sun., April 10, at 9:45am in person in the sanctuary or via Zoom. The Reception of New Members will be on Sun., April 24, during worship at 11:00am. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, email peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or call the church office at 815-485-5327 or see Pastor Dave. (We will probably be asking for sponsors and food/hosts for a new member luncheon, too. Those will depend on the comfort level of our new members, but we'll want to be prepared in case.) [Sign Up](#)

HOLY WEEK PLANS- APRIL 14-17

- * Maundy Thursday worship (online only), April 14, released at 11:00am on our Facebook, You Tube & to our website.
- * Maundy Thursday Meal in Your Room, April 14, 6:30pm via Zoom
- * Good Friday, April 15, New Lenox community Cross Walk, starting at St. Jude's at 10:00am, walking to the Methodist Church and from there to Maplewood Cemetery
- * Good Friday, April 15, in person worship at Peace at 7:00pm, including the stripping of the altar, plus it will be live-streamed and recorded
- * Easter worship - Sat., April 16 at 5:00pm outdoors
- * Easter worship - Sun., April 17 at 8:30 and 11:00am
- * Easter breakfast - Sun., April 17 at 9:30am

MEAL IN YOUR ROOM - BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER - MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 14 - 6:30PM

"Let us break bread together," says the song. Instead of our usual Maundy Thursday Meal in the Upper Room, for one more year we will have a "Meal in Your Room - Together" meal. The location will be your own home, but the opportunity to join together on this Holy Thursday will unite our hearts. Together on Zoom we will remember our Lord gathering with his disciples to transform the Passover Meal into the Lord's Supper. We would like to ask you to have some kind of bread as a part of your meal as a sign of our unity as we break bread together. The rest of the menu will be up to you. (But if you would like a list of foods that we have traditionally had at the Meal in the Upper Room, here they are....lamb (gyro meat), wine and or grape juice, matzos (cracker), endive & parsley, hardboiled egg, haroses, pecans, grapes, orange, dates, cheese, olives.) The date is April 14, the time is 6:30pm. There will be a collection of prayers and the reading of Bible passages as a part of the evening. We seek to have volunteers read some of those passages. Please plan on joining us for this meal! You may RSVP ([MIYR Sign Up Form](#), peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org, or 815-485-5327) so we can get the Zoom codes to you.

EASTER WORSHIP NOTES FOR APRIL 16 & 17

- * Worship times are the usual 5:00pm on Saturday & 8:30 & 11:00am on Sunday
- * Saturday worship will be outdoors and Sunday worship indoors. The Saturday worship will be 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.
- * The 5:00pm and 8:30am services will **also be recorded and saved, and we plan to live-stream both if Facebook cooperates.**
- * Bring your own bread or cracker for communion for Saturday worship; indoor worship will offer the option of coming forward for communion (continuous.)

TRAILBLAZERS - TUES., APRIL 19 - 11:30am

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but "over the hill" to

come together on Tues, April 19 at 11:30am at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided (breakfast type foods!) Email or call the church office for more information.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEKEND - APRIL 30 & MAY 1

We'd like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. April 30 & May 1 will be this year's official time to express our appreciation. Students feel free to invite a teacher to worship with you!

HYMN PICKING

Want to help pick the hymns for the period from June 1 to Nov. 30? We'd love to have your help. Let us know (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) by April 10 and we will give you what you need to be a part of the process!

GOLF GROUP IS READY FOR YOU TO SIGN UP

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 will be 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 (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.)

INTERESTED IN A CHICAGO CUBS GAME?

After multiple communications with the Cubs, we now have a date and time for a Cubs game at a reasonable price (\$30.) We have tickets for a Wednesday afternoon game, Aug. 10, against the Washington Nationals. The game starts at 1:20pm. If you need a ride, we'll find a way to get you there at \$10 each (max \$20 per household.) Please contact the church (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327) to let us know if you are interested, or [Sign up online](#).

