

# 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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## ***You Can't Make Me!***

As a child, did you ever exclaim, "You can't make me!"? We said it in defiance and with every intent of picking a fight or causing the other person to back down. There can be a hint of positive in the whole thing: some exertion of independence. But that positive usually was vastly overshadowed by the attitude we carried right along with our words: hostility and contempt.

Some people never grow up. You can see it in the political atmosphere everywhere you turn. (You can't make me compromise for the sake of the greater good.) You can see it in people's refusal to wear masks. You can see it in the behavior of a mob. And of course, we can still see it in ourselves when we won't bend or change in a relationship or in a job or even when two car lanes need to merge into one and someone needs to yield. ☺

The problem is not the desire for maintaining some independence. The problem is the attitude! An attitude that is driven not by the former, but by a defiant "I have got to win!"

What a contrast to the calling of God in this Lenten season. The calling of God is toward humility and self-examination for the purpose of aligning ourselves with the ways of God! Such a way was so clearly stated and lived by Jesus; to live as servants. It was envisioned by the prophet Isaiah in the "suffering servant" sections. It was proclaimed by Paul in how he had the right to all kinds of attitude and demands because of his position, but he counted all of that as loss for the sake of the cross.

God is not interested in trying to make us do anything. God is interested in winning over our hearts and minds so that we want to follow God. The way of self-sacrifice, service, compromise, and humility may well cost you some independence. It may cost you some momentary success. Yet, in Jesus' words, "What does it profit us to gain the whole world and lose our soul?" Rather than a defiant shaking of our fists at the world, may we help influence the world and our politicians and our neighbors and friends and ourselves to voluntarily choose the way of God!

*Pastor Dave Hedlin*

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

## ***Prayers Requested***

Jeff Howell, John Overend, the family of Gregory Oak, the family of Thomas Blade, David Hennessey, Rich Dohrn, Hildegard Hansen, Joan Akaley, Carol Randall, Jennifer Barker, Jim Stott, Diane Baker, Wally Paprocki, Joyce Smith, Johnny Wellman, Charlene, Renee, Joseph, Jerry, Parker

## ***Sympathy***

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Ann Ciannella, wife of Chris Ciannella and mother of Emily, Anthony & Amelia.

## ***Congratulations***

Margaret & Rich Skurka, grandparents on the birth of Anderson Jay Skurka on Jan. 9.

## ***Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 6***

For those planning to have a baptism in the near future, the next baptism orientation class will be Sat., Feb. 6, at 3:00pm at church or via Zoom. Let us know if you plan to attend (815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)).

## ***2020 Giving Statements***

The 2020 giving statements have been mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office at 815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org). These statements serve as the IRS document for those who itemize their taxes.

## ***Not Yet, but Starting Feb. 7 at 8:30am (only) – Indoor Worship***

Based on the latest information out of the state and Will County, we think we can resume indoor worship on a limited basis Sun., Feb. 7, only at the 8:30am time slot. (5:00 on Sat. & 9:30 on Sun. will continue to be drive-in worship.) The plan will call for you to make a reservation by calling or emailing sometime after the previous Sunday ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.) All who come will have to wear masks the whole time and temperatures will be taken at the entrance. There will be no singing by the congregation. Communion will be offered both as a “bring your own bread/cracker” option as before, and now as an experiment, from pre-packaged kits that have both a wafer and grape juice that you can pick up on your way into church. (We’ll also have a gluten free wafer option.) There is a limit of 40 in the sanctuary.

### ***Details for How We Worship***

#### **FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE**

\*Whether you drive-in 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. Masks are required.

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

\* Households are required to socially distance from each other, which can be accomplished by **parking on the yellow lines. 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 new FM channel **(88.3)**.

\* The worship will last about 30 to 40 minutes. Worshipping outdoors allows us to sing!

#### **ONLINE OPTION CONTINUES INCLUDING AN 8:30 VERSION**

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

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

### ***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:***

Pete Knutson, Deacon Shari, Donna Conway – for special music

#### ***From:***

The Stripling family – for the Thanksgiving meal  
New Lenox Food Pantry – for the peanut butter

### ***Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 21***

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 21, at 10:30am. It is going to be quite a change since it will be primarily a Zoom meeting. **We need you to let us know you plan to attend online so that we can send you a special Zoom link/codes for the meeting!**

**([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327)**

For those who do not have internet access, you may come to the parking lot. Starting Feb. 12 (maybe sooner), we will have a link to a page on our website that will contain the full bulletin of reports, plus Council candidate bio’s and pictures. You will then have some options for voting.

