

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 Nov. 30, 2021 (new/important items since 11/26 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 11/26. If you are not getting those emails, please let us know!

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & OUR ON-LINE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Tues., Nov. 30 - Church Council - 7:30pm

Wed., Dec. 1 - Bible Study - 10:00am in person or via Zoom

Wed., Dec. 1 - Senior Exercise Group - 11:15am

Wed., Dec. 1 - Prayer Shawls - 6:00pm

Wed., Dec. 1 - 7th Grade confirmation - 7:00pm & Bible Buddies (3rd - 6th Grades)

Wed., Dec. 1- Adult Choir practice - 7:00pm

Sat., Dec. 4 - Blood drive - 9:00am to 1:00pm

Sat., Dec. 4 - Indoor Worship (Sunday School Christmas singing) & Live-stream - 5:00pm (including [Facebook video](#))

Sat., Dec. 4 - Peace Buddies Christmas event - 6:00pm

Sun., Dec. 5 - Live-stream & in person worship from inside the sanctuary - 8:30am & 11:00 am in person worship (no live-stream)

Sun., Dec. 5 - Sunday School 9:45am in person & Adult Class - 9:55am in person or via Zoom

Mon., Dec. 6 - Senior Exercise Group - noon

Wed., Dec. 8 - Bible Study - 10:00am in person or via Zoom

Wed., Dec. 8 - Senior Exercise Group - 11:15am

Wed., Dec. 8 - Prayer Shawls - 6:00pm

Wed., Dec. 8 - 8th Grade confirmation - 7:00pm

Wed., Dec. 8- Adult Choir practice - 7:00pm

Sat., Dec. 11 - Drive-in Worship (88.3 FM) & Live-stream - 5:00pm (including [Facebook video](#))

Sun., Dec. 12 - Live-stream & in person worship from inside the sanctuary - 8:30am & 11:00 am in person worship (no live-stream)

Sun., Dec. 12 - Sunday School 9:45am in person & Adult Class - 9:55am in person or via Zoom

Mon., Dec. 13 - Quilters (Ruth Circle) - 9:00am

Mon., Dec. 13 - Senior Exercise Group - noon

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

Drive-in/Online/In person Worship for Dec. 4 & 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

This week our worship schedule has one change: **This Saturday only the 5:00 worship will be indoors because our Sunday School children will be leading three Christmas songs as this year's version of their program.** Sunday remains the same (8:30 & 11:00 in person.) **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 two hymns to which you can sing along, (words below this announcement, so be sure to print out the words) some liturgy, scripture readings (Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6) prayers, communion (bring your own bread or cracker), a sermon, 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.

Words to This Week's Hymns – only for 12/05

Opening Hymn - *The King of Glory*

Refrain: The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

1. Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. **Refrain**

2. In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people, curing their illness. **Refrain**

4. He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
he took upon himself the sins of the nation. **Refrain**

5. He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen,
and he will share with us his heavenly vision. **Refrain**

Hymn of the Day - *When Peace Like a River* #785

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Refrain: It is well... with my soul... it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. **Refrain** Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by the Jeff & Jess Lindeman and Vince & Jenni Rimkunas in memory of Karlette Lindeman.

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 \$2,449 and mailed in & weekend offering of \$7,284 help us to keep doing ministry locally, nationally, and around the world! For attendance, we had 276 Facebook views of last weekend's worship plus You Tube and watching live), plus another 100 for the Thanksgiving worship and for the drive-in and in-person about 30 at 5:00, 70 at 8:30 & 65 at 11:00.** In troubled times, it is as important as ever to let the Word of God speak in our hearts and to the world.

New/ Important for This Week's Bulletin

GIFTS FOR SANTA CRUZ, AUGUSTANA CENTER FOR OPEN ARMS, AND ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The donation Christmas tree that we set up in the entrance area might go largely unnoticed and unused this year. Yet, we know how generous the people of this congregation are and how you have a heart for others. So, in addition to tags on a tree in the entrance area, as we did last year, we are going to set up a Christmas gift-giving fund to which you can contribute. We know it doesn't feel as good as actually buying a present, but let's concentrate on the people who are in need and plan ahead for a normal 2022 Christmas season!

