

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*

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

815-485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org - web page: www.peacenewlenox.org

June 2021

Vol. XXVI, Issue 6

There's No Scan for That

The doctor says, "I'm going to order an (MRI, CT-scan, x-ray) and some blood work." You may or may not be surprised by that, but the doctor wants to know what's going on inside you. We hope the results will be encouraging and a clearer picture will be gained.

Too bad all of life can't be scanned, with clear results following. But an x-ray can't tell what it is you are feeling after a break-up. An MRI won't give a picture of what your hopes and dreams are. A CT-scan is clueless when it comes to your grief or guilt or gladness or giftedness. All those inner parts of who you are will only show up with an honest inventory by your mind or expression in deeds. At least that's true from the human point of view.

What is also the case, however, is that there is a God point of view. God knows with 100% accuracy the real you and me – no technology needed. That can be scary when we are trying to hide something but can be wonderfully liberating when we experience the freedom of release. It takes a toll on us when we try so hard to be somebody we're not. [How many of us as teenagers were trying on rolls or trying to impress somebody else, only to find out that it left us feeling confused and empty. (It didn't end with the teenage years!)] To be fully known means we get to be authentically ourselves, who are saints and sinners/plus and minus/whole and incomplete. A good and accurate reading is helpful, not scary.

The additional good news is that the God who knows us so thoroughly also loves us in spite of and because of who we are. God loves us because that's who God is – in spite of our stubbornness and because of our generosity. God loves us when we are forgiving and is sad for our grudge-bearing. God rejoices when we accept others regardless of their race or color or creed and invites us to change when we throw up barriers to others because they aren't like us. We don't have to enter into some kind of tube and told to stay still to have God's love make a wonderful difference.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

Richard Esposito, Tom Eizenga, Christopher Plagosa, Scott Campbell, Ryan Jones, Laura, Catherine Olson, Helen Sarsfield, the family of Alwyn Dohrn, Michelle Krieger, Ed Fikeys, Jeff Waligorski, the family of Joanne Eich, Lisa Parker, Michele Lenz, Ed Hovi, Larry Wurzbarger, Dorothy Vrshek, Tim Ferguson

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Dave Rubner, husband of Virginia Rubner

the family of Steven Walton, father of Eric Walton

the family Russ Chobot, husband of Barb Chobot

Congratulations

Claire Edgoose on her 90th birthday

Melody & Brandon Ploof, parents and Kathy & Jeff Walker, grandparents, on the birth Logan Ploof

Jon and Lauren Olofsson (Finn & Elise), parents and Patty Olofsson-Elkow & Jim Elkow, grandparents, on the birth of Lillian Tate Olofsson

Altar Flowers

Please email church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org and 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.

Details for How We Worship

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

* 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. Masks are required.

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAY AT 5:00PM & SUNDAY AT 9:30

* **Our worship location will be either from the long sidewalk (lawn area) or from under the canopy at the front entrance, depending on the weather.**

* Masks would be required if you get out of your car. (We have spare masks.)

* We will have sound projection/speakers for all to hear, plus the FM channel (88.3.)

* The worship usually lasts about 35 minutes.

Worshiping outdoors allows us to sing!

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 CONTINUES at 8:30am with increased limits - (registrations requested)

Here are the notes if you are planning to come

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

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

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

* There will be no congregational singing of a hymn, except by one worship leader. You *can* hum along!

* We will have pews marked off so that socially distanced spaces can be maintained. Of course, household units can stay together in their pew.

Ushers will be available to help guide people, filling in pews from the front of the sanctuary to the back, and at the end of service leaving from the back.

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

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

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

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

* 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.

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

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

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!

Daily Devotionals Available

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

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:

Karen Town, Diann Price, Deacon Shari, Todd Yetman – for special music

Bob Putrich, George Rumbaugh, Jeff Anderson, Russ Scanlan, Rick Mitchell, Paul-Léon Desaulniers, Charlie Conway – lawn mowing

From:

Megan Gerasch, Nick Gerasch, Nathaniel Knutson, Peter Vondra – for the scholarships

NAWS – for the pet beds made by the Quilters and the supplies donated by 5th/6th gr. Sunday School class

Operation Care Package – for the donation of soap, washcloths, socks & snacks

Trinity Services, ELCA World Hunger, LSSI, Catholic Charities – for the donations

Pam Swyndro – for the quilts for her family

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **June 27**.