1) Give us your name and email by Feb. 17 and we will send you an electronic ballot to complete on the day of the election (Feb. 21);

2) Let us know you’d like your ballot by mail. Then mail your vote to Peace, PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451 to be received by Friday, Feb. 19.

Highlights will include the election of council members and celebrating what God is doing through Peace even in a pandemic. The informal theme for 2020 turned out to be “go with the flow” – but really it was as always “go with God.” That’s worth celebrating!

## ***Quick Reminders***

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Feb. 28.**

\* **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.

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

\* **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.

\* **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).

## ***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.

## ***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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## ***Military Pray for List***

We are starting from scratch and updating our Military Pray for list in the bulletin. If you know of someone who should be on the list, please email the church office.

## ***Need A Mask?***

Thanks to our wonderful group of masks makers, we have a supply of masks available. If you are need of a face mask, please take what you need from the Ziploc bag in the grey tote by the front door of church.

## ***Golden Opportunities Books***

We are once again offering Golden Opportunity books. This year's edition has arrived and are \$25 each. (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) We hope this helps you get some good bargains!

## ***Looking Ahead***

***Feb. 6 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 pm***

***Feb. 6/7 – Souper/Super Bowl***

***BSA Weekend***

***Feb. 7 – Peace Page Turners 10:30 am***

***What's the Scoop 12:00 noon***

***Feb. 14 – Virtual Coffee Hour 11:30 am***

***Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday Service available  
online 11:00 am***

***Drive by Imposition of Ashes***

***11:15 am -noon and 6:30 pm -7:30 pm***

***Talent Show Video Submission Deadline***

***Feb. 21 – Annual Meeting 10:30 am***

***Mar. 6/7 – Girl Scout Weekend***

***Mar. 7 – Talent Show Online***

***Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday***

***Apr. 4 – Easter Sunday***

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

## **Groups**

### ***Ruth Circle Quilting – Jan. 8 & 22***

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 – On Hold***

We usually meet Mondays 12:00 - 1:00 and Wednesdays 11:30 -12:30 in Fellowship Hall. We are cancelling exercise class until further notice.

### ***Ping Pong Club – We have Resumed***

If you are interested, contact the church office (815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org).)

## ***Peace Page Turners – Sun., Feb. 7***

The next book for the book discussion group, Peace Page Turners, will be Feb 7 at 10:30am. We will discuss *Room with a View* by E.M. Forster. You can pick up a copy of the book at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. Be sure to let us know you are interested so we can give you the Zoom codes.

## ***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. 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.)

## ***Piano Available***

Someone has offered a "spinet" style piano for free. If you are interested, call the church office. It looks like a nice piece of furniture, and everything works.



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

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

1 Corinthians 13:4-7  
New International Version

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

In American culture February is the month of love. Some people go all out on Valentine's Day and others think it's just another Hallmark holiday. Either way you look at it there is something to be said for honoring love. Love in its purest form, in the form that God intended it to be is one of the most powerful feelings on earth. In Greek there are four types of love Eros, romantic love, Philo, brotherly or neighborly love, Storge, empathy or a bond like family love, and Agape, unconditional love or Godly love.

In our culture the love that is celebrated on Valentines' Day is Eros. Some families might even celebrate storge. My mom and dad always left a very small valentine gift on the table the morning of February 14<sup>th</sup> for my siblings and I as a way of celebrating their love for us. However, I do not often hear stories of how people are celebrating Philo or Agape.

It seems to me that our world could really use celebrating and lifting these two types of love. It is hard to find brotherly love on the tv these days. Yet, God commands us to love (Philo) our neighbors as ourselves. What if this year on Valentine's Day we left gifts for nurses and doctors, for pharmacy workers and first responders, for teachers and childcare providers? The love that these people have shown is Philo. They have given more than a full measure of themselves this year. Join me in celebrating the power of brotherly love.

What about Agape? In what ways could we celebrate God's love for us and for the world? In what ways should we celebrate? Perhaps it looks like a prayer of thanksgiving for unconditional love. Maybe, its setting intentional time aside on February 14<sup>th</sup> to spend time with the God who loves spending time with you. Join me in finding the place where God finds you and sharing with God what his love means to you. What does it mean, in this year with all that has happened, to be loved unconditionally and immeasurably? May you this month and always feel loved in all its beautiful expressions. May you read the Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and proclaim, yes, I have felt that kind of love!

