

# ***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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## ***To Be Honest***

Have you ever played the real-life no-win game where you and another person were not being honest with each other? The possible reasons are many – from not wanting to hurt the other person to fear of losing the relationship to happily taking advantage of the other. Isn't it interesting that at least sometimes both of you know you've got a secret you are not sharing; that you are hiding some piece of truth? The results of our game? Not good!

People have tried to play that game with God. We can read their stories in the Bible, including thinking that they can do whatever they want in private, and God won't know; that they can just bring their offerings/be in worship and God won't dig deeper; that "less than" will impress God as much as it might impress their friends. Every time the story is told in any of its many variations, the words of prophet after prophet and Jesus himself are "these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." The results of their game? Not good!

On the other hand, what happens when people (we) dare to be honest with God? For one thing, over and over again the first words from God are forgiveness and peace and acceptance. Over and over again, people who thought they would be rejected or seen as less than are instead seen as children of God and healed. The ones who are honest have a real opportunity for healing, at turning in a different direction, of being inspired toward new life. Whether the turning is dramatic or subtle, the adjustment to priorities or outlook can result in hope instead of brokenness. So, instead of wasting our energy trying to fool ourselves, others or God, God invites us to be honest and experience release and inner peace. The results? Yay!!!!

*Pastor Dave Hedlin*

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

## ***Prayers Requested***

Judy Beauvier, Mimi, Cheryl Dralle, the family of Deb Slimko, Bruce Thielen, Karen Michielsen, Max, Danette Lafferty, Karen Cohn, Wayne Hansen, Jenny Treasure, Anita Drake, Zach Huelhorst, Steve Buenning, the family of Justin Woffard, Jimmy P, Jeanne, Scott Campbell, Marquin, George Rumbaugh, Michele Lenz

## ***Sympathy***

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of John Roggemann, husband of Janet Roggemann, father of Cindy Gerasch

the family of Delores Sperstad, mother of Eric Sperstad

the family of Rosalie Schneider, mother of Jim Schneider

## ***Congratulations***

Zach Brown for earning his Eagle Scout Award;

Sara & Jeremy Kman, parents and Gina & Vito Losacco, grandparents, on the birth of Owen Andrew Kman on June 20.

## ***Welcome to the Lord's Family***

Gilbert Miguel Herrera Jr. was baptized on June 26.

## ***Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., July 10***

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

## *Details for How We Worship*

### ***Important Mask Wearing Update & More Seating Capacity in the Sanctuary***

Because of the new guidelines from the state and Will County, we are able to have new mask-wearing guidelines!

\* For everyone who is vaccinated, masks are optional inside and outside.

\* For people who are not vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to keep wearing your masks indoors for your own sake and for the sake of others.

\* Inside the sanctuary, when it is time to sing we'd ask all to wear their masks if they wish to sing, and to keep the volume to a moderate level.

\* The number of available seats in the sanctuary for the 8:30 in person worship is no longer restricted, so registration is no longer required.

\* We have stopped taking temperatures.

\* For the outside worship services (5:00 & 9:30,) masks are optional and not required for anyone.

Some of the modifications we have had within worship will continue on the advice of the IDPH guidelines for churches. Those include continuing our practices for communion (bring your own), length of worship, no refreshments, and the like. (By fall, we hope those will fall into line, too!)

We celebrate how many people have been vaccinated and the opportunities we have to get closer to "normal." The more youth and adults who can get vaccinated, the faster we'll get there. Also, starting July 3 & 4 we will invite people to take turns reading the first and second lessons. About two weeks before a given weekend, we will be asking for volunteers to let us know of your availability.

Please note that live-streaming of 5:00pm worship on Saturdays and 8:30am on Sundays will continue.

### **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.

### **DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAY AT 5:00pm & SUNDAY AT 9:30am**

\* **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.**

\* 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 with gusto!

