

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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The Joy of Giving

Do you enjoy getting presents? Most people that I know enjoy getting them. There is the present itself. There is the excitement of discovery: What's in that bag/box/wrapping? There's the affirmation that someone cared enough to bless you with something they bought or made.

On the other hand, have you ever gotten a present that left you feeling anything but excited? The gift itself might be a disaster. You may already know what the gift is. The gift may have been given as a "have to" or be a slap in the face because it is so-not-you. It may make you feel obligated or awkward because it was "too much."

Regardless, what if we started out each day reminding ourselves the next \pm 16 hours were a present? What if we saw at least some of those moments as a time of discovery? What if we anticipated that even though there mostly would be small gifts, occasionally there would be a big one? What if we could accept that not everything that comes our way that day would be good or to our liking, we looked to appreciate the good gifts we *did* receive, and there would be another day's collection of presents tomorrow?

How can we possibly train/convince ourselves to think like that? (By nature, we like the sparkly kind of gifts!) One way is to balance gratitude for what we have received with fostering an attitude in life based less on getting and more on giving. (Our stewardship appeal this year focuses on that: the joy of giving.) The truth is that getting presents can be fun but is never enough.

Jesus understood and modeled such a life. Having received tremendous gifts: an intimate relationship with and knowledge of who God really is, he turned right around and gave and gave and gave – time, energy, resources....self! He admired a poor widow who contributed all she had and challenged people who "had it all" to think again – because they were missing the key to life. As Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Gifts given from the heart are exactly what God has done and knows will complete our lives.

Today is another gift from God, right alongside the biggest and best gift of all time: the gift of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Try to receive as much as you can with joy and then like Jesus, turn right around and give of yourself to make that joy complete.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

The Joy of Giving Stewardship Appeal

For details on this year's appeal please visit <http://www.peacenewlenox.org/stewardship-2021/>

Prayers Requested

David Rubner, the family of Anne Jensen, Stephanie Chamberlain and family, Chris Fehrenkamp, Gint Venclovas, Bruce Gibson, Marty Rodey, Norma Allison, Alexis Flynn, Donald Albright, the family of Bonnie, Delores Sperstad, Katie Krenner, Laura & Melissa, Pam Davis, Janelle P., the family of Tina Conway, Marty Anderson, Patricia Hutchinson, Bob Britton, Jean Britton, Kristy Chenoweth, Jeff, Rich Meister, Joan Akaley, Carol Randall, Patricia Hutchinson

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Carol Johnson, mother of Kathy Lingle

the family of Dennis Wesel, husband of Sharon Wesel and father of Eric Wesel & Emily Dotzenrod

the family of Carla Gruca, mother of Judy Mitchell

Congratulations

Katie & Jason Fanning, parents and Karen & Dan Krzak, grandparents, on the birth of Lillian Leigh Fanning on Apr. 4.

Details for How We Worship

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

- * Modified communion: You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. At the 8:30 worship, a pre-packaged grape juice & wafer will be available.
- * There is 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 and masks are required.

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

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.)
- * 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 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.
- * 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.
- * 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.
- * 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!

Youth Events

7/8th gr., Peace 360, High School Grads & Their Families – Sun., May 2

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! Sun., May 2 at 4pm we would like to invite you and your families to come to Fill A Cup! This is Deacon Shari's family's new frozen yogurt business! It is located at <https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fdir%2F%3Fapi%3D1%26destination%3D41.4543%252C-88.27066%26f450.W.Mondamin.St.Minooka,60447>.

Preschool 3 - 2nd gr. Pajama Zoom Game Night – Wed., May 19

Our P3-2nd graders are invited to join us for a pajama Zoom game night, on Wed., May 19 at 6:00pm. We found that the best thing about Zoom is that you can do it in your PJ'S! Siblings are always welcome, even if they are older! We will play some games and get a little crazy! If that sounds like something your youth is interested in please let us know and email us at peacechurch@peacelenox.org. Links will be sent out on Tues., May. 18.