Our causes will be the same, so you can designate which one(s) you wish to support and the amount(s). So that we don't blend these gifts with regular offerings, would you please send a check that gives which cause(s) and amount(s)? If you don't have checks anymore, you can drop off an envelope at church with cash, or you can use the online giving and send/email us a note for the special contribution so we look for it.

We will buy gift cards/send in the donations for the organizations/causes from the moneys we receive.

The causes

Santa Cruz in Joliet (our mission partner) - children and teens (\$10 to \$50)

Santa Cruz in Joliet - homeless adults (\$10 to \$50)

Augustana Open Arms - orphaned teens (\$25 to \$50)

ELCA Good Gifts ministry - assisting people all over the world with animals & more (chicks - \$10; honey bees - \$20; piglet - \$30; school uniform for girls - \$40; goats - \$50; feed 50 people at a soup kitchen - \$100; cow - \$500)

ADULT CLASSES SUNDAYS - 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.)

Dec. 5 - God's "Mindfulness" at Work (for the holidays and beyond)

Dec. 12 - Looking at Problems from Every Angle (the book of Job will be our background story)

Dec. 19 - The Christmas Story Is Not "The Night Before Christmas"

Dec. 26 - no class

Jan. 2 - Already Have Too Many Balls in the Air? (And it's only January 2!)

3rd-6th GR. BIBLE BUDDIES - WED., DEC. 1

Come join us for Bible Buddies! On two Wednesdays of the month 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 we will have a lesson, play some games, and have great conversations! We hope to see you soon! Please let us know if you're planning to come. [Bible Buddies sign up](#)

PRAYER SHAWLS - NEXT = DEC. 1

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 have switched to every other

Wednesday at 6:00pm, with the next being Dec. 1. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SINGING - SAT., DEC. 4 - INDOOR WORSHIP EXCEPTION

We will not have a traditional Christmas Program this year, but on Sat., Dec. 4, at the 5pm service, we are asking our Sunday School youth to sing during service. Please let us know if your youth will be singing with us during service. [Sunday School sings Christmas songs.](#) Worship will be indoors that one Saturday night.

BLOOD DRIVE - SAT., DEC. 4 - 9:00am - 1:00pm

Thank you to everyone who donated in October. Our next blood drive will be Sat., Dec. 4 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website www.versiti.org/home/coronavirus-information to make an appointment or call the office and we'll schedule it for you.

PEACE BUDDIES - SAT., DEC. 4 - CHRISTMAS EVENT - 6:00pm

Our special needs group, Peace Buddies, will meet on Sat., Dec. 4 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 at church. If you know someone who has special needs, the group is always open to new people! Call the church office for more information.

FAMILY EVENT - DINNER AND GINGERBREAD HOUSES SAT., DEC. 11

On Sat., Dec. 11, at 6pm we invite families to have some pizza and decorate a gingerbread house! Each family will receive one gingerbread house kit. (The houses will be pre-glued so that they are ready to be decorated when you get here). Please sign up before Dec., 5, so we have enough pizza and supplies to go around. Please bring a new baby item to donate to fill the mangers that the 5th graders & beyond built. We will bring them to Morning Star Mission. [Family Event sign up.](#)

HELP DECORATE PEACE'S OUTDOOR TREE - ESPECIALLY SAT., DEC. 11

We will put up a fresh Christmas tree just north of the front entrance on which to hang an ornament. We invite you to bring one you already have or to create one to hang. Because it will be outside, please bring unbreakable ones and put a twist tie or some other means of securing it against the wind! (You won't get the ornaments back so don't bring a "priceless" one.) You can come anytime and put on the ornament, but we are going to invite you to especially reserve Sat., Dec. 11 before or after the 5:00pm worship!