PEACE PICKLEBALL PLAYERS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

We have the opportunity to join a newly, forming Pickleball group, being started by Al Davenport's friend Steve Soderberg at Parkview Church in New Lenox. This group started on March 16 and meet every Wednesday at MPX Fitness at 15301 S Bell Rd, Homer Glen, from noon to 3pm. Cost will be \$5 for 3 hours. You sign up, and if you can make it, you come, you pay, and you play. This small group will gather weekly to enjoy fellowship, devotions and FUN through playing PICKLEBALL together. To sign up, follow this link: <https://my.parkviewchurch.com/sgfinder> Then find Pickleball and register by giving your name, email and phone number. Unfortunately not everyone can make this time slot, but this is a start, giving those who can, a definite playing time every week with no worries about the weather. Steve plans on continuing this until the weather gets better, and more predictable, and then take this group outside. So come join us! Al will be signing up and should make most, if not all Wednesdays. No experience? No problem! We will teach you. No personal equipment? No Problem! It will be provided. However, this is not just for beginners. All levels of play are welcome. Pickleball is a combination of ping pong, tennis and badminton. If you do sign up, please notify Peace Church, so we know how many of our members are going to participate. Any questions or problems signing up, please call the office and Al Davenport will get back to you. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and hopefully an Olympic sport in the future. Check it out and join the fun!!!!

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A MESSAGE OF REDEMPTION AND GRACE

Our church has begun a relationship with Glory International Harvest Church in Joliet. They are inviting us to a unique stage presentation that delivers a powerful message of redemption and grace, and reminds us that in the Kingdom of God, God can always use us--in spite of ourselves sometimes--to accomplish a greater purpose. There will be three performances, Friday, April 8 at 7:30pm; Saturday, April 9 at 2:00 & at 8:00pm. Tickets for this professional play are \$25. For more information go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/good-friday-tickets-293736743507>

Prayer List

*If your prayer request is for yourself or you have the other person's permission, you may be specific [for example, skin cancer]. For anyone, you may be more general [for example, "a decision to be made," or "health"]. We will keep people on the pray-for list for 60 days unless you tell us otherwise. **We are going to take a few people off the list this week who were on our "permanent" list because we no longer know their status. If we have removed someone you know about, please just let us know and we will add them back in.***

Jonathan DeMik (hospitalization), the family of Robert Sanchez, Don Marks, Cathy Cameron, Audre Kurowski (better health), Deacon Shari (Covid recovery), Jeff Anderson (hip surgery recovery), Carol Dohrn (surgery/recovery), Karen Severson (rehab), Ron Hnetkovsky (cancer), Joseph (health), Jane (Alzheimer's) and Rich (caregiver) Meister, Nancy Bohl (recovery), Ken Gatewood (knee surgery), Sharen Suste (recovery), Jack Goesel, Tom Burns (health), Hannah (constant pain) & Jonah Huelhorst (recovery), Tim Stoller, Dennis Flynn (kidney transplant list), Rick Mitchell (recovery), Norma Allison (hospice), Rudi Fuhrmann (recovery), Richard Esposito (health), Cathy Rumbaugh (recovery), Kristie Paprocki (broken hip recovery), Steve Barlow, Kay Johnson (cancer), Larry Parvin (health), Denise Jones (rehab), Ted Chubb (healing), Dorothy Vrshek (hospice), Chris Fehrenkamp, Hailey (strength and guidance), Bonnie Fikeys, Barb Decker, Nolan (God's guidance), Cathy Richardson, Judy Williams, Georgia Piech-Pander, Eric Bartels, Carol Tatro, Bev Kuzdas, Ray & Edna Anglin, Wayne Bell, Barb Chobot...

Jack Picciolo (triple-bypass), Dick Walker, Sheri Gosnell (testing), Heather, Steve (recovery), Betty Golke (broken hip), Joe (brain tumor), Cie (cancer), Helen Bohr (healing), Erv Pander, Louisa Schultz (brain tumor), Marie (health), Parker (seizures), Jim Calvert (cancer), Sandy Booton, Alan Booton, Tyler, Vern Sanborn, Bill Reidy (cancer), Georgianna Bafundo, Jeffrey.

FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY - We are starting from scratch with our military list. If you know someone who is serving and would like them on our list, let us know. Please pray for those who have returned from war who struggle to readjust to life and work through their grief. T.J. Burns, Devin Pafford, Connor Baker, Jake Treasure, Allison DeVitto.

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

Midshipman Trevor Horn
PO Box # 12989
Annapolis, MD 21412

Sargent Devin Pafford
1208 Battery Creek Rd.
Beaufort, SC 29902

MA2 Baker, Connor
5600 Shorewood Lane
Norfolk, VA 23502

2nd Lieutenant Jakob Swenson
16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C
Fort Polk, LA 71459

Youth News

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY CHOICES

Confirmation Sundays will be held at the 11 o'clock services on **May 15** and **May 22** Please let the office know which date your 8th grader would like to be confirmed. Please go to [Confirmation date and verse choice](#), and fill out the form.

