

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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Sooner or Later

For the most part, some of us seem to skate through life on a very smooth path. We have some disappointments, but overall, the way is relatively easy. We can imagine what someone else's excruciating physical pain may be like, but we understand that a bad headache that goes away with a little acetaminophen doesn't measure up. The loss of a beloved family pet can make us very sad, but can we really even begin to enter into the sadness of a mother who loses her innocent child to gang violence?

There are some who think that sooner or later we'll all experience the really bad side of life. Maybe in some ways they are right; sooner or later we are all going to experience loss and death. But many of us who are so fortunate as to live in the United States who can go to great schools and find food and shelter and all the extras you could ever ask for just minutes away, many of us are going to keep right on skating through to the ending of our lives in relative peace and security. The people in our own country and around the world who struggle may enter our field of vision at moments, but it is not personal.

So, even for us, can there be some "sooner or later" moments? *I hope so.* It definitely was something Jesus invited his disciples and followers, and even his adversaries, to consider. There is more to life than external circumstances whether easy or difficult. Sooner or later, for example, Jesus would help us realize that all our privileges and advantages can't make up for an emptiness in our very being. Sooner or later, may it catch up to us when we are faced with evil and injustice in the world, including inside us, that it doesn't go away by looking the other way. Sooner or later, may we hear our hearts calling us to a different standard, to a way of living that is less about self and more about giving. Sooner or later, may the call of God speak directly to the question of "who am I and why am I here?" And when those kinds of moments, or even one of those things happens, the ending does not need to be sad or bad or include physical pain. The ending can be life-giving; life-reorienting; life-eternal even!

May this season of Lent invite us often, not just sooner or later, to look and listen for God's call!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

The family of Joseph DeVito, the family of Wayne Mooney, Zach Sperstad, Rachel Ward, Rachel Geekie, John & LeAnn Miheve, Claire Edgoose, Virg, Shirley, Brooke, Sharon, Jim, the family of Daniel Kiebles, Kevin Fullriede, Michelle Krieger, Pam, Jim, Max, Lynn, Paulette, the family of David Leahy, Kay, Cheryl Krieger, Karen, Cara Clausing, the family of Karen Zylstra, Carla Gruca, Judy Mitchell, the family of Glenn Tisdale, Tiffany, the unemployed & underemployed, health care & front-line workers, Wally Kiebles, Lori, Travis Robert Perschau, Jackson Clough, Chuck Wolske

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Sydney Larsen, mother of Cheryl Krieger

the family of Paul Lang, father of Dave Lang

the family of Joyce Smith, wife of Bill Dethlefsen

Congratulations

Zach & Christine Perschau, parents and Cindy & Don Hostert and Bob & Patricia Perschau, grandparents, on the birth of Travis Robert Perschau on Mar. 1.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Dakota Louise Tomczak was baptized on Jan. 30.

Daylight Savings Time

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Details for How We Worship

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

*Whether you drive-in, are in person 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. At the 8:30 worship, a pre-packaged grape juice & wafer will be available.

* In order to keep people's safety in mind following the advice of the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, there will be a drop box if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.

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

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

* Households are required to socially distance from each other, which can be accomplished by **parking on the yellow lines. Our worship location is centered under the main canopy.**

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

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

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

ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE INCLUDING AN 8:30 VERSION

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

INDOOR WORSHIP RESUMES only at 8:30am Sundays

Here are the notes if you are planning to come (registrations required)

* **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 who will be shielded from the congregation. 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.

* Drinking fountains will not be in use.

* 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.

* **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!

Will County Vaccination Website

The Will County Health Department invites you to go to their website (<https://willcountyhealth.org>) to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Then they will call or email you when it is your turn to make an appointment.

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:

Jodi Brugler, Elizabeth Rumbaugh, Pamela Putrich
Diann Price and Karen Town – for special music

Scott Howell, David W. Johnson, Jennifer Paape,
Kelly Renaud, Kathryn Wolske Roulo, Janelle Tague,
Eric Wesel, Andrew DeMik, Joe Wesel – nominees for
Congregation Council

Nathaniel Knutson – for the sermon Feb. 27/28

Jen, Taylor, Alexis & Peyton Arthur and Laura
Geekie – One Warm Coat item organizing

Linda Goesel – for making flower arrangements for
the altar

From:

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

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Mar. 28.**

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

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

* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give the individual the names and telephone numbers of people who could be contacted and if possible, have the person meet these people. Give them the suicide prevention hotline. **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives.

