

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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July 2022

Vol. XXVII, Issue 7

Putting Together a Puzzle

Do you like to put together jigsaw puzzles? If you have watched some of the “Fun Wednesday” videos, occasionally the taping is done in our kitchen and on the wall behind us are three such puzzles. It has been a very long time since Carol and I put any together, but when our girls have been in town, they have put together several in a matter of a couple days. It is a reminder of what is needed: Patience!!!

Isn't it amazing how we can be so patient with some tasks and with some people, and so impatient with others? People we like and people who strike a sympathetic chord in us can call forth the most wonderful traits of our personality. People whom we dislike and who aren't trying or are lazy or have an attitude – it doesn't take much fresh evidence to put them in the no-good/no-use category.

How are you with yourself? Are you quick to give up? Are you quick to berate yourself for your faults? Are you the kind of person who keeps making mistakes and then labeling yourself a failure or at least not-as-good as “that” person?

Imagine if you applied those traits to putting together a puzzle? No one would ever get past opening the box, much less to finishing one. With a puzzle we have to try various shapes and sizes and fail to accomplish the next piece's position far more often than we succeed. But we keep at it. Only after repeated starts and stops and coming back to it do we get to see the positive end-product.

God must have an infinite amount of patience. Like a parent who helps an infant learn to walk. Like a teacher who guides students to hang in there while learning. Like a friend who can see past our stops and starts. God is the great encourager of all times. We are all a work in process, but also a work that God is wonderfully willing to encourage to keep at life. We have so much to give and so much to share with others – including encouraging them to see their own lives as puzzles-in-the-making.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

Betty Brewer, Renee Gatewood, Jonathan Vick, Jacob Weber, Vern Sanborn, the people killed in the mass shootings in Texas and Buffalo and all who suffer from violence of any kind, Wayne Hansen, Susan Wagner, the people suffering in Ukraine, Isaac Wurzbarger, John O'Keefe, Carrie, the family of Sandy Losiniecki, Jane Meister, Kathi, Jan Bentley, Kirsten Benner & family, the family of Ruth Bain, the family of Robert Decker, Claudia Green

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Dave Hennessey, husband of Carol Hennessey

Congratulations

Andrew DeMik for earning his Eagle Scout Award

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Matthew Donald Hofer was baptized on June 5

Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., July 9

As a part of the 5:00 Saturday night service on July 9, 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.

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

Saturday worship at 5:00pm is indoors (only the first Saturday of the month is outdoors.) Sunday remains indoors at 8:30 & 11:00. **5:00 and 8:30 services are live-streamed.**

*** Masks are now optional, but are once again encouraged for all who are at all concerned.**

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

* In order to keep people's safety in mind, there will be a drop box if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.

ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE

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

INDOOR WORSHIP - (Saturdays at 5:00pm except the first Saturday of the month) and Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00am

Here are the notes if you are planning to come:

- * **Per IDPH guidelines, masks are optional.**
- * Congregational singing of hymns is allowed. We'll be using the hymnals, or you can use the online version in this bulletin.
- * We are asking for some more volunteers for worship, including acolytes and lay liturgists.
- * We will be sending an email each week also asking for volunteers to assist at worship. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.
- * The service length will be increasing as we add elements of the liturgy and other items back in.
- * If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

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

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

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: Paul-Leon Desaulniers, Chris Jarchow, Ed Cochran – lawn mowing

Ed Cochran, Karin & Jeff Floyd and Diane Weber – MorningStar Mission serving

From: Clothes 4 Work Closet – for the donation of business clothing

- LSSI – for the donation
- Catholic Charities – for the donation
- Frankfort Chamber of Commerce – for the donation to the Concerts on the Green series
- MorningStar Mission – for the donation
- ELCA World Hunger – for the donation
- Trinity Services – for the donation
- LOMC – for the donation
- New Lenox Food Pantry – for the donation
- Sunny Hill – for the donation
- Grace Place Campus Ministry at NIU – for the donation
- Resurrection Lutheran Church – for the donation
- Hedlin Family – for the donations of school supplies and for those who came to Chris & Michael's wedding
- New Lenox Girl Scouts
- Teen Bridge Center – for the donation

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!

Do You Give Electronically or Want To?