God's Peace and God's Love,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

## ***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. February's passage is Mark 10:35-45.

### ***Wednesday Bible Study – Jeremiah***

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! The book of Jeremiah is one of the great ones of the Bible.

### ***Sun. Morning Adult Class – Jan. 31***

We invite anyone who wants to participate in an adult class to join us on Sunday, Jan. 31, at 10:30am, via Zoom. Be sure to let us know if you're coming so we can send you the right codes. The topic for this class will be the "meat" from Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian." That work is 500 years old and is as timeless as when it was written. You did not need to be a part of the first session to benefit from this famous God-inspired work. Because of other classes & the annual meeting, the future class will be Feb. 28.

### ***Daily Devotionals 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>.

### ***Jan. - March Devotional Booklet Available***

We put a second bin outside the front door labeled "devotional booklets" and 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).

## ***Lenten Devotionals***

This year we will have Lenten devotionals for adults, families and children and also God's Global Barnyard coin boxes available in the gray bin outside of the front door beginning Feb. 3. There are also 2 online devotionals for you to use free online at:

[Lenten Devotions :: Lutheran Hour Ministries](#)  
[Lenten Devotionals](#)

## ***Lenten Opportunities***

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?

## **General Announcements**

### ***BSA Weekend – Feb. 6/7***

The annual BSA weekend is coming up on Feb. 6/7. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 6/7 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout weekend.

### ***Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 6/7***

It's PLAYOFF time! Join the team that tackles hunger! On Feb. 7, people will be watching the Big Game, while an estimated 40 million Americans are food insecure, struggling to put food on the table. Imagine the impact we can make if everyone who watched the game gave one dollar or a can of food to help our neighbors in need. Show the world what it means to be a CHAMPION off the field. Join our church's effort in the Souper Bowl of Caring to help feed the hungry in this year's "Bigger than the Bowl" campaign. This year we will have our famous football available at the drive-in worship for donations. But we also will ask all of you who regularly have supported this effort in the past to send in a donation to our PO Box 205 address, noting what it is for. If you wish to make a direct contribution to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, you can do that at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>. Every dollar counts!

## ***What's the Scoop – Sun., Feb. 7***

So, what goes on? Why should I come? The bottom line is ideas for ministry are exchanged and new ones brought to mind – even in these crazy times. We hope you'll join the effort via Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., Feb. 7 at noon. Let us know if you plan to attend and how so we can send you information ahead of time ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Virtual Coffee Hour – Sun., Feb. 14***

One of the things we miss having is time together to just chat before or after worship. So, let's try a virtual coffee hour. You'll have to grab your own snacks and drinks, but have them in hand as you join us via Zoom on Sunday, Feb. 14 at 11:30am. Let us know you're planning to participate (815-485-5327 or [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org)) so we can get the right codes to you. In addition to just hanging out, those willing to share could relate a story (funny, embarrassing or informative) regarding an experience with coffee, tea or other morning beverage, and/or share what they are drinking during the event and why they chose that beverage.

## ***Ash Wednesday Plans – Feb. 17***

Ash Wednesday will be different; how often have we heard that?! Yet, we want to recognize the beginning of Lent in as meaningful a way as possible. So, a worship service will be available on Feb. 17 on our Facebook & YouTube sites (always accessible via our church webpage [www.peacenewlenox.org](http://www.peacenewlenox.org)), starting at 11:00am. Then, for those who would like the imposition of ashes, we are going to have a drive-by version. You will be able to drive into the parking lot on Ash Wednesday between 11:15am and noon or between 6:30 and 7:30pm. You will stay in your cars and wear your masks. We will say a prayer for each as well as offer ashes. You will then be free to leave or park and reflect for a moment and leave when you wish.

## ***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!

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

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

*Enjoy this one from Dan Horton*

It all started on December 1. I was in the living room, looking at the Christmas tree, daydreaming about what the holidays would bring...something did seem a little off, though. I had just completed my workday and I could barely keep my eyes open. On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>, I went to get tested for COVID. It came back positive. From Dec. 5-7, more symptoms appeared; I became weaker and my breathing, smell, taste were impacted. I went to the ER twice (once by ambulance) and was discharged.