### **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 no limits**

Here are the notes if you are planning to come

\* **Masks are optional, but encouraged for those not vaccinated.**

\* Congregational singing of a hymn is now allowed, but wear your masks for singing, and hold down the volume. 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, lesson readers (but they will resume in July), etc.

\* 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.

### ***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!

## ***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:**

Handbell Choir, Jonathan DeMik, Nathaniel Knutson, Al Davenport, Marylynn Tyler – for special music  
Marcel Arenz, Chris Jarchow, Todd Klock, Bob Lindbloom – lawn mowing

### **From:**

Operation Care Package – for the donation of washcloths and toiletries  
Northern Illinois Synod World Hunger, Frankfort Chamber of Commerce Concerts on the Green Series, Guardian Angel Community Services – for the donations

## ***Quick Reminders***

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS July 25.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* **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](mailto:info@namiwillgrundy.org) or [www.namiwillgrundy.org](http://www.namiwillgrundy.org)

## ***Addresses for Service Personnel***

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

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

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

## ***Looking Ahead***

***July 5 – Office Closed***

***July 10 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm***

***July 11 – National Youth Gathering Interest Meeting***

***July 17 – Children’s Service 3pm***

***July 20-22 – Vacation Bible School 9:00 -10:35am***

***July 24 – Adult Fellowship Pictionary & Picnic 5:45pm***

***July 31 & Aug 1 – Antioch 11:00am – 11:00am***

***Aug. 1 – Peace Page Turners 10:30am***

***What’s the Scoop? 12 noon***

***Aug. 8 – SCS Teacher/Helper Meeting 10:30am***

***Aug. 14 – Blood Drive 9:00am -1:00 pm***

***Baptism Orientation 3:30pm***

***Aug. 14/15 – Farwell to Todd after 5:00pm & 9:45am***

***(note time change) services***

***Sept. 12 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am***

## **Groups**

### ***Summertime Quilting – July 12 & 26***

Summertime quilting meets every other Monday at 9:30am. Questions? Contact the church office.

### ***Prayer Shawls – July 8 & 22***

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God’s love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Thursday at 6:00pm. 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!

### ***Adult Fellowship - Pictionary & Pack-A-Picnic – Sat., July 24***

Please join us for Pictionary & Pack-a-Picnic on Sat., July 24 at 5:45pm (rain = indoors instead of outdoors.) We can safely gather, be together in person and have fun. New guidance says we can be mask-free. (Any who want to wear a mask, of course, will be welcome to do so!) Please sign up using email, call, or online. [Adult Fellowship Sign Up](#)

## ***Peace Page Turners – Sun., Aug. 1***

The next book discussion will be Aug. 1 at 10:30am. We will discuss *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle. It is the true story of a Jesuit priest who ran a gang-intervention program in Los Angeles. 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@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Strong Seniors Exercise – Summer Break***

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

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

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

## ***GriefShare Ministry***

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

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

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

## **Faith Development/Education**

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in person or via Zoom. 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!

### **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. July's passage is Genesis 50:15-21

### **Sun. Morning Adult Class – July 18**

Because of more relaxed COVID options from the state, you can have your choice of Zoom or in person for Adult Class. The next class will be July 18 and the topic will be "Bringing God to \_\_\_\_\_" (store, home, work, bed, school, etc.)

## **General Announcements**

### **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 are available for people from Peace and their guests at [VBS 2021 Registration](#). Registrations will be open 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. The usual daily give-aways will happen along with lots of fun and making connections to God and each other! Mark your calendars!!! Our VBS is for kids 4 years old through going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **From Deacon Shari Trotter**

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

During the month of July, we celebrate our freedoms as Americans. Freedom is such an important word. As Americans we are set free to pursue our own happiness and the happiness of our own family. Unfortunately, all people are not free from tyrannical rule. It is right to celebrate this freedom while also remembering and praying for those who still do not have those same freedoms.