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give 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.

* **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,

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

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

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

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

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. 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.

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn Sargent Devin Pafford
PO Box # 12989 1208 Battery Creek Dr.
Annapolis, MD 21412 Beaufort SC 29902

MA2 Baker, Connor 2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson
5600 Shorewood Lane 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C
Norfolk, VA 23502 Fort Polk, LA 71459

LC Bonarek Shane
MOS 351 Warehouse Specialist
Unit 35002 - FPO AP 96373 5002

Military Pray for List

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

Looking Ahead

May 30 – Adult Class 10:30am
May 31 – Memorial Day – Church office closed
June 2 – VBS Planning Meeting 8:45am
June 5 – Adult Fellowship Bunco 5:45pm
June 5/6 – Teacher Appreciation weekend
June 6 – Peace Page Turners 10:30am
June 9 – Peace Buddies Bowling 6:00pm
June 10 – Prayer Shawls Resume 6:00pm
June 12/13 – Recognition of Graduates
June 12 – Blood Drive 9:00am - 1:00pm
June 19 - Special Congregational Meeting & Ice Cream Event after 5:00pm worship
June 20 – Father’s Day
June 26 – Adult Fellowship Bags & Pizza 5:45pm
July 10 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm
July 20-22 – Vacation Bible School 9:00 -10:35am
July 31 & Aug 1 – Antioch 11 am – 11am
July 24 – Adult Fellowship Pictionary & Picnic 5:45pm
Sept. 12 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am

Groups

Summertime Quilting – June 14 & 28

Ruth Circle Quilting will not meet on Memorial Day, May 31. Summertime quilting starts June 14 and meets every other Monday at 9:30am. Questions? Contact the church office.

Prayer Shawls – Every Other Thursday

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 are going to meet every other week on Thursdays at 6:00pm beginning June 10. 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.

Trailblazers – On Hold

Our group for senior citizens is still on hold. We look forward to the day we can welcome you to join us!

Strong Seniors Exercise – Summer Break

Strong Seniors will take a break for the Summer and resume in the fall. Please watch the newsletter.

Ping Pong Club – 3rd Sunday at Noon

If you think you may want to join, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders.

Peace Buddies – Wed., June 9

We will meet at the Laraway Lanes on Wed., June 9 from 6-8pm. We’ll bowl a few games & then get ice cream. Peace Buddies is our special needs group and is open to anyone 15 and older. Email church to let us know you are coming.

Adult Fellowship - Bunco – Sat., June 5, Bags & Pizza – Sat., June 26 & Pictionary & Pack-A-Picnic – Sat., July 24

Now that the weather is getting warmer, we’ve got ideas for three events to hold outdoors. We can safely gather, be together in person and have fun. Event #1 = Bunco! June 5 is the date, with a starting time of 5:45pm. We’ll spread tables around and space the chairs; plus being outside has been given the go-ahead even to be mask-free for all of us who are vaccinated. (Any who want to wear a mask, of course, will be welcome to do so!) Rain date = 6/6 at 6:15pm. For this event there won’t be any food; bring your own water AND A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT. Event #2 = Bags & Pizza! June 26 is the date & rain date of June 27, with the same starting times. For this, we’ll be getting pre-packaged pizza, provide a water bottle and dessert for a suggested donation of \$5 each. Event #3 = July 24, with a rain date of July 25 & the same starting times of 5:45 or 6:15pm. This one will be Pictionary & Pack-a-Picnic. Please sign up using email, call, or online. [Adult Fellowship Sign Up](#)

Peace Page Turners – Sun., June 6

The next book discussion will be June 6 at 10:30am. We will discuss *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone. It is the true story of a young Quaker schoolteacher who was hired by a Chicago eccentric who believed Shakespeare’s plays had a secret code. Read about this extraordinary woman’s integral role in decoding secret messages in WWII. 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’re interested so we can give you the Zoom codes you’ll need, or you can show up in person.