7th GR. & BEYOND – EASTER ESCAPE ROOM SUN., APR. 10

7th Graders and older are invited to participate in our first ever Easter Escape Room, from 1-3:00pm. You and your team will try to crack the codes and win the game! Let us know if your youth is interested in participating! [Sign Up](#)

3-6th LEGO AND LET GOD MINI RETREAT – SAT., MAY 7

3-6th graders are invited to join us on Sat., May 7 from 1:30-4:30. We will have fun, play games, build with Lego all while helping them build a relationship with God! Please sign up by May 1, so we know how many builders to expect! There will be a snack break. [Lego & Let God Sign Up](#)

ANTIOCH – SAT./SUN., JUNE 11 & 12

Youth going into 8th Grade & Beyond are invited to join us the weekend of June 11 & 12! We will meet at church at 10:00am and get ready to host a youth led service on Sat., June 11. Please let us know if your youth can come! Please sign up by May 31. [Antioch 2022](#)

YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH MINISTRY

Our amazing Sunday School staff, teachers, kids and parents are faithfully connecting one another to a closer relationship with God. You can check out our [Sunday School News](#) (Click on the link) for some of the latest. There are highlights to events on the calendar for youth ministry, and don't forget our Children's Choir!

Help Others

BUSINESS ATTIRE COLLECTION

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! We'll use the same process as with the warm coat ministry: bring them to church and put them in the bin inside, or just leave them outside the front door and we'll take them from there.

SANTA CRUZ SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP UNLOAD THEIR FOOD TRUCK

Our mission partners are now a regular delivery stop for food every Tuesday about noon. They are looking for people to take a turn (as often as you're willing) to help unload it. The truck arrives each Tuesday about noon and the unloading is complete about 1:00pm. If you're interested, let us know and we'll put you in contact with the right people.

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 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), cereals, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.**

SMALL & MEDIUM-SMALL TOYS FOR A SCHOOL

We are always looking for ways to bless others out of our grateful and willing hearts. We have for years invited people to collect small toys (like you get with "Happy Meals" or items you pick up that are inexpensive or items that are like-new that you have in your house collecting dust.) The teacher who uses these as incentives for her special needs students has reported many times her gratitude and the difference it makes in motivating her students – a total win! Now her principal has seen her efforts and wants to expand it beyond her classroom. So, there is now openness to more toys/books/puzzles of an older student variety. Bring them with you to church and put in the special bin under the coat rack heading into Fellowship Hall, or leave them outside the front door anytime.

Giving & Giving More Thanks

AMAZON SMILE THANKS

We received word of another \$118.56 from the Amazon Smile Foundation. Thank you to all who have designed Peace as the recipient of those dollars. Interested in learning how to do it? Let us know. It costs you nothing extra.

BECAUSE OF YOU

LSSI's Welcoming Center is a safe, walk-in emergency department alternative for people experiencing behavioral health symptoms like anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) uses a creative wrap-around behavioral health model with trained counselors available 24 hours a day, every day, to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI's Step-Up School-Based Counseling Services partners with 64 Chicago Public Schools to provide mental health care for grammar and high school age students. LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted alcohol and drug treatment services for individuals, beginning with medically assisted detox through residential care and transitional housing. From July 2020 - June 2021, LSSI provided critical mental health services to 18,254 clients and served 2,288 clients with alcohol/drug challenges.

DO YOU GIVE ELECTRONICALLY (OR WANT TO)?

If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, contact the office. If you want to give on-line, you can go to our website www.peacenewlenox.org and click on the donate tab. You can also scan the QR code here with your smart phone to donate one time or set up recurring payments (or download in order to manage online giving).

NEW MOBILE GIVING APP IS HERE

For those who use a mobile app for their giving, Vanco, the company that is our church's eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile (to replace GivePlus Mobile.) You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. Vanco will be retiring GivePlus Mobile after this date. As an alternative, of course, we still will have the automatic withdrawal system that you can set up for on-going donations or giving through the website. Call or email us if you run into any problems!

Faith Development/Education

QUESTIONS KIDS ASK ABOUT GOD

More kids and more questions!

Why is it called "Good Friday"? Shouldn't it be called "Sad Friday"?

The day Jesus died is 100%, bad and sad from the point of view that people would kill and betray and deny Jesus – the very one of God in the flesh. Plus, Jesus had to suffer, and his disciples all hid themselves out of fear. But the day is called Good because of what God did! God, even at the moment when people were so mean and put themselves first, forgave and loved. And finally, on Easter, it became clear that not even death or any kind of evil can beat God's love. That Jesus overcame death and evil and shares that victory with us makes it great for all of us.