However, all people are set free in Christ. Because of Christ sacrifice for us we are set free to love and serve one another. Rather than being free to pursue our own happiness, we are set free to serve others. We are set free from sin and suffering. We are united with Christ and are a part of his family. We, through our freedom become hope for the world.

This year as we celebrate our independence may we also remember our freedom to serve one another. May we be compelled to serve all of God's children regardless of race, gender, nationality, age, sexual expression, and any other defining characteristics. After all, the most important defining characteristic is beloved child of God.  
God's Peace,

*Deacon Shari Trotter*

### **Sunday School Teachers/Helpers interest meeting – TBD**

Parents/guardians, have you ever been interested in teaching, being a substitute, or a helper for our Sunday School? We are looking for energetic people to help with our Sunday School program. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please let us know in the church office and we will let you know when the date for the meeting has been set.

### **What's the Scoop (Bring your ideas to the group!) – Sun., Aug. 1**

So, what goes on at these meetings? Why should I come? The bottom line is ideas for ministry are exchanged and new ones brought to mind. We hope you'll join the effort either in person or via Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., Aug. 1, at noon. Let us know if you plan to attend and how so that we can send you information ahead of time [What's the Scoop Sign Up](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) ([peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327.)

## ***Recognition of Graduates***

We would like to recognize all those who have let us know they've graduated from high school, college and beyond. Congratulations on all your achievements!

### High School Graduates

Emily Ciannella, Drew Darley, Tori Entwistle, Megan Gerasch, Kate Jensen, Peter Vondra, Jacob Weber

### College & Beyond

Skye Brugler, Augustana College  
BS, Biology/Environmental Science

Ashley Howell, American College of Education  
M. Ed., STEM Leadership

Matthew Klock, University of Illinois  
BS, Computer Engineering

Charlie Rodey, Northern Illinois University  
BS, Software Engineering

Jake Sons, University of Illinois  
MS RST, Recreation Sport & Tourism

## ***Parents of Peace Outing – Sat., July 17***

It's time to have the Parents of Peace meet again for an evening out without the kids. The date is Sat. July 17 after the 5pm service and we will make reservations for 6:15pm at Gatto's in New Lenox (in their beautiful outdoor tent). Please R.S.V.P. on our Facebook page (Parents of Peace Lutheran-if you are not yet a member, please check it out) or call the office by July 12th.

## ***Sunday School Teacher/Assistant Orientation – Sun., Aug. 8***

Our Sunday School staff gathers before the start of Sunday School to help get to know each other, help new teachers and staff get acquainted with our Sunday School ministry, get our supplies and curriculum, and generally have a good time! This year's orientation will be Sunday, Aug. 8 at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. (We also give extra special care and training for our new staff!)

## ***Baptism Orientation – Sat., Aug. 14***

Saturday, Aug. 14, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

## ***More Big News – Todd Yetman is Retiring***

It is with deepest gratitude that we acknowledge how much we have been blessed by Todd Yetman as our organist, pianist, accompanist, vocalist, encourager, recruiter, and inspiring God-led friend for over 10 years! So, as Todd now prepares to "retire from the bench" (organist lingo), we get to express our own regret, but also celebrate what a difference he has made. In the next two months, please find your own ways to let Todd know what a difference he has made. As a congregation, we will be having a thank-you event on his last weekend with us, Aug. 14 & 15. After the 5:00pm Sat. worship and after the 9:45am worship that Sunday (we're moving the service back 15 minutes because of special music that will be part of the worship at all services), we are going to have a thank you reception. The plan is to have it on the lawn, but in case of rain, it will be in Fellowship Hall. (In case of rain, the worship service would also move indoors to accommodate the music.) In the meantime, if you know someone we should contact about becoming our next organist/pianist, please let us know! We also welcome people to be part of the interview team. Again, let us know.

## ***Blood Drive – Sat., Aug. 14***

Thank you to everyone who donated in June. We had 14 donors, 3 deferrals and collected 11 units. Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Aug. 14 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment.