Crisis Line – 815-469-6166, text -741741, and online -
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

*** Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Not currently meeting – please watch the newsletter.

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (except for the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated.*

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated.*
For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

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

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

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. 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 PO Box # 12989 Annapolis, MD 21412	Sargent Devin Pafford 1208 Battery Creek Dr. Beaufort SC 29902
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MA2 Baker, Connor 5600 Shorewood Lane Norfolk, VA 23502	2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C Fort Polk, LA 71459
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Military Pray for List

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

Looking Ahead

Mar. 6/7 – Girl Scout Weekend & recognition of International Women’s Day
Mar. 7 – Peace Talent Show Available Online at noon
Mar. 13 – Adult Fellowship Virtual Bingo 6:00pm
Mar. 14 – Virtual Coffee Hour 11:30am
Mar. 21 – Peace Page Turners 10:30am
Easter Lily order deadline
Mar. 27 – Easter Egg Hunt (appt. required)
Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday
April 1 – Maundy Thursday Facebook worship released at 11:00am
April 1 – Maundy Thursday (Virtual) Dinner in Your Room at 6:30pm
April 2 – Good Friday Facebook community service released at 10:00am
April 2 – Good Friday Facebook worship from Peace released at noon
Apr. 3 – Easter Eve Worship 5:00pm on the grass or parking lot
Apr. 4 – Easter Sunday worship 8:30am & 9:30am on the grass or parking lot
Modified Easter Breakfast after worship
Apr. 10 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm
Apr. 17 – Blood Drive 9:00am - 1:00pm
Apr. 18 – New Member Orientation 10:30am
Apr. 25 – Reception of New Members 9:30am
May 8 – Baptism Orientation 3:30pm

Groups

Ruth Circle Quilting – Mar. 8 & 22

Ruth Circle quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00am. We are social distancing and are not having snacks at this time. Questions? Contact the church office.

Prayer Shawl – On Hold

We are not meeting in person, but feel free to keep making shawls at home and bring them by when it is convenient! Please email the church office if you have questions or would like more information.

Trailblazers – On Hold

We are still on hold but look forward to the day we can all be together again. Our group is for senior citizens and welcomes you to join us. Email the church office (or call Pastor Dave at home for now) for more information.

Adult Fellowship - Virtual Bingo - Sat., Mar. 13

We are ready to give this a go! We’ve been trying to figure out what can we do remotely, but still be together? Bingo! Now we need to know who wants to play? The date is Sat., March 13, the time is 6:00pm. Let us know if you’d like to be a part of this via Zoom. Whether you need a Bingo card or have your own, we can make this work! See some of your long-separated acquaintances and friends. You can be a part of this even if you don’t like being on camera. The plan is to have some prizes, too. **Let us know at 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org by March 7.**

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Mar. 21

The next book for the book discussion group, Peace Page Turners, will be Mar. 21 at 10:30am. We will be discussing *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. You can pick up a copy of the book at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. Be sure to let us know you are interested so we can give you the Zoom codes.

Strong Seniors Exercise – On Hold

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

Ping Pong Club

The ping pong club meets on the third Sunday of the month 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.

Golf Group is Ready for You to Sign Up

The golf group is getting ready to resume soon! We will start playing around April 1st and/or when the temperature hits 50 degrees in the morning. The format will still be “best ball”. We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. We have been playing on Wednesdays at 10am. 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.)

Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for information and support? The Alzheimer's Association Support Group is hoping to resume at some time, but not yet. For more information on when the group will resume meeting, contact the church office (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org).

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. Our Circle of Prayer ministry is ready to help. We will send out an email to the praying volunteers with that need. (If you would like to be a part of this Peace Circle of Prayer, let us know, including what email address we should use.)

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. March's passage is Romans 14:7-12.

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!

Sun. Morning Adult Class –March 14 & 28

Because of more relaxed COVID options from the state, you can have your choice of Zoom or in person for our Sunday morning Adult Class at 10:30am. If you are planning to come, please let us know whether in person or via Zoom. The topic for March 14 will be "Paradoxes Can Be a Good Thing" - through the eyes of Jesus. (We will finish in time for the virtual coffee hour at 11:30 that morning.) The topic for March 28 will be "If a Job Is Worth Doing..." - as reflected in Holy Week.

Daily Devotionals Also Available Online

The coronavirus calls for new ways of helping people of faith. The ELCA's publishing house, Augsburg-Fortress, has made *Christ in Our Home* available free online:

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home>.