Golf Group – Wednesdays

We play on Wednesdays at 10am for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. 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. To sign up, contact the church office at (peacechurch@peacelenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

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.

Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry

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

Wednesday Bible Study

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

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. June's passage is Micah 4:1-5.

Sun. Morning Adult Class – June 27

Because of more relaxed COVID options from the state, you can have your choice of Zoom or in person for Adult Class. If you are planning to come, please let us know whether in person or via Zoom. The next classes are May 30 and June 27 at 10:30am. The topics will be “Collective Memories - A God Given Plan” (in keeping with Memorial Day) and “The Christian Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.”

General Announcements

Congratulations

Congratulations to the 2021 recipients of the Peace Lutheran Church Scholarships:
Tori Entwistle
Megan Gerasch
Nathaniel Knutson
Peter Vondra

VBS Planning Meeting – June 2

We got a lot of great ideas at our first planning meeting! Our next one will be in person or via Zoom on Wed., June 2 at 8:45am. We'd love to have your input! Let us know if you would like the Zoom codes.

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – June 5/6

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education on June 5 & 6. As a bonus way of recognizing all of our teachers (including retired, piano, Sunday School, the world of education), we want to post pictures of you on our Facebook page. Send a picture of yourself to the church office at peacechurch@peacelenox.org.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

It feels so good to see pieces of normal returning to our youth program. Peace 360 is meeting every week. We are planning an awesome Vacation Bible School and finally, it is safe to have Antioch, our annual youth event. I love that these events are coming back because it means that I get to spend time with our incredible kids!

This past Sunday the youth and I made cards for our members who cannot make it to church because of health or age. You should have seen these kids! Not very often do you find teenagers focused on something for more than 30 minutes. Our amazing kids made cards for over an hour and had fun doing it. They decorated the cards and put special messages in them. A special shout out and thank you to Mrs. Jess Lindeman for getting all the materials together for us.

I love to do service projects with our kids because they not only do them with great dedication, but they spend the time checking on one another too. I listened as our youth talked with each other about summer plans, and vaccines. I laughed as they joked together. They are quite funny! I was inspired as they gave each other affirmation as well as advice. Have I mentioned that I love these kids?

The past two weekends we have also celebrated confirmation. The service of Affirmation of Baptism is one of my favorite events in the church life because I know how hard our young people work to grow their own faith. This year the youth were faced with unique challenges due to the pandemic. I know as an adult I am experiencing zoom fatigue, but our kids showed up every single week to do confirmation over zoom. They stayed focused when there were plenty of ways to be distracted. They asked great questions and they learned a lot about themselves and their relationship with God.

At the confirmation service as the congregation sang *Bornng Cry* I watched these young people process up the isle and I was so proud. I was reminded of my own confirmation and how I had such a hunger to know about God but had no idea the ways in which my relationship with God would continue to grow throughout my life. Join me in prayer for our young people. I pray daily that they will know what gifts they are to the world. I pray that they will continue to see the active presence of God in their lives. I pray that as they grow and go out in the world to fulfill their baptismal call that they will come back to Peace and say hi and share their adventures with us. May the difference they make be a resemblance of the difference Peace has made to them.

God's Peace ~ *Deacon Shari Trotter*

Blessings to our Confirmands

Please join in praying for these young people as they affirm their faith! We celebrate with family and friends this important step along their journey with God.

May 16

Kevin Nicholas Chiappetti
Charlie Preston Cosich
Logan James Fountain
William Emerson Golub
Aaron Timothy Knutson
Brenna Lynne Lovell
Miranda Reese Melde
Matthew John Muehlnickel
Hailey Autumn Smith
Erik Dale Vanderkin

May 23

Kolin Edwin Dotzenrod
Jack Steven Galminas
Logan Wescott Kessler
Taylor Reanna Kessler
Alexander Slate Liszkiewicz
Olivia Grace Meister
Madison Nicole Mitchell
Amanda Zhu Muehlnickel
Molly Yu Muehlnickel
Teagan Rose Powers
Jack Vincent Rimkunas
Amelia Ann Rogers

Blood Drive – Sat., June 12

Our next blood drive will be Sat., June 12 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment.