SHORTEST DAY/LONGEST NIGHT EMPHASIS - SAT., DEC. 19 - 5:00PM WORSHIP

As a part of the 5:00 worship service on Saturday, December 19, there will be a special liturgy and emphasis that acknowledges that Christmas is not merry for everyone. Also known in some congregations as a Blue Christmas Service, this Shortest Day/Longest Night observance allows anyone who has felt any kind of loss (death, divorce, job, etc.) to come and recognize that each is not alone; each is also held in God's compassionate care.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SCHEDULES

We are counting on being able to have Christmas worship both indoors (3 services) and outdoors (one service.) For the indoor ones, we also will have an option for being in the entrance area and Fellowship Hall if over-flow is required or you would like more space for yourself.

Dec. 24 - 4:00 pm worship includes an invitation for children to bring bells to ring, plus multiple children's sermons (no candlelight at 4:00)

Dec. 24 - 7:00 pm worship & 11:00pm worship - indoors with candlelight and communion (bring your own crackers or use ours) The 7:00pm worship will be live streamed and recorded for our Facebook site.

Dec. 24 - 9:00 worship - outdoors in the parking lot with bring your own communion and bring your own candle/electric candle

Dec. 25 - 10:00am worship (no Saturday night worship)

Dec. 26 - 8:30 & 11:00 worship as usual

Jan. 1 & 2 - 5:00pm and 8:30 & 11:00am schedule as usual. (Get your New Year off to a good start!)

PEACE PAGE TURNERS NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION - SUN., JAN. 16 - 9:55am

Our next book, a novel written by Paulette Jiles, is *News of the World*. This story tells the adventures and impact of a retired Captain and a young woman and their travels in a portrait that captures a beautiful and hostile land, and a masterful exploration of the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor and trust. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be Sun., Jan. 16, 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.)

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Each year the money we receive in our Thanksgiving/Christmas special envelopes is given away to others. This year it will be divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal (which includes direct help for the victims of the hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church that serves so many people in need), mission churches (Santa Cruz in Joliet and Resurrection in Channahon - Pastor Ben's church), and local ministries that help others (Groundwork, Daybreak, Trinity Services, and Morningstar Mission).

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. There are many ways to observe it on your own, as well as together in worship. One of the ways is with Advent devotionals. We have a variety from which to choose that you can pick up at church (including in the black bin outside the front doors.) There are also various online versions, including this one from Luther Seminary of the ELCA:

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/> .

BALLET 5:8 PRESENTS *BEYOND THE NUTCRACKER* - DEC. 17-19

A classic holiday tradition with a Ballet 5:8 twist. Join Emma and Uncle Abrahms as they embark on a miraculous journey through time and discover what Christmas is all about.

Dates are Dec. 17 at 7:00pm, Dec. 18 at 2:00pm & 7pm and Dec. 19 at 3:00pm at Lincoln-Way West Fine Arts Center. For tickets or more information go to: School.Ballet58.org or 708-329-8773.

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.

The Simon and Garfunkel Story - Feb. 27 - 2:00pm show - CIBC Theatre

This show features all of the hits of these two legendary performers. They have won all kinds of awards, including a lifetime achievement Grammy award. Tickets are \$38 including the handling fees. ([Sign Up](#))

Jesus Christ, Superstar - July 19-31 - 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](#))

RIALTO - JOLIET

American Legion Band Concert - Sunday, December 19 - 2:00 p.m. - (free)

Each year we have gotten free tickets for this Christmas tradition at the Rialto. If you would like to reserve tickets, let us know by December 5.

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.)

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!

OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES AVAILABLE

The offering envelopes boxes that began June 6 are now available for pick up in the Narthex. Come before or after worship or some other time when the office is open and pick up your box. (For those whose old numbers were above 336, you'll have a new number.)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them and have them for the indoor worship services (and hopefully visible online for the other two services as well.) You may call or email the church (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.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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 next quarter's devotionals. If you want us to mail it to you, let us know.

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.