April - June Devotional Booklets 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.

Lenten Opportunities

Some people in their observance of Lent give something up. It is an option that can work if approached in the right way. We suggest, as an alternative, that you take something on for Lent! How about if you take on Bible reading or meditation or some personal discipline or attending the Sunday morning adult class via Zoom or use one of the Lenten devotional books or do an act of caring for someone anonymously or use one of the God's Global Barnyard coin boxes and help people around the world?

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Friends and Members of Peace,

I am desperate for Easter this year! I wonder if you feel the same way. As we begin our Lenten journey my eye is on the prize of Easter. Most years I love Lent because it is a time to be contemplative and to slow down and truly acknowledge the life-giving gift of Jesus death on the cross. However, this year has felt like a never-ending contemplative time. I, for one, am ready to celebrate.

I am ready for warm weather and the new life that spring brings. I am ready for flower buds and singing birds.

This Georgia girl is ready for double digit temperatures.

I can tell that freedom from this time of struggle and worry is just around the corner and I want to hit the fast forward button and get there already.

Maybe, you need to hear what I need to hear. You are doing a good job at waiting. This “winter” has been long and hard and you are doing a good job! You who are parents are making the best decisions you can for your children. You who are students are learning and growing in situations that none of us could have imagined. You are doing a good job! You who are staying at home, are keeping everyone safe and showing immense love through that. You who must go out, are working hard to provide for the needs of the community during a time where it feels like it’s never enough. You are doing a good job!

You who are worshiping in your pjs with a cup of coffee in hand are praising God in a beautiful way. You who are sitting in your car with the heater on and the radio up are praising God in a beautiful way. You who are reserving your spot at 8:30 worship to sit with your mask on in our sanctuary are praising God in a beautiful way. You are doing a good job!

You who are longing for this to be over are doing a good job! You who have found new joys during this time are doing a good job! You who don’t know how to feel any more, are doing a good job!

Perhaps this lent we understand the “wilderness” a little bit more. As we journey through lent may we remember that Easter is only 40 days away! As we journey through this, what seems to be never ending, pandemic may we know that the truth is it will end. As we journey through winter may we have faith that spring is around the corner. May you know on both the good and bad days that you, child of God, are doing a good job!

God’s Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

General Announcements

Talent Show 2021 – Available Sun., Mar. 7

Our Fellowship Committee keeps thinking of ways to keep our congregation connected. This year’s Talent Show is no exception and will be available online starting March 7. Go to the church website or directly to our Facebook page and enjoy some talents shared by members of the congregation.

Virtual Coffee Hour – Sun., Mar. 14

One of the things we miss having is time together to just chat before or after worship. So, having done this once with success, we’re going to have another virtual coffee hour. You’ll have to grab your own snacks and drinks, but have them in hand as you join us via Zoom on Sun., Mar. 14, at 11:30am. Let us know you’re planning to participate (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) so we can get the right codes to you. In addition to just hanging out, those willing to share could relate a story (funny, embarrassing or informative) regarding an experience with donuts.

Sunday School Curriculum Task Force - Tues., Mar. 16

It has been more years than we can count since we last reviewed our Sunday School curriculum, and even more broadly how to do Sunday School. It is such an important ministry that it is worth taking a look at it. Deacon Shari and Jess Lindeman are joining with some parents and teachers to dig in. You are invited to join a task force on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00pm via Zoom. Let us know at [Sunday School Task Force](#) or at 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Sun., Mar. 21

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people (events) that are important to them by donating an Easter lily to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the narthex or online ([Easter Lily Order Form](#)) and the deadline to order is Sun., Mar. 21. The cost of each lily is \$12.

Holy Week Worship Plans

Recorded worship services will be released for these worship services....

Maundy Thursday, April 1, released at 11:00am

Good Friday, April 2, New Lenox community virtual Cross Walk, released at 10:00am

Good Friday, April 2, worship at Peace released at noon

April 3 & 4, live & live-streamed worship services for Easter will all be outside from the lawn or parking lot depending on the weather. (We decided that we would rather all be able to gather together outside rather than deny some people from being able to come inside the building because of limits, plus we can sing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” in full voice with all of us singing!) Worship times will be Saturday night at 5:00pm, Sunday morning at 8:30 & 9:30am.