Recognition of Graduates – June 12/13

All you who are graduating from high school, college and beyond, you had another strange year, but we want to do something to celebrate you and your accomplishment! On June 12 & 13 we're going to have special recognition and prayers for all of our graduates. Please email at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org with your name, from where you are graduating, and if an advanced degree, for what that degree is. Not only that, but we would like to create a special piece within our [Facebook page](#). Please send us a graduation picture, whether one of those you had done at a studio or one you take yourself.

Special Congregational Meeting – Sat., June 19

A special congregational meeting has been called for June 19 following the 5:00pm worship service to approve the budget. The meeting usually lasts about 5-10 minutes but is a necessary legal event & a time to celebrate another year of ministry no matter what has gone on in the outside world! We're still calling it a working budget since there is so much uncertainty!

Ice Cream (And a few other non-dairy treats) Event – Sat., June 19 - After 5:00pm Worship

Right after the special congregational meeting, which will be right after worship, we're going to have a time of fellowship. We love being creative in these days of COVID restrictions, and this is another of those ideas. We'll have ice cream bars and ice cream sandwiches and frozen fruit-pops and something else that's healthy/non-dairy. It will all be outside, and you'll be able safely to enjoy some time with others. (If it's raining, bring an umbrella and or raincoat or have fun getting wet in the rain.) Please let us know you're planning to attend so we have enough treats! [Ice Cream Sign Up](#)

Vacation Bible School! – July 20-22

“Discover Team Jesus” is our theme for this year's VBS. We are going to have it all outside to help keep everyone safe. It will be from 9:00 to 10:35am all three days, with one rain date of July 23 as a back-up. Registrations for people from Peace and their guests will be June 1 - 15. From June 15 to July 1, registrations will be open to the community until we reach our capacity.

The format will be based on pods of kids and adults who will be together each day (families and their friends will be grouped in the same pods.) Each day we will accent a theme of the day through 1) an opening song and lesson 2) some play time 3) a snack and then 4) one more craft-type component that will vary daily. For COVID reasons, we will have the staff/helpers all be vaccinated, keep distancing in mind all the time, treat areas that will be used by another group, and ask all to bring their own water bottles and to wear masks. The usual daily give-aways will happen along with lots of fun and making connections to God and each other! Mark your calendars!!! [VBS Registration](#)

Faith & Life Experience

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

Enjoy this one from John Overend

How my faith fits my life

Most of us have had our ups and downs, traversed rocky paths, and thankfully also enjoyed some smooth passageways throughout our lives. I have been blessed with fifty years of marriage, two great kids, and six wonderful grandchildren. I live in a modest but comfortable home and feel very fortunate to live peacefully in my retirement. I am thankful to God for my many blessings and proclaim this daily. As written in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Giving back has always been an important aspect of my life. In thinking back on my younger days, I once donated time as a volunteer fireman, Cub Scout leader, and Sunday school teacher. Volunteering is a great way to combine Christian faith with service to others. Early on in the pandemic, I volunteered to organize and work with more than twenty wonderful women where I live in Carillon who sewed over 1,200 well-made cloth masks for the staff at Silver Cross Hospital. I've been volunteering there for over 9 years and have given them my gift of time with over 1,750 hours to date. There was an enormous feeling of caring and love from all those that helped produce those masks. I picked up completed masks daily throughout Carillon and brought them more supplies. Recently I answered a call to donate at the blood bank in Joliet. It was a way to give back in both time and especially this time, in substance. That day marked a milestone in my blood donations: I received my 5-gallon donation pin to commemorate the occasion. (I now wear that pin on my Silver Cross volunteer vest along with my St. Francis hospital pin and my volunteer hours pins when I'm on duty every Thursday at the hospital.) In the last few months, I've found a new way to share my gifts for service to Peace Lutheran Church. Throughout my career I've designed and written marketing materials and this time reached out to Pastor Dave to see if I could help by designing the banners for Peace email communications. I enjoy making those and hope the congregation enjoys them as well. I've made my faith a part of my life and am grateful for the many opportunities I've had.