## ***Joliet Slammers Outing – Sat., Aug. 21***

Be A Part of America's Favorite Past Time! No, not shopping on Amazon Prime Day! We're talking baseball! We have our own local team in Joliet, the Slammers, and they provide entertainment and food for the entire family. We have reserved 20 (or more) seats for Sat., Aug. 21. Tickets are \$8 and the food/drink choices at the park are very good. Bring the kids! They get antsy? You can leave in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Bring your parents! If 8:00pm is their bedtime, leave in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Or come by yourself! We hope to have a nice, friendly group from our church to join in some good old-fashion fellowship (you know... pre-2020) **The deadline to reserve your tickets is Aug. 3.** To sign up please use the church website or call the wonderful ladies of the church office 815-485-5327. Play Ball!

## ***Cantigny Park Options***

Either on your own or as a church outing, are you interested in going to Cantigny (less than an hour from New Lenox?) The park is open from 7:00am to sunset daily. Some reasons to consider a trip: \$10 per car fee gets you all in for the whole time you're there, no other costs.

Concerts: most Sundays through September, outdoor seating on lawn chairs or blankets. Food can be brought in or bought. Would you consider a soulful R & B event on Aug. 8 at 3:00pm (MAC 180) or how about "A Tribute to Old Blue Eyes" on Sept. 5 at 3:00pm? Let us know if you'd consider either one!

Gardens: beautiful!

First Division Museum: Revolutionary War through Desert Storm....walk through a WWI trench with sounds of exploding shells or sit in a landing craft and a whole lot more!

## ***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.)

## ***Habitat Celebration Event***

Recently Ed Cochran attended the dedication and turning-over-the-keys to the family that is now living in the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build House in Joliet. Here is Ed's report from the event: "What a cool event..... Lots of good people involved. The family was so excited, & the mom cried when she made her speech. I got to chat with them. A number of pastors were there to help with prayers, singing and dedication of the family Bible. It's a beautiful home with a big garage to boot. Four or five of the construction workers joined in as well. Nice fellows. I'm glad I attended. I'd say there were about 25 people attending. It's my first glimpse at a new Faith Build home. It was impressive. God bless all who were involved."

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

*We are going to feature stories about people from Peace from time to time. Enjoy this one from Chuck Wolske!*

Since the first time I walked into Peace Lutheran Church many years ago, I along with my family have found a deeper meaning in what it really means to having faith in God and most of all practicing that faith. Belonging to a church is more than just attending worship services. Living our faith means coming to terms with what you really should be doing as part of our everyday life. Peace greatly assists each and every one of us in developing a stronger faith. Bible studies, Sunday school, adult education hour on Sundays, youth and young adult ministries, fellowship, outreach, and missions to those in need for various reasons are just a few of the ministries that are offered at Peace. This is all made possible by dynamic leadership and wonderful, friendly caring people in the congregation who support that leadership. It is up to each and every one of us to take advantage of all of the opportunities that Peace offers to us. It is all of these things that make our church a progressive church body that will continue to grow. My family and I have found that you don't have to become involved in activities at Peace because you are asked to. You do so because you want to. It's the Holy Spirit at work. Faith is at the crux of all of this.

*~ Chuck Wolske*

## ***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 two that are from the past. 1) Does God live in heaven? *We are so used to everything having a place/location, that it is really hard for us to imagine how something can be different from that. So, in this case, it is the opposite of God living in a place called heaven. Instead, heaven is wherever God is! That means God can be present with us today on Earth, but also at the same time everywhere and anywhere else in the universe and beyond.*

2) My dog died. Will I see him in heaven? *God's presence in Jesus included him caring for all creation. Paul in his writings wrote about the redemption (new life) for all creation. I'm 100% convinced God's love is big enough to include our dogs and every other part of creation being made whole again!*

## ***Diaper Collection July 1 - Aug. 31***

One of the needs of people who are challenged economically has to do with diapers. We are starting a collection of diapers of all sizes, including adult sizes. You can put them outside the front door or put them in the wire-rack bin we have in the entrance area.