On December 10, I was taken to the ER again and this time admitted. Despite a nurse telling me “you know this is going to get worse before it gets better”, I remained positive. I had faith that things would work out. I had to focus on getting myself better.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, my condition continued to worsen to the point where I needed to be moved into a different room. While this was going on, my attitude remained unchanged. I knew I would beat this. I was concerned about my family, but I had faith that God would intervene, show his love, and they would be fed and things would be taken care of. I had a top-notch team of doctors and nurses watching over me. I had faith that they would do everything God had blessed them with to keep me on the road to recovery. At night, I would ask for the healing hands of God to help me out. I would also go on social media to share my condition and progress. I would also text friends and family. The love and support I received back was very moving and powerful.

Fast forward to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Things by now were actually improving. I received cards in my room, including a very special one made for me by my daughters, and other random acts of kindness were going on at home, like food and meals being delivered. Babysitting, food & cleaning were all going on at home to help my wife out as she was working and running around taking care of the girls. God Is good.

Then came Christmas Eve and Christmas. It was difficult because I was in the hospital, missing my family. It wasn't the same. I remained positive. On Christmas Eve, a random person gave gifts to my children. That random act of kindness was another example of the help and support that we did not expect, that helped us immensely. On Christmas day, I began to walk more. I finally had the energy. I definitely had the motivation. I had a goal.

The next goal was discharge. To get there, I had to be able to do successful oxygen walks. I tried my first walk on the 26<sup>th</sup> and failed. I also failed on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and became discouraged. A nurse named Jamie did not let me get too discouraged. I opted to keep the faith. Finally, on New Year's Eve I was discharged; 21 days in the hospital and I finally got to be reunited with my wife and the next day my daughters. I was so happy to see them all.

My recovery would not be possible without faith. Faith augmented by the support we received. It is very important to show God's love. God commands us to make disciples of all nations. God is love. Make disciples by showing God's love. Random acts of kindness go a long way. Something as simple as opening a door for someone at the store can really impact one's day. During my journey, I would always sign my social media posts with three phrases: Stay Positive, Keep the Faith, and Love Everyone. I signed it this way because not only did it help me, I think it is what God calls us to do. Love everyone, try to stay positive, and have faith. Thank you to everyone for all the prayers and support. I am still on the road to recovery, but it's paved in positivity and support. I will be good. Love you all.

*– Dan Norton, son-in-law of Jan & Chuck Wolske (edited for length)*

## ***Talent Show 2021 – Your Acts Are Welcome!***

Our Fellowship Committee keeps thinking of ways to keep our congregation connected. This year's Talent Show is no exception and will be available online starting March 7. We'll give you details for how to access it later. But for now, we'd like to have you use your talent to share with us!!! Piano, other instrument(s), singing, some other fun thing you can do – they're all welcome! You will record it at home using any “movie-format.” When you're ready to turn it over to us, let us know and we'll send you the link for where to send it. Need help? We'll be happy to advise you. The main thing is, we're trying to have a fun “make the most of the situation” and create some great entertainment for the congregation. The deadline for turning in your submissions will be Feb. 17.

## ***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.

## ***ELCA Good Gifts Thanks***

Once again, the people of Peace have opened their hearts to let God's love flow through them and out into the world. Through the ELCA's Good Gifts program (\$1260!!!) we have provided, 50 soup kitchen meals, 5 goats, 5 groups of honeybees, 12 groups of chicks, 3 piglets, 1 cow, 1 health clinic and 1 set of PPEs. How wonderful it is to give!!

## ***One Warm Coat Drive Thank You!!!***

*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 through February.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items. So far, we have collected 63 men's coats, 72 women's coats, 56 children's coats, 10 snow pants, 143 scarves, 241 hats, 156 gloves, 3 socks/tights, 15 boots, 2 vests, 3 earmuffs – for a total of 766 items!!!

## ***Peanut Butter Thank You***

COVID or no COVID, thank you so much for helping to feed the hungry. Because of your generosity, we collected 236 jars of peanut butter for the New Lenox Township food bank and Santa Cruz our mission partner church! (Last year's record-setter was 251, so this is an amazing collection!)

## ***Church Office – More Care in Place for the Staff***

Because of more rampant (COVID) spread, we are asking you once again to being more restricted about coming into the church office (as it was when we first re-opened the office.) Call ahead M-F from 9:00 to noon and maybe you can arrange what needs to be done by dropping off or picking up something outside the front door. (You can always leave things for our various giving opportunities out there anytime and we will take care of getting it inside. Also, you can email the church and we will get back to you.) We continue to seek ways to serve and be safe at the same time.