Meal in Your Room – Maundy Thursday Breaking Bread Together – April 1 6:30pm

“Let us break bread together,” says the song. Instead of our usual Maundy Thursday Meal in the Upper Room, we would like to have a COVID-safe and still meaningful “Meal in Your Room - Together.” The location will be your own home, but the opportunity to join together on this Holy Thursday will unite our hearts. Together on Zoom we will remember our Lord gathering with his disciples to transform the Passover Meal into the Lord’s Supper. We would like to ask you to have some kind of bread as a part of your meal as a sign of our unity as we break bread together. The rest of the menu will be up to you. (If you would like a list of foods that we have traditionally had at the Meal in the Upper Room, let us know and we will supply that to you.) The date is April 1, the time is 6:30pm. There will be a short prayer and the reading of a Bible passage as a part of the evening. There will also be opportunity to share our voices and view our faces. Please RSVP at [MIUR](mailto:MIUR@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) so we can get the Zoom codes to you.

Blood Drive – Sat., Apr. 17

Thank you to everyone who donated in February. We registered 25 donors and collected 23 units (including 2 double reds) and had 4 deferrals. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Sat., Apr. 17 from 9:00am - 1:00pm.

Modified Easter Breakfast

Following worship on Sunday, April 4, our Fellowship Committee has come up with a fun & safe alternative to the Easter Breakfast we’ve enjoyed. This year we will have boxes of donut holes for each household to pick up and enjoy. You can eat some with others while socially-distanced at church or in your car or take them home and enjoy them there! It would help us know how many boxes to buy if you would let us know if you’d enjoy taking advantage of this joyful gift. Let us know at [Modified Easter Breakfast](mailto:peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) or 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

New Member Orientation – Sun., Apr. 18

We will be receiving new members again in April. Orientation will be Sun., Apr. 18, at 10:30am and the reception of new members will be Sun., Apr. 25 during the 9:30am worship. Please call the church office to let us know if you’ll be involved.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 8

Saturday, May 8, 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.

Results of Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 21 was another opportunity to celebrate the ministries of people doing God’s work. We are very grateful for all those who were nominated to serve on the Council (see the thank you list). Those elected for a two-year term were Scott Howell, David W. Johnson, Kelly Renaud, Kathryn Roulo and Eric Wesel. Elected to serve as our youth representative was Andrew DeMik. Our Nominating Committee for 2022 will consist of Sue Lafferty, David W. Johnson, Kelly Renaud, Julie Ruth, Kathy Sons, Eric Wesel.

Altar Flowers

Because we are hopeful that we will be able to keep worshiping for a while at the Sunday 8:30am services, we will once again start getting altar flowers. 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.) Just let us know for which date from now to the end of 2021 you would like to provide them. The cost per arrangement is \$20.

Faith & Life Experience

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

Enjoy this one from Debbie Eggert

I always wanted to become a teacher, but when life took me in other directions, I just figured, "Well, I guess that wasn't God's will for my life. Hmmm. And here I had been so sure..." And I went on with my life as it was.

And yet, like a drifting boat tied to an anchor, I kept getting tugged back to the idea of teaching. Waves of fear of all the obstacles I would face kept pushing me away from the idea. But I knew that if this was God's path for me, and if I did my part by doing my best, He would go with me and make a way for me to go over, around, or through each rough patch. So, I took a leap of faith and said yes to His call, finished college, and became a teacher.

Over the years, God kept His promise and carried me past those rough patches in the road. For example, at those times when I felt frozen with fear of failure, recalling that my goal was to serve God rather than to self-promote took the pressure off. It meant I didn't have to concern myself with material gain, admiration, power, authority, or winning the competition. Or even being in a competition. What a relief!! I could just relax inside, do my best, and let God do the rest.

Those times when I believed I had gone as far as I could go on my own strength, I knew God would help me to go the distance or cover it Himself. There were mornings when I felt any combination of too tired or sad or anxious or unprepared to face the day's demands – from paperwork to administrative directives, to supervisor assessments & coworker interactions, parent concerns and needy students. Those days when I felt depleted were the times I most felt the fullness of God's presence. I would simply pray, "God, I am trying to do what you asked, but if you want this done, you are going to have to help me. I have done what I can, and you will have to take it from here."

As long as I continued to do my best, God always got me past the steep cliffs and dark valleys along the way.

I'm retired from teaching now, but I still listen for God's guidance. I know that when I have gone as far as I am able on this path, God will take me the rest of the way home.