For those of you who give electronically and would like to put something in the offering plate, we have cards located on the counter you may use. If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. Also, if you want to give on-line at any time, you can go to our website (www.peacenewlenox.org), click on the donate tab and then use the donate through PayPal tab. You can use most major credit cards.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **July 24.**

* **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.

***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, 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.

* **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

***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.

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

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

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.

2022 Flower Chart

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

Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

Santa Cruz has a food & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. We have a list now of specific items they can use in their pantry. You can bring these anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall.

cereal (all kinds)	canned fruit
coffee (ground) all kinds	creamers (powdered)
ice cream cones (summer only)	juices
hand soap (bar & liquid)	toothpaste
dish soap	disposable diapers

Looking Ahead

July 4 – Church Office Closed

No Quilting or Senior Exercise

July 5 – Committee Chairs Meeting 7:30pm

July 9 – Special Prayers for Healing 5pm

July 10 – NYG Meeting 12 noon

July 11 – Vacation Bible School Set-up 9:00am

July 12-15 – [Vacation Bible School 9:30am -12noon](#)

July 17 – Sunday School Teacher/Assistant Interest

Meeting 9:45am

Peace 360 Meeting 4-6pm

July 26 – Church Council Meeting 7:30pm

Aug. 7 – What’s the Scoop (share your ideas) 12 noon

Aug. 13 – Blood Drive 9am - 1pm

Baptism Orientation 3:30pm

Aug. 14 – Peace Page Turners 9:45am

Sept. 11 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am

***Oct. 7-9 – Cross Generational Women’s Retreat
in Sawyer, Michigan***

Groups

Summertime Quilting – Mon., July 18

Ruth Circle Summertime Quilting will meet every other Monday from 9:00am.- 12:00pm. Come whenever you would like. Questions, contact the office.

Trailblazers – Tues., July 19

We invite anyone who’d like to get together with some others who are anything but “over the hill” to come together on Tues, July 19, at 11:30am at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided. We will be having sub sandwiches. Call the church office for more information.

Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm. Questions, contact the church office.

Prayer Shawls – Summer Break

Thank you to everyone who has helped make Prayer Shawls. We will take a break over the summer and resume meeting in the fall.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Aug. 14

Our next meeting will be Sun., Aug. 14 at 9:45am, we will discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Set in the early summer of 1954, *The Lincoln Highway* follows a crew of kids — some fresh out of reform school — who hit the road in search of a better future, with a few detours along the way. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. You may come in person or attend via Zoom. (Be sure to let us know if you’re attending online so we can give you the Zoom codes you’ll need.)

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.)

Golf Group

We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. We have been playing on Wednesdays at 8:30am. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Questions or to sign up, contact the church office at (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.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.

Faith Development/Education

Wednesday Bible Study - **New Testament**

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

Sunday Adult Education Classes

Summer Adult Education classes meets at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come in person or let us know for the Zoom codes!

July 3 - No class (holiday weekend)

July 10 - God Calls Us Together (why I can't just be a Christian on my own)

July 17 - Sunday School Teacher Interest meeting (no class)

July 24 - When It's Time to Give Up (complaining, bitterness, anger, etc.)

July 31 - What Does God Want You to Accept and What to Fight?

Aug. 7 - The Gift of Imperfection

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 Ephesians 4:1-6.

General Announcements

VBS – Tues., July 12 - Fri., July 15

Our theme will be *All Aboard God's Love*. The dates will be Tues., July 12- Fri, July 15, 9:30am-12pm. It will be mostly inside. If you'd like to help in any way this year, please let us know in the office. Registration forms are available in the narthex or [sign up online](#).

Sunday School Teachers Interest Meeting – Sun., July 17

There will be a Sunday School interest meeting on Sunday, July 17 at 9:45am. We invite all who are interested in teaching, subbing, or helping in any way! If you know of anyone that would like to be a part of our Sunday School team, please let them know! Snacks and coffee will be provided! [Sign up online](#) or in the bulletin.

What's the Scoop – Sun., Aug. 7

We hope you'll come either in person or online through Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., Aug. 7, at noon. Let us know if you plan to attend and how so we can send you information ahead of time ([Online sign up](#), peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org, or 815-485-5327.)