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

~ John Overend

Operation Care Package Collection through May 31

Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer 501 C-3 Public Charity that mails care packages to deployed troops weekly. We are collecting bar soap and packs of new washcloths through May 31 to include in the packages. If you would like to donate items, please look for the patriotic quilt & basket in the narthex or you can leave your items in the gray bin outside the church doors and we will take them from there. Thank you to everyone who has donated already. So far, we have collected 103 washcloths & 104 bars of soap, plus combs, towels, batteries, coffee, cookies, canned food, socks and miscellaneous toiletries.

Business Attire Collection through June 30

We will be wrapping up of business attire collection on June 30. If you have any business casual clothing, including gently used shoes, suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, etc., please bring your items to church and put them outside the front door and we'll take them from there. Thank you to everyone who has dropped off items already.

So far we've collected: Women's skirts - 34, pants - 49, capris - 3, dresses - 40, shirts - 107, sweaters - 45, pant suits - 1, blazers - 31, belts - 24, nylons - 5, shoes - 22, jeans - 6, coats - 5, purses - 3, scarves - 5 and Men's suits - 10, pants - 60, shirts - 104, sport coats - 4, belts - 16, jeans - 6, vests - 2, ties - 50, socks - 2, shoes - 5.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Because of You and Your Gifts

With the help of dedicated, well-trained volunteers and donated new children's books, LSSI's Storybook Project connects incarcerated parents with their children. At 14 Illinois prisons and jails, incarcerated moms and dads are recorded while reading a book. LSSI mails the book and the recording to their child. 3703 children received books and recordings from their incarcerated parents before the pandemic temporarily suspended programming.

Foster Parents Needed

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

Questions Kids Ask About God

While we wait for more opportunities to share our *Questions Kids Ask About God* book with others, we recognize the questions don't stop. Here are some that were from our Sunday School last year: 1) When people say God is always watching you, do they mean God is a ghost that walks around? *No. What is meant is that God is looking out for us on our behalf. There are times as God watches us go against God that God is sad/mad/disappointed. God is able to see all the universe at the same time, but cares for each part of it. How God pulls that off is beyond us. But the promise of God in Jesus is exactly that. God can "watch" from afar.*

2) How did God save us from our sins? He just died on a cross. *The death on the cross is more than just about sin. The death shows exactly how much God loves us! Even though we humans rejected the very one from God, God keeps on loving. The resurrection from death demonstrates that the self-giving love of God can't be defeated by anything – not sin, not even death. So, we are saved from sin, (and death & the power of all the forces against God!)*

3) The gods of sun and moon created time, and God doesn't care about time. So what makes those gods special? *I'm not sure what this is a reference to, but we would not say that there are any other gods. So, the true God created time and cares about it. God even chose to enter into our time and space in the birth, life and death of Jesus.*

Sunday School Teachers/Helpers Wanted

Parents/guardians, have you ever been interested in teaching, being a substitute, or a helper for our Sunday School? A few of our teachers have had some life changes and they can no longer teach Sunday School. We are looking for energetic parents/guardians to help with our Sunday School program for next year. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please let Jess Lindeman or Pastor Dave know.

Institute on Aging Friendship Line

Loneliness and lack of social interaction are real problems that can affect the elderly. There is a hotline set up by the Institute on Aging called the Friendship line where non-crisis conversations about issues can be talked about. The hotline is available 7 days a week & 24 hours a day at 800-971-0016.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

A Prayer of Hope - This world can be a place of trials and tribulations, but as believers, we are secure. We need never lose hope because God has promised us peace, joy, and eternal life. So, let us face each day with hope in our hearts and trust in our God, remembering always that God keeps his promises. Always. Amen. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex)

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.