Mel Stromberg (surgery), the family of Nola Gustafson, Lori (COVID & hospitalized), Eileen Krause (hospitalized), Kristie Paprocki (treatments), Dave Dralle (recovery), Dennis Flynn (heart issues), Ron Otto (cancer), Kathy Davenport, Jack Goesel (recovery), Jan Stoller, Kay Johnson (blood clots, cancer), Grant & Kaitlin Gibbs (deployment), Gerry Wurzburger (recovery), Diane Cochran (throat cancer), Larry Parvin (health), Denise Jones (rehab), Ted Chubb (healing), Roger Bentley (healing), Dorothy Vrshek (hospice), Chris Fehrenkamp, Hailey (strength and guidance), Rich Dohrn (COVID - recovery), Bonnie Fikeys, Barb Decker, Nolan (God's guidance), Jonah Huelhorst, Cathy Richardson, Judy Williams, Georgia Piech-Pander, Eric Bartels, Carol Tatro, Bev Kuzdas, Ray & Edna Anglin, Wayne Bell, Barb Chobot...
Erv Pander, Lee Potter, Paula Stripling (lung cancer), Sandra Morris, Jeanne Dolph, Robert DeLucia (recovery), Carlos Owens (health issues), Cie (breast cancer), Joe (brain tumor & seizures), Roberta Albi (tumor & recovery), Ray, Michelle Dreiling (tumor), Jim Ott, Edith Hammock, Louisa Schultz (brain tumor), Glenna McIntosh, Sandy Losiniecki (dementia), Emily Giovengo (liver issues), Michael Hoffman (tumor), David Becker (pneumonia), Travis Air Force Base (deployment), Barb & Michael (COVID), Clair (COVID recovery), Marie (health), Parker (seizures), Jim Calvert (cancer), Sandy Booten, Tyler, Vern Sanborn, Alan Booton, Bill Reidy (cancer), Ron N., Deryl & Jim Hunt, Mary Hand, the Austin family, Brena V. and family, Dan T. & family, Carol Bafundo, Georgianna Bafundo, Jeffrey, Brandon McSheffery, Jarrett Vann.

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

Giving & Giving More Thanks

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.

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).

Groups

ADULT CHOIR & LADIES ENSEMBLE HAVE BEGUN REHEARSALS!!!

HEY SINGERS!!! God has blessed us to be able to start our adult choirs again for the Adult Choir and the Ladies Ensemble. If you were in the choir and have not heard from Pamela due to possible contact info changes, or for all those NEW singers who have just been waiting for this news, please contact the church office and we will get your information to her. The Adult Choir practices Wednesdays at 7:00pm and the Ladies Ensemble once a month on Saturdays at 3:00pm. We have special singer-masks to help keep everyone safe.

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.

RUTH CIRCLE QUILTING - Dec. 13 & 27 - 9:00am

Quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. We are socially distancing in Fellowship Hall, and are resuming treats because everybody’s been vaccinated!!! You are welcome to join this great group!

On Dec. 13 we will be celebrating with a Christmas Potluck. Questions? Contact the church office.

TRAILBLAZERS - TUES., DEC. 21 - NOON

We invite anyone who’d like to get together with some others who are anything but “over the hill” to come together on Dec. 21 at noon at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided (pizza.) Email or call the church office for more information.

ALZHEIMER’S SUPPORT GROUP - on hold

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.

Fellowship Opportunities/Tickets & Events

CINDERELLA - NOV. 10 - JAN. 9 AT THE PARAMOUNT

Experience one of the most beloved and cherished fairy tales live on Paramount's stage, with a re-imagined take on the story families have returned to over and over across generations. Experience magic as you've never seen before. From pumpkins into carriages to tattered rags into a beautiful gown, this show should delight and enchant young and old alike. Tickets are available from \$45 to \$79. (And note that the Paramount will be fully decorated for the Christmas season by then!)

General Announcements

INTEREST INDICATORS!

We know that COVID has thrown a monkey-wrench into our wonderful record of having volunteers galore. We haven't felt comfortable with all kinds of ministry connections because we didn't want to take a chance on getting people sick. But this COVID obstacle is not going to last forever!!! We want to get a head-start on it by asking you to fill out a new Interest Indicator. There are three ways to go: 1) use the version on the website ([Interest Indicator](#)); 2) ask us to email you a fillable PDF version that you can then save and send back to us or print and send to us; 3) fill out a traditional printed version that will be available at church or that we can send you!