Blood Drive – Sat., Aug. 13

Thank you to everyone who donated in June. We collected 19 products, including 5 double reds! Fifty-seven lives were impacted because of that generosity. Our next blood drive will be Sat., Aug. 13 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Aug. 13

Saturday, Aug. 13, 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.

Register for 2022/2023 Sunday School

We've had a lot of fun this year in Sunday School! We look forward to another great year starting on Rally Day, Sept. 11. We rely on the registration forms to give us updates and to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School the next year. We have a great team and would love to have you be a part of it!!! Please fill out a registration form (they are located on a table in the narthex), [register online](#), or call the church office.

Cross Generational Women's Retreat – Fri., Oct. 7 - Sun., Oct. 9

We are in the beginning stages of planning a cross generational retreat! We invite women ages 21 and older to join Deacon Shari as she hosts this retreat, at the Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, MI. The cost will be \$100, this includes lodging for 3 days and 2 nights and meals. If you would like to participate, but the cost involved is keeping you from joining us, we have fund available to help you. Please talk with Deacon Shari. Let us know if you would like to go! Use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or [online](#).

MorningStar Mission Wedding Donation Thanks

The wedding celebration for Chris Hedlin and Michael Drummond invited anyone who wanted to bring school supplies for MorningStar Mission. As usual, your response was off the charts! The coordinator of the effort at MorningStar was SO grateful and couldn't believe the response - 286 items! Thank you from the children whose school year will get off to a better start, from MorningStar, and from the Hedlin family for your generosity.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
Change is hard and we received some big news about change coming to Peace. With the announcement of Pastor Dave's retirement, I am sure everyone is feeling a lot of different things. I wanted to write this month and assure you that Peace Lutheran Church will be ok. We will come together and mourn as well as dream. This is a change that brings both loss but also so many new possibilities.

As we journey through this intersection of where our church has been and where our church is going it is important that we hold fast to the truth that God is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. We will also hold at our center Jesus, who is the reason we worship, fellowship, and find our identity as a congregation. Although our leadership is changing our mission remains the same; to share God's love with all in need and to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. I know several truths about our congregation, and they are as follows. We are gifted with some incredible leaders, all of you! Peace Lutheran is one of the places in our community that is known for being a place of support and where God can be found. We are blessed with people of all ages and can dream big dreams and make them happen. This congregation is a place of welcome. We will, when the time is right, welcome in a new pastor who will join us in the ministry that we are doing.

We will not be out in the wilderness on our own. The Synod is committed to making sure we have what we need. I am not going anywhere and hope to be with Peace for as long as I possibly can. We as a congregation will dream together and will continue the vibrant ministry that has always been a part of Peace.

Please know that my ears are always listening, my heart is always open, and I am here for you as a partner in ministry. Come to me if you have questions or just want to talk. The youth will tell you that my office is always the place where you can find candy. So come, eat a Reese's and let's rejoice in the past and look forward to the future with hope and a sureness that Peace will be more than ok, and will be a presence of God's love for all in need, always!

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari

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

Alexis Arthur, Tricia Barker, Andrew DeMik, Carleigh Fountain, Grace Liszkiewicz, Kate Massey, Ally Pfeffer, Evelyn Powers, Kara Rimkunas, Trevor Salutric, Joe Wesel

College & Beyond

Molly Cole - Florida Southern College
BS, Nursing

Nick Gerasch - Augustana College
BS, Biology with a minor in Computer Science

Amber Salutric - Eastern Illinois University
Master's Degree, Communication Disorders & Sciences

Haylie J. Lohmar - Purdue University
Doctorate, Pharmacology

Getting Volunteers in Place for after Pastor Dave Retires

We don't know all the in's and out's that will be coming and the timeline yet for when an interim pastor will be here after Pastor Dave retires at the end of August. But we can't wait for that. We need to be ready to take more responsibilities on our own shoulders.

Here are some ministry tasks to which we'd like to have you say "yes". Please let us know via email or call the office or use the [online sign up](#).

*Bring communion or make a phone call once a month to a shut in.

*Take a turn being an offering counter after the 11:00 worship service.