Debbie Eggert

Ed Hovi is Retiring! – Part Time Custodian Needed

The only paid custodian the church has ever had has decided it's time to step back. Ed will be retiring at the end of April, so we are looking to hire a replacement. We have a full job description that outlines the duties and vision for the job that we would happily share with anyone who is interested. The job likely will require about 15-20 hours per week. The expected pay is \$15 per hour. For more information, contact Pastor Dave at 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacelenox.org.

Lawn Mowing – Signs of Spring

Christians are anything but pessimistic about the future. There will be grass growing someday. Because we hire a company to mow the north half of the lawn (eliminating the part with the slope along Hwy. 30, which is quite steep) and the part along the east side of the parking lot, it usually takes between 1 & 1½ hours to mow what's left (basically it's south of the building.) Most of the time you can pick whether to mow on Friday or Saturday and you will still get to ride the John Deere! So, if you'd like a turn to mow this year, let us know at peacechurch@peacelenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

Hand-in Hand Parenting Opportunity

There is a great parenting resource that is just a click away: www.handinhandparenting.org. There are many tips on the site for everyday issues parents face. 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 be trained for Hand in Hand's intensive training 8-week 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. You would also hopefully use your training to help others or do classes for other organizations (could be for a fee.) If you are interested, contact Pastor Dave. For professionals, there is CEU credit available.

One Warm Coat Drive Thank You!!!

Our *One Warm Coat* collection has come to an end. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. We collected 83 men's coats, 92 women's coats, 70 children's coats, 10 snow pants, 181 scarves, 300 hats, 218 gloves, 3 socks/tights, 20 boots, 2 vests, 3 earmuffs, 2 umbrellas and 3 sweaters – for a total of 987 items!!!

Souper/Super Bowl Results

Thanks to your generosity, over \$400 was given for the Souper Bowl of Caring effort to help feed the hungry. The ELCA's World Hunger Appeal feeds people locally and around the world with amazing efficiency. Thank you!!!

Business Attire Collection Begins Mar. 7

Our Warm Coat campaign has once again brought an overwhelming, wonderful response. Peace has generously provided to people who are unemployed find jobs by dressing for success. We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes. Look through your closets for suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! We'll use the same process as with the warm coat ministry: bring them to church and put them outside the front door and we'll take them from there.

Because of You and Your Gifts

The ELCA designed its International Women Leaders program to accompany young women from ELCA companion churches overseas in the hope that they would return to their communities and churches to pursue their vocations with confidence. The women selected by their home country's churches receive full scholarships to attend an ELCA college. The track record is outstanding and the results long lasting. Recent graduates are thriving. "I continue to do the work of the [church] and the IWL program [by using] my gifts and talents," one of them said. "And I pass it on by helping [my] neighbors wherever I can. No matter where we are and where we are from. We are one." Our gifts to Peace passed along to the ELCA through our Northern Illinois Synod make such a program possible.

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 came in this month: 1) Did God make the solar system? *Yes, and the whole universe. Part of God's creation that we are learning more and more about is how amazing and large and complicated it is. So, it is not as though God picked out one aspect by itself and created that, God designed the whole thing...and is still creating new stars and planets and systems!*

2) Why did God create more water than land? *I don't know, except to say that the system has been balanced. We need all that water to make enough rain water for life to continue. So, while we don't know the answer to "why" in one sense, we do see how God has provided for life! That should make us grateful.*

Caregiver Tip of the Month

Simple little tasks can sometimes be so difficult for your loved one to follow thru with that frustration sets in rather than it just being a simple little task. It's ok. Not to fret. Stop the task. Assure them they are doing it right - even if it isn't. It doesn't matter. Sometimes those little tasks can be a good way to help pass the time. Little tasks can be as easy as sharpening lots of pencils; seeing if pens you've had stock piled in your desk drawer even work anymore, folding towels or even shredding paper. It's the little things in life that are just that - little things - but those little things are pretty big things for them. *(For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)*

Reminder for Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Peace Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com. (If it is your first visit to the site, <http://smile.amazon.com>/you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases.) They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. Peace Lutheran Church of New Lenox is available to be chosen, as are other worthy causes.

2021 Member Directories

Our new phone/address directories are now available. They also include a business and service directory. Look for them in the black bin to the left of the church doors. If you would like a copy but are unable to pick one up, please let us know in the church office.

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!

Interested in being a Part Time Caregiver?