Hand-in Hand Parenting Opportunity

There is a great parenting resource that is just a click away: www.handinhandparenting.org. There is an online starter training class for a more thorough treatment for how to deal with various issues in dealing with kids. Also available for professionals (social workers, counselors, day care workers, etc.), thanks to a generous offer from one of our member families, we have a bonus opportunity available. If someone in that group is willing to do an 8-week training course (about 6-8 hours per week), the entire tuition amount will be covered. All we ask is that you then lead a class (or series) at Peace. If you are interested, contact Pastor Dave. For professionals, there is CEU credit available.

New Offering Envelopes Available

The offering envelopes boxes that begin with the June 6 weekend are now available. They will be spread out in Fellowship Hall. 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.)

COVID Cookbook Recipes

At our last What's the Scoop idea exchange, someone suggested a cookbook of favorite recipes you made during the COVID time. Let's turn a trying year into an opportunity to share some recipes with each other that you enjoyed making while you were confined! Send them in a Word file or a pdf or scan and attach. You can email them to peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or mail them to PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451.

College Information Packets

We have available an excellent packet of materials for all who are in the college search stage of life. Let the church office know via email or call, and we'll get it to you electronically.

Check Out These Local Events

We want to encourage people to safely get out and enjoy some local entertainment options. The Village of New Lenox hosts some things at the Village Commons, including the New Lenox Community Band (and paired up on July 11 with Cloggin' Craze featuring several people from church.) Check out: <https://www.newlenox.net/pview.aspx?id=54045&catid=529>. (We are waiting for more information from Frankfort's Concert on the Green events and will add that as soon as we find out more.)

Golden Opportunity Book – Price Reduction - \$15

Some of you have used these books to get discounts at restaurants, oil change places, dry cleaners and more. The 2021 edition's price has been reduced to \$15, with \$5 of that going to support youth ministries in our church. If you'd like a copy, come by the office M-F, 9:00 to noon, or let us know and we'll happily make arrangements to get one to you!

Mental Illness Support Available

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

For more information call 815-409-7917 or go to: info@namiwillgrundy.org or www.namiwillgrundy.org

Youth Events

Peace 360 – 7th grade and beyond

We are expanding our youth group! From now on our 7/8th graders and our high school graduates are invited to join our high school youth group! Peace 360 will be open to 7-12 graders and our graduated youth, as well!
Meeting on June 27 – Antioch planning

Children's Service – June 5 & 26

We invite the youth of Peace Church and their families to join Deacon Shari for a Children's service and a craft on Sat., June 5 from 3-4pm. We provide all the supplies for this, just let us know how many are coming. We will sing some songs, have a bible lesson, and do a rock painting craft! On June 26 from 2-3pm we will have another children's service then we will be tie dying! We will provide the tie dying supplies, you bring a shirt or something to dye. We have tons of vintage Sunday School t-shirts that we can supply too! [Children's Service Sign Up](#)

Preschool 3 - 2nd gr. Pajama Zoom Game Night – Wed., June 16

Our P3-2nd graders are invited to join us for a pajama Zoom game night, on Wed., June 16 at 6:00pm. We found that the best thing about Zoom is that you can do it in your PJ'S! Siblings are always welcome, even if they are older! We will play some games and get a little crazy! If that sounds like something your youth is interested in please let us know and email us at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. Links will be sent out on Tues., June 15.

Antioch - July 31 & Aug. 1

Youth going into 8th grade though our new high school graduates, please join us for Antioch! We will meet at church on Saturday, July 31 at 11:00 am. We will eat lunch and get ready to host our 5pm worship service! Lots of activities leading up to our CAMP OUT! We will be outside as much as possible during these days. Please register before July 16! Registration this year is mandatory so that we make sure we can follow protocol and we need t shirt sizes as soon as possible. Cost is \$20 (remember the Hope Fund). If you don't want to camp out, totally ok! If you can't make one day but want to come the next, that is ok, too. Just let us know. More info to come! [Antioch Registration](#)