*Take a turn getting the coffee pot going and supplies in place before the 8:30 worship, or to clean up after the 11:00 worship

Offering Envelopes Are Here

The new offering envelopes that started in June are now available. Please look for yours on the table in the narthex.

Questions Kids Ask About God

More kids and more questions!

What is God's favorite food?

Do you know someone who is a picky eater and doesn't like many kinds of food? Do you know someone who will eat anything? God doesn't have to eat like we humans, but God created all the food the world has ever known, and not just for us humans – plants and animals, too. So, God doesn't have a favorite!

Would Jesus ever be happy for just one day?

I think Jesus was happy for lots and lots of days....and here's the extra bonus: He'd be happy one day at a time. Sometimes we are so busy looking ahead that we don't enjoy what is happening now. Jesus was able to take each day and be glad for the good things of that day.

Parents/grandparents/kids, keep those questions coming!

Because of You

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response work to address complex and intersecting issues, including migration. The number of people on the move, either internally displaced in their own countries or forced to flee across borders, continues to grow. We cannot address food insecurity when so many people are on the move or homeless. However, the family of Lutheran churches and organizations to which we belong forms the largest faith-based network on migration. Never has support for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response been more important.

Jesus Christ, Superstar Tickets ([Sign Up](#))

Through Broadway in Chicago, our bargain rate seats will be in the upper sections, as we've had before. We have reserved 10 seats but would hope to be able to add more if needed.

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

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

Interested in a Cubs Game? – 2 tickets left

After multiple communications with the Cubs, we now have a date and time for a Cubs game at a reasonable price (\$28.) We have tickets for a Wednesday afternoon game, Aug. 10, against the Washington Nationals. The game starts at 1:20pm. If you need a ride, we'll find a way to get you there at \$10 each (max \$20 per household.) Please contact the church (peacechurch@peacelenox.org or 815-485-5327) to let us know if you are interested or [Sign Up](#) online.

Invitation from Pat Haugen to Help Celebrate Margaret's 60th Birthday

You are invited to a Surprise Open House to celebrate Margaret Haugen's 60th birthday on Sunday, Aug. 14 from 1:00-4:00pm in Peace's Fellowship Hall, hosted by Margie's family. Attendees will be asked to write a note of when they first met Margie and also share a fun memory.

Please no gifts. If you would like to give something in celebration of Margie, please make donations to Peace Lutheran Church.

MorningStar Mission Serving

We have resumed our once a month serving at MorningStar Mission in Joliet. With a team of four people (we'll put teams together or you can assemble four people of your own and let us know so we can put you on the schedule together), we take one Sunday early evening to serve people who come to the mission for a meal. Those who have done this in the past have found it very meaningful. Our serving dates will be the fourth Sunday of each month, and our time starts at 3:45pm and we're usually finished by 5:30pm. We already have six months covered and would like to fill out the year so each team would serve once a year. If you would like more information, call the office (815-485-5327) or send us an email or if you're ready, sign up. Or [sign up online](#).

Synod Assembly Reflections

The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly was held June 18 & 19 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Peace had four delegates (Christian Knutson, Sue & Don Lafferty and Julie Ruth) plus Pastor Dave & Deacon Shari. The election of a new bishop was one of the main tasks of interest to Peace since that person will have a lot to say about a new pastor being called to serve us!

Here are some of their reflections.

I have to say that participating in the election of Bishop-Elect Fidler was one of the most incredible experiences of my Christian life. I realized after the results of the last ballot were announced that I was actually physically shaking! The Holy Spirit was very definitely present in that room on Saturday. As Don pointed out later, we had prayed to invoke the Holy Spirit many times at that point. So, we should not have been surprised that it was there!

I was also very encouraged by the Resolutions that were passed. Some of them are rather ambitious. But as was pointed out by one of the speakers (I forget which one) we should not be afraid to step out in faith to do God's will.

~ Julie Ruth

Thanks for trusting us to represent Peace at the recent Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. After attending all sessions via Zoom last year, it was much more enriching and empowering to be physically together — for most of it anyway — this year. It is a good reminder that we are part of a bigger church, and that all are willing to face the challenges and issues together.

The highlight, obviously, was the election of the new bishop! We were especially excited to learn that the synod requires that 60 percent of those voting had to be lay people — like us! Talk about faith! We are pleased with the election of Rev. Stacie Fidler, who will truly be a bishop of the people. We feel she is very articulate, approachable, humble, and humorous. She will help us all reconnect in a post-pandemic world.