## ***New Offering Envelopes Available***

The offering envelopes boxes that began with the June 6 weekend are now available in Fellowship Hall. Come before or after worship or some other time when the office is open and pick up your box.

## ***Business Attire Thank You***

Thank you to everyone who donated business clothes. Here are our amazing totals!  
Women's skirts - 38, pants - 78, capris - 3, dresses - 44, shirts - 130, sweaters - 50, pant suits - 7, blazers - 47, belts - 24, nylons - 5, shoes - 22, jeans - 6, coats - 8, purses - 3, scarves - 5 and men's suits - 22, pants - 60, shirts - 106, sweaters - 6, sport coats - 4, belts - 16, jeans - 6, vests - 2, ties - 73, socks - 2, shoes - 5.  
For a total of 772! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

## ***Operation Care Package Thank You***

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for our troops! We collected a total of 107 washcloths & 111 bars of soap, plus combs, towels, batteries, coffee, cookies, canned food, socks and miscellaneous toiletries. Ruth Circle quilters also donated a patriotic quilt to display on the walls at OCP.

## ***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.

## ***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. 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 toothbrushes, 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.**

## ***Amazing Smile Contributions***

Because some of you designate Peace with your Amazon Smile dollars, we received another \$107.04! Thank you to all who find multiple ways to support the ministry of Peace!

## ***Daily Devotionals Available***

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

## ***Altar Flowers***

Please email church at [peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org](mailto: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.

## ***Golden Opportunity Book – Price Reduction - \$15***

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!



## ***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.

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

**HOPE:** a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. We can only HOPE for the best when new advances in medicine come to the forefront. We can only HOPE that it will be the turning point we have been waiting for. We can only HOPE that the future outcomes will be different from the pasts, and the loss we endured, that made our hearts cry, will no longer be. We can only HOPE. We have to HOPE. We need to HOPE. Stay HOPEFUL. (*For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex and borrow a book from the bin.*)

## **Youth Events**

### ***Peace 360 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

July 4 - No meeting Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

July 11 - Band at 2:30 & Dinner and Discussions 4-6pm

July 16 - Last day to sign up for ANTIOCH!!! (8<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond)

July 18 - Movie Night in Fellowship Hall 4-6:30pm

July 25 - Band at 2:30 & Dinner and Discussions 4-6pm

July 31 & Aug 1 - ANTIOCH!!

### ***Peace Youth Band Practice – Sun., July 11 & July 25***

If you are going into 8<sup>th</sup> Grade or older and you would like to be in the church youth band, come on out! We will be meeting on Sun., July 11 and Sun., July 25 from 2:30pm-4pm.

### ***Children's Service All Ages! – Sat., July 17***

Please join Deacon Shari for our rescheduled Children's Service! We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sat., July 17 at 6:00pm. We will sing some songs, have a bible lesson, and tie dye! Please email or call us and let us know you would like to attend. We have some vintage Sunday School t-shirts that the kids can use to tie dye, just let us know what size!

## ***National Youth Gathering Interest/ Information meeting – Sun., July 11***

If you are interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from July 23-28, 2022, please join Deacon Shari at church on Sun., July 11, at noon in Fellowship Hall. This interest/informational meeting will help us get excited about the amazing event coming in 2022. Youth who are in 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is due on September 19. Your total share will be \$500 (plus, any souvenir costs). (The church also significantly subsidizes the event.) Please remember that if you can't afford that, we have a Hope Fund for exactly these situations!

## ***Antioch - July 31 & Aug. 1***

Youth going into 8<sup>th</sup> 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).

[Antioch Registration Adult Signature Required](#)

## ***The Hope Fund***

If your child(ren) would like to participate in a youth event but the cost involved is keeping him/her/them from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. The Hope Fund has been established through the generous donation of a Peace Lutheran Church family. Just talk to Deacon Shari or Pastor Dave – and no one else will know.