If God makes everything, who made God?

You're right. God has made all of creation and is still creating. One of the things God made is time. So before there was a beginning to everything, there was only God. In other words, no one made God. God just always is and was.

Parents/grandparents/kids, please keep those questions coming!

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then those who are willing, write down a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. **April's is Luke 4:1-13.**

Fellowship Opportunities/Tickets & Events

SOME NEW THEATER OPTIONS - ([Sign Up](#))

WE ARE HEADING BACK TO BROADWAY IN CHICAGO!

We are going to put our proverbial toes in the water and offer two different shows through Broadway in Chicago. We think it is safe to give this a try because both shows will require proof of vaccination with an ID, plus masks will need to be worn. Our bargain rate seats will be in the upper sections, as we've had before. We have reserved 10 seats for each of these, but would hope to be able to add more if needed.

Jesus Christ, Superstar - July 24 - 2:00pm show - Cadillac Theatre

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of this iconic musical phenomenon comes to Chicago! Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, this production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering absolutely outstanding reviews. (The show is 90 minutes and there is no intermission.) Tickets will be \$23, including all fees. ([Sign Up](#))

ARE YOU INTERESTED? LOOK AT THESE SHOWS

The Fellowship Committee wants to bring some more shows to your attention. If you have an interest, you can get your own tickets. However, if you have an interest to go with some others from church, let us know and we'll see what we can do to get the tickets for you!

Curtain Call in Mokena - *Deathtrap* - through Mar. 27

The Drama Group in Chicago Heights - *Rock of Ages* -Apr. 13-May 29, *Run for Your Wife* (comedy), June 1-19, *Leading Ladies* (comedy) -Aug. 5-14.

[Sign Up](#) Please scroll until you see "Fellowship Theater Show Interest".

Groups

STRONG SENIORS EXERCISE GROUP - MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15a.m.-12:15 p.m.

ADDICTION & FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP - EVERY TUESDAY

Is someone you love abusing prescription or street drugs? Are you concerned about the destructive choices he or she is making and/or in denial? If you are feeling all alone and would like some support from other parents, siblings, friends and spouses who are traveling the same road you are on, then this group may be for you. We support all roads to recovery, so we share what has or hasn't worked for us. We also understand that we must recover, because our lives have also become unmanageable. We meet Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office.

General Announcements

WOMEN'S RETREAT - APRIL 30 (REGISTER BY APRIL 1)

The Women of the Northern Illinois Synod organization invites all women to attend a one day retreat on Saturday, April 30, at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, Ill. The theme is "Praising God with All That We Are." It will be a day of joy as we celebrate God's presence in our life and being together in person! The cost of the retreat is \$25.00, which includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. To register, call or email the church office or go to www.nisynod.org/women.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

Some people in their observance of Lent give something up. It is an option that can work if approached in the right way. We suggest, as an alternative, that you take something on for Lent! How about if you take on Bible reading or meditation or some personal discipline or attending the Sunday morning adult class via Zoom or use one of the Lenten devotional books or do an act of caring for someone anonymously or use one of the God's Global Barnyard coin boxes and help people around the world? The Lenten Devotionals can be found both inside the church building and outside in the bin. If you need a copy mailed to you, let us know.

LADIES ENSEMBLE AND ADULT CHOIR - THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU

Both the Ladies Ensemble (**next practice, Sat., April 2 at 3:00pm**) and the Adult Choir (practices are almost every Wed. at 7:00pm) will happily welcome you and your voice to their groups. What are you waiting for?

Maybe you're looking for "a sign." How about if this paragraph is your sign?!!!

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS FOR LENT (& APRIL-JUNE) ARE AVAILABLE

We put a second bin (black) outside the front door labeled "devotional booklets" and you can come by the church and pick up the Lenten devotionals and the next quarter's devotionals. If you want us to mail it to you, let us know.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2022

2022 dates are now available to donate flowers for the altar. Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them. The cost per arrangement is \$20. You may call or email the church (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.)

VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR NEW SCHEDULE

Because of the fluid situation in the outside world, volunteers will be requested on a week by week basis instead of assigned ahead of time. We are happy to have you volunteer as an usher, lesson reader, greeter. Please let us know via or a phone call (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

VIAL OF LIFE AVAILABLE

Through the courtesy of the Faith Community Nursing Program, a not-for-profit organization of nurses that promotes public health and support for people in their lives, we have a supply of "The Vial of Life." These are to be stored in your refrigerator in your home and/or glove box in your car for emergency personnel (or family) in case you need emergency care and can't speak for yourself. They contain information helpful to care givers and remain private unless needed. The group suggests having one in both car and home since those are the two places they'd most likely be needed. They are free. We will put some in the black container outside the front door (the one containing the daily devotionals), as well as in the entrance area. Please help yourself.