We have a member who is looking for a person to help with some home-health care for about three hours a day, M-F. The primary duties are assisting a person getting out of bed, dressed, eating breakfast and doing some prescribed exercises. No medical assistance is needed. If you would like more information, call the church office. They are planning to pay about \$15/hour.

Suicide Prevention – Mon., Mar. 15

The New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, in partnership with Sertoma Centre, Inc., is offering a QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) class on Monday, March 15, 2021, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, via Zoom. The class is FREE and is recommended for anyone high school age or above.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer and is the CPR of mental health. This 1 ½ hour class increases public awareness of suicide and improves one's ability to identify and refer those at risk for suicide. Participants are equipped to intervene early by learning how to question, persuade and refer persons who are at risk for suicide. Registration is being handled by Eventbrite via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/question-persuade-and-refer-qpr-tickets-142598843981>. A link to the Zoom video conference will be sent separately via email to everyone that registers. Please contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net for additional questions.

Golden Opportunities Books – Price Reduced to \$15

We just got word that 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!

Would You Like Your Own Copy of the Worship Book?

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

Need A Mask?

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

Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

We have an ongoing partnership with Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in Joliet. They have a food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring donations anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall. The pantry needs the following specific items: **especially boxed cereal (all kinds), canned fruit, canned vegetables**, coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), soups, hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.

Texas Disaster Response

Because of the work of the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal, we are present in Texas and elsewhere making a difference. Not only are the various churches and synods of the region at work, through the wider church and individuals like us, an ongoing presence will be there long after others have gone home. If you would like to make a donation, 100% of the funds designated for "US Severe Storms" will go to that work. You can go to ([Texas Disaster Response](#)) if you wish.

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 in our mission to “support individuals with mental illness and their families through advocacy, education and outreach.”. NAMI can help you to select the support services best suited to you as an individual diagnosed with a mental illness or a family member of an individual diagnosed with a mental illness. For more information go to:

info@namiwillgrundy.org

www.namiwillgrundy.org

or call 815-409-7917.

Helpful Resources Dealing with Addiction and Recovery

In recovery, the best lessons are found in the experience, strength and hope of others' recoveries. Check out our new webinar series that unites recovery speakers from across the country in order to share a collective set of strategies and expertise. They include tips for staying sober and living meaningful lives in physical, mental and spiritual recovery despite physical distancing. Click on the link below to watch them any time you want and as many times as you need.

[Living in Recovery Speaker Series | Let's Talk | Hazelden Betty Ford](#)

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.

Check Out Our Social Media Pages

Follow Peace on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox. You can help to promote our pages and our church by following our pages and engaging our content by commenting, liking, and sharing our posts.

Youth Events

Confirmation – Zoom at 7:00p.m.

Remember to turn in your sermon notes. You can do this online, email, or call us at the office.

7th Grade Mar. 17

8th Grade Mar. 10 & 24

Sunday School

We are hard at work with our Sunday School packets! Remember when your youth(s) do a lesson you can go online to and fill out the form on our website:

<http://www.peacenewlenox.org/ministries/youth-ministry/sunday-school/>

ZOOM meetings are on Sunday at 10:30am and codes will go out on Saturday.

March Schedule:

Sun., Mar. 7 Lesson 21 Packet

Zoom meeting P3-K

Thur., Mar. 11 1 & 2 Gr. Game Night via Zoom 5pm

Sun., Mar. 14 Lesson 22 Packet

Zoom meeting 1 & 2 Gr.

Sun., Mar. 21 Lesson 23 Packet

Zoom meeting 3 – 6 Gr.

Sat., Mar. 27 Easter Egg Hunt:

(Call/email for an appointment time by the 20th)

Sun., Mar. 28 Lesson 24 Packet

Zoom meeting 7&8 Gr.

1/2nd Gr. Online Game night – Thurs., Mar. 11

1-2nd graders, please join us via zoom for an online game night on March 11 at 5pm. A link and passcodes will be sent out on March 10.

Easter Egg Hunt (Social Distance Style) - Sat., Mar. 27

Please join us for a social distance Easter egg hunt! We will have appointment times for families to sign up between 10am-3pm. Please call or email the church, by March 20, to secure your appointment time.

Scholarship Opportunity

If you are a 12th grader active here at Peace Church and are planning to attend college or technical school we have an opportunity for you to apply for a scholarship! Print and fill out the application and **turn it in to the church office no later than March 28!** We will have interviews on April 11, via Zoom. Go directly to the link [2021 Scholarship Application](#) or call or email the office to get a copy sent to you.