## ***Would You Like Your Own Copy of the Worship Book?***

One of our members asked about doing this, and we can make that happen. If you would like your own copy, let us know and we will pass one along at our cost, which should be about \$28 after shipping. Contact the office ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327).

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

After 12 years of serving with the U.S. Marine Corps, Rebekah Nelson sensed the Holy Spirit calling her in a new direction. The idea of serving as a chaplain had long been in the back of her mind, but she hadn't seriously considered it as a career. In that moment of discernment, she realized God was calling her to chaplaincy, a ministry of accompanying people wherever they happen to be while away from home, whether it's a veteran away from home in a veteran hospital or a person incarcerated in a federal prison or a soldier in the middle of a battlefield. The ELCA Fund for Leaders provides seminary scholarships to support the future leaders of the church, and Rebekah was awarded both a full-tuition scholarship and a federal chaplaincy scholarship.

## ***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 we just discovered from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Sunday School class: 1) Is there a dog heaven and a human heaven? *Since the only clue we have is from Paul's writings about all creation being redeemed (saved, restored, renewed), we believe that there is only one heaven that will be for all things.*

2) If the oldest human is (116), how could Noah be 600 when he built the ark? *In the early part of the Bible, it was before people kept accurate records of years. The Bible really just wants us to know that even though people were "old" (Abraham is another example), they could still be servants of God's ways. Today we can add, "even though we are very young, we can still be servants of God's ways!"*

3) Are God and Jesus the same person? *Most definitely "yes," with just a hint of "no." Jesus was the human form of God – God in the flesh. So, Jesus lived as a human on earth. But the God-in-Jesus is 100% the same. It seems confusing, doesn't it? So, just try to concentrate on when you see/think "Jesus" you are seeing an exact picture of who God is.*



## ***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 needs the following specific items: **especially boxed cereal (all kinds), canned fruit, canned vegetables**, coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), soups, hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.

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

The five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch, can sometimes fool us into thinking something is very wrong. Sometimes sudden confusion leads to confusion itself. Maybe it's just a urinary tract infection. Maybe it's just an ear infection. Maybe a new pair of glasses are needed. Maybe it's just a sinus infection. Don't panic. Too many times we feel we are off or our loved one is off. Act with the process of elimination in mind before fearing the worst. Stay calm until you get answers. Sometimes that's all it is - a false alarm. Take that deep breath again. It'll be ok. *(For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)*

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

In recovery, the best lessons are found in the experience, strength and hope of others' recoveries. 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](#)

## ***Youth Events***

### ***Confirmation – Online for now 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 Feb. 3 & 24

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Feb. 10 & 24

### ***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.

**Feb. 7** Lesson 17 Packet **Zoom meeting P3-K**

**Feb. 14** Lesson 18 Packet **Zoom meeting 1/2gr.**

*(Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday)*

**Feb. 21** Lesson 19 Packet **Zoom meeting 3- 6 gr.**

**Feb. 28** Lesson 20 Packet **Zoom meeting 7/8gr.**

### ***Peace 360 Grape Juice & Paint Night – Sun., Feb. 7 – 4:00pm***

High school youth, please join us for a fun paint night with grape juice! Sun., Feb. 7 we will meet in Fellowship Hall at 4pm. Deacon Shari will lead us as we paint a really cool picture! We will provide the paint and the canvas! If you have a paint easel you can bring it. Remember to wear your mask. Please sign up for this event by Friday, Feb. 5, so we know how many supplies we need to prepare. Cost is \$5 per youth. Sign up online [Online Paint Night Sign up](#) or email the church to let us know you will be there.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pizza Dinner Online Event – Sat., Feb. 13 at 6:00pm***

Our high school youth had so much fun making dinner together we thought maybe our jr. high would like to do the same! On Sat., Feb. 13, 7-8th graders can meet via zoom at 6:00pm and we are going to make dinner together! Pizza is on the menu. Blaze pizza, in Tinley Park, offers a personal pizza that you can make yourself! They give you the dough and the ingredients and you get to roll it out, make it and bake it...and eat it! The cost is \$10. Please let me know how many pizzas kits you would like by Wed., Feb. 10. Please join us even if you don't want a pizza kit! The pizzas will be available for pick up on Saturday, Feb. 13, between 2-4pm. If for some reason you cannot get to church to pick up your pizza kit, please let us know. Sign up online [Online Pizza Order](#) or email the church to let us know your order.