HAND-IN-HAND PARENTING OPPORTUNITY

There is a great parenting resource that is just a click away: www.handinhandparenting.org with many tips on the site regarding everyday issues parents face. There is also 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.) is an intensive training 8 week course (about 6-8 hours per week). For both the starter training and the intensive training, thanks to a generous offer from one of our member families, we have a bonus about those two trainings. If someone is willing to be trained, 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 (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327.) For professionals, there is CEU credit available for the intensive one.

ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED

Check out our Facebook page on a regular basis. (Make sure to like and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!)

WANT SPECIAL PRAYERS?

Because we aren't together in worship, you maybe would like opportunities to have prayers for specific people. Please feel free to share those via our email (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or call the office.

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

We have a team that has been working over the past few months to bring our social media pages up to date and to post regular content to them. Ways you can help to promote our pages and our church are to follow our pages and engaging our content by commenting, liking, and sharing our posts. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox.

PEACE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY

If you would like special prayers said for someone, just let the office know of a particular need. Our Circle of

Prayer ministry is ready to help. We will send out an email to the praying 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.)

GOOD SHEPHERD group is seeking donations of NEW beauty items (make-up, make-up brushes, eyeshadow, lotion, hair bands, cologne, lipstick, hair care products, combs and brushes), personal items, bathing items (sponges, bubble bath, shower gel), and travel size toiletries for homeless and abused persons. Please place these items in the basket labeled *Good Shepherd Beauty Items* located under the left part of the narthex counter. Thank you for your support!

DONATIONS FOR MORNINGSTAR TREASURE CHEST

We are still accepting donations of clothing and household goods for MorningStar Treasure Chest. Place your donations in the basket marked MorningStar located in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall.

CAREGIVERS INFORMATION

Whether you are a caregiver for a spouse, parent, teen, sibling or a child, you need help with the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical side of reality. These days you might fold your hands in prayer and ask God to always be there. It isn't doubt, it isn't fear, it's just that NEED to want Him near. In the sleepless nights, and the worrying days, you tremble with sadness and laugh with tears. Keep my loved one safe you pray, keep me strong and healthy with each new day. Remind me dear God to always trust, no matter what the day may bring. Remind me too dear God, that my loved one also folds their hands in prayer and asks that I be there. Find more comfort in: Psalm 23, Psalm 119:73-77 and Isaiah 12. *(For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics – see our display in the entrance area of church when we get back together. Help yourself to the variety of resources that we have pulled together for you and know you're not alone.)*

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing resource? If you have any questions, call the office. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE

The coronavirus calls for new ways of helping people of faith. 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>.

Details for how we worship this week, April 2 & 3

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

Saturday worship is drive-in/outdoors at 5:00pm and is facing the front canopy. Sunday remains indoors at 8:30 & 11:00. 5:00 and 8:30 services are live-streamed.

*** Masks are now optional, but strongly encouraged in Sunday School.**

*Whether you drive-in, are on the blacktop or worship at home, we have a modified communion option. You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. We will give the Words of Institution on behalf of all of us and invite us to take our bread/cracker at the same time and partake of this modified version of the Lord's Supper. **At both indoor Sunday worship services, a come-forward option is now available.**

* In order to keep people's safety in mind, there will be 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.

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP Saturdays at 5:00pm

* Our worship location is from the parking lot, facing the front entrance.

ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE

* Our normal schedule is back of live-streaming the 5:00pm and 8:30am worship services. Assuming everything works, all will be available through our Facebook site anytime.

INDOOR WORSHIP Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00am

Here are the notes if you are planning to come:

- * **Per IDPH guidelines, masks are optional.**
- * Congregational singing of hymns is allowed. We'll be using the hymnals, or you can use the online version in this bulletin.
- * Pews will no longer be marked off for distancing.
- * We are asking for some more volunteers for worship, including acolytes and lay liturgists.
- * We will be sending an email each week also asking for volunteers to assist at worship. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.
- * The service length will be increasing as we add elements of the liturgy and other items back in.
- * If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

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

To sign up for anything, to ask a question, or to share a thought, we suggest using the church's email:

peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.