We very briefly considered skipping out on the closing service, but so glad we didn't. It was so incredibly moving to share new songs, pray with retiring Bishop Jeffrey Clements and bishop-elect Fidler and 300 other Lutherans! Wow!! It was definitely a big step toward reconnecting, and reminding us that we can all do God's work together.

~ Sue & Don Lafferty

Youth Fellowship & Faith Story

Hi, my name is Thomas Durkin and I am 6 years old. I love coming to church because this is where I close my eyes and pray and talk to Jesus. When I pray I tell God thank you for making us. My brother and I come to Sunday School together and it is fun! I love God because he made us and that means we get to build Legos.

~ Thomas Durkin

July Collection – Cereal

In July we will be collecting cereal of any kind for the New Lenox Food Pantry. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to church and put them in the bin in the narthex or leave them in the gray bin outside the front doors and we will take care of them. Thank you!

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste Thank You

Thank you so much for helping with items to fill Blessing Bags for MorningStar. Because of your generosity, we collected 123 items for MorningStar. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Caregiver Tip of the Month



"Care giving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know possible." Tia Walker

Did You Know We Have a Help Others Fund?

Alongside our regular giving that helps all kinds of people in need, we also have a special "help others" fund within our general fund. It is targeted to help people who need food or gas. Thanks to another special donation we received, we are going to be able to expand our generosity to help people with emergency housing needs. We will continue to be diligent in making sure the money given away actually goes to people in need.

Faith & Life Experience

We are going to feature stories about people from Peace from time to time. Enjoy this one from Abby Jarchow!

I wanted to share my experience with you as a Sunday School teacher. It has been extremely rewarding for me. I also want to share this information with you because we have opportunities next year for you to become part of our Sunday School team!

I have been teaching Sunday School for three years and it has been so fun to see the kids grow. When you see these kids around church or at Sunday School their eyes light up and a smile is shared. I have not only had the opportunity to share God's word with the kids but I have also made a new friend within the church. Lindsey Brown and I have been co-teachers and prior to teaching I had no idea who she was or had never even met her. We were partnered together, and we split the tasks evenly 50-50. Over the years we've gotten to know each other and developed a great working relationship and friendship.

Teaching Sunday School has enhanced my connection with the church and relationship with God. Being a teacher is very easy. The lessons we share are things that are relatable to kids and about how we can connect the Bible with their everyday lives. Sunday School lessons provide another tool the kids can use as they navigate their way through growing up and sometimes the challenges they are facing in their day-to-day world. Teaching is rewarding and it has helped me grow in my relationship with God and the Peace Church community. I encourage you to pray and think about this opportunity. If you feel it's even something you want to explore, please reach out to Pastor Dave or Jess Lindeman or the church office so we can work with you and respond to any questions.

Thank you for letting me share my story.

~ Abby Jarchow

Sharefest Volunteer Opportunities

Sharefest is a community organization we have supported for many years. They have all kinds of projects throughout Will County that they conduct for the betterment of people who just need a helping hand or have a need for food, not to mention their recycling efforts. Sharefest has now opened a food warehouse at 22014 Howell Dr., Unit #1, New Lenox. With the launching of the ShareFest Store's online ordering platform for free food, they have many opportunities for volunteers to help feed the hungry on a daily basis. Please check out what they are doing and sign up if you are interested.

You Are There in Ukraine and Eastern Europe

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

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

Youth Events

Peace 360 meetings – (youth going into 8th grade and older). We will try to meet up on Tuesdays for lunch during the summer!

Tues., July 5 - Meet here at 11:45 and we will be cooking lunch together. We will have burgers and chips for lunch. You can always bring your own lunch if you do not want hamburgers! Then we will head to White Mountain for some mini golf. Please bring \$10 for admission. Parents if you would like to drive/ chaperone please email us at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Tues., July 12 – We will just be wrapping up VBS for the day! Let us know if you would like to help during the week! But bring a bag lunch to have with us around 12:30pm.

Tues., July 19 & July 25 – No Meeting

NYG Meeting – Sun., July 10