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.

BECAUSE OF YOU

Tropical Storm Isaias poured 7 inches of rain on parts of eastern Pennsylvania on August 4, 2020. Wind damage, tornadoes and widespread, severe flooding affected hundreds of thousands of people, including Joe Small and his wife. Flooding destroyed everything on the Smalls' first floor, including their washer, dryer, heater and furniture. The Smalls replaced all that with their own money, but they couldn't afford to replace the damaged walls, ceiling or flooring. So they turned to Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS), an affiliate of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), for help. "I can't say how much this means to me and my wife. We lost everything, for the third time," said Joe. Long after storms have passed and the national news media have moved on, LCS and LDR assist disaster survivors in Pennsylvania and around the world.

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.)

Help Others

WARM COAT MINISTRY CONTINUES

***One Warm Coat* is a ministry of our church to assist in the collection of clean, reusable coats and jackets for donation to local individuals free of charge. We are grateful for our ability in all circumstances to continue in our mission to meet basic human needs. Items can be dropped off at church including left outside the front door in a bag or box. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots are also accepted. Thank you for your continued support!**

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.)

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.

Faith Development/Education

QUESTIONS KIDS ASK ABOUT GOD

More kids and more questions! This month there were two questions in the box.

If God forgives everyone, why is there a hell?

God's forgiveness stands on its own. It is a complete work of God and a gift from God to us. Going to hell is not because forgiveness isn't offered or that some action was so bad that God wouldn't forgive it. But some people completely reject God. God is not going to save us against our will or make us take God's gifts, like forgiveness. When people completely reject God, they have rejected both forgiveness and God. So in the end, because hell is the absence of God, it exists because some people refuse to be with God.

When Jesus was born, did his lifestyle and actions influence the actions of others?

100% yes!!! We know practically nothing about his growing up childhood. (Certainly his birth influenced many people who came in contact with him.) But we know for sure how he influenced countless people in his life as an adult. Some were changed in small ways (like the religious leaders who were taught lessons by Jesus). Many were changed forever (like his disciples, people who were healed, people who were rejected by others in society but loved by Jesus, and many, many more!)

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - **Just started the New Testament!!!**

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. We just began the New Testament! 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!

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

Sometimes we wonder if our offerings make a difference. Each year the ELCA publishes a booklet that highlights a few stories how much good you do as you give to our church! Thank you!!! Please check out this link and see more! [Stories of Faith in Action](#) God is at work through 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>.

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.

December's is Matthew 1:18-25.

Details for how we worship this weekend, Dec. 4 & 5

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

This Saturday only the 5:00 worship will be indoors because our Sunday School children will be leading three Christmas songs as this year's version of their program. Sunday remains the same (8:30 & 11:00 in person.) 5:00 and 8:30 services are live-streamed.

- *The IDPH guidelines are back to mandating masks indoors.
- * Children's sermons are resuming!

*Whether you drive-in, are on the lawn 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.

* In order to keep people's safety in mind following the advice of the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, 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.

* Bathrooms will be available, but people would be encouraged to use them only if necessary, and social distancing would be required. The doors to the bathrooms will be left open to eliminate having to touch them, and for the sake of knowing what kind of distancing/waiting is needed.

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAY AT 5:00PM

- * **Our worship location will be inside for this week only.**

ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE

* We will continue to live-stream our 5:00 & 8:30 worship services. Assuming everything works, all will be available through our Facebook site anytime.

INDOOR WORSHIP AT 8:30am AND 11:00am

Here are the notes if you are planning to come:

- * **Masks are required indoors, per IDPH guidelines.**
- * Congregational singing of a hymn is allowed. We'll have some printed copies available.
- * We will have pews marked off so that socially distanced spaces can be maintained.
- * We won't be having nursery attendants, acolytes, refreshments, lay liturgists, etc.
- * We will be sending an email each week asking for lesson readers. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.
- * Bathrooms will be discouraged from being used but are available.
- * 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.
- * The service length will continue to be between 30 and 40 minutes.
- * 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.