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:

Donna Conway, Jonathan & Andrew DeMik, Claudia Green, David W. Johnson, Kelly Muehlnickel, Deacon Shari Trotter, Marylynn Tyler – Easter Ensemble

Jo Dell Albi, Jan Bentley, Suzanne Holmquist, Deb Howell, Nancy Kurber, Kay Johnson, Janet Park, Lynn Taeger Peterson, Kelly Renaud, Marylynn Tyler – Easter Bell Choir

Ken George – choir directing

Sarah Walton – Easter special music

Mark Lipinski – trumpet

Jodie Brugler, Kelly Muehlnickel, Pamela Putrich – for special music

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **May 23**.

* **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.

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

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

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

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

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

***Cleaning for a Reason** – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to: www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html.

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn 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. Donald Lazarz, T.J. Burns, Devin Pafford, Connor Baker, Jake Treasure, Allison DeVitto, Shane Bonarek.

Looking Ahead

May 1 – Baptism Orientation 3:30pm

May 1/2 – Stewardship Appeal Weekend

May 2 – Adult Class 10:30am

What's the Scoop 12 noon

7/8th gr. - HS grads & families Fill A Cup

Event in Minooka 4:00pm

May 3 – Sunday School Task Force 7:00pm

May 9 – Mother's Day

May 14 – Peace Buddies Picnic 4:00pm

May 16 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1st option)

May 19 – P3-2nd gr. Pajama Zoom Games 6:00pm.

May 23 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2nd option)

May 30 – Adult Class 10:30am

May 31 – Memorial Day – Church office closed

June 5/6 – Teacher Appreciation weekend

June 6 – Peace Page Turners 10:30am

June 12/13 – Recognition of Graduates

June 12 – Blood Drive 9:00am - 1:00pm

***June 19 - Special Congregational Meeting after
5:00pm worship***

June 20 – Father's Day

July 10 – Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm

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

Groups

Ruth Circle Quilting – May 3 & 17

Ruth Circle quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00am. Questions? Contact the church office.

Prayer Shawls – On Hold

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

Trailblazers – On Hold

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

Strong Seniors Exercise

We meet each Monday 12:00 - 1:00 and Wednesday 11:30 -12:30 in Fellowship Hall. **We will not meet on Memorial Day, Mon., May 31.**

Ping Pong Club – 3rd Sunday at Noon

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

Peace Buddies – Fri., May 14

We miss being together and think that we can do something safely. So, let's give it a try. We will meet at church on Friday, May 14 from 4:00 to 6:00pm for a picnic (with Jimmy John's sandwiches and various outdoor games.) Looking ahead, we will meet at the Laraway Lanes on Wed., June 9 from 6-8pm. We can bowl a few games and walk across the street to the creamery for Ice Cream! Peace Buddies is our special needs group and is open to anyone 15 and older. For more information, contact the church office. Email peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org to let us know you are coming.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., June 6

The next book discussion will be June 6 at 10:30am. We will discuss *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone. It is the true story of a young Quaker schoolteacher who was hired by a Chicago eccentric who believed Shakespeare's plays had a secret code. Read about this extraordinary woman's integral role in decoding secret messages in WWII. You can pick up a copy of the book at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. Be sure to let us know you're interested so we can give you the Zoom codes you'll need, or you can show up in person.

Golf Group – Wednesdays

We play on Wednesdays at 10am for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. To sign up, contact the church office at (peacechurch@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. 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

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. May's passage is 1 Timothy 4:6-10.

Sun. Morning Adult Class – May 2 & 30

Because of more relaxed COVID options from the state, you can have your choice of Zoom or in person for Adult Class. If you are planning to come, please let us know whether in person or via Zoom. The next classes are May 2 & May 30 at 10:30am. The topics will be “10 Steps to Emotional Equilibrium (it all starts with God)” and “Collective Memories - A God Given Plan” (in keeping with Memorial Day.)

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

I wanted to take the opportunity this month to thank you for all the prayers and support that you have offered me over the last month. The death of my mom is one of the hardest things I have ever experienced. Your cards, emails, texts, and words of comfort have shared with me that I am not alone. Some of you had the opportunity to meet my mom, Elinore. She was courageous, funny, and giving. I like to share with others that my mom was the greatest example of beautiful saint and human sinner. She had moments where she was selfish, and quick tempered but above all she was my mom, and I will miss her deeply. Knowing that our congregation is there to support me as I journey through the grief process is more valuable than fine gold.

I know that I am not alone in grief. Many of you have experienced profound grief. Grief and loss are part of the list of emotions that none of us get to escape. There is some comfort in this truth because we are also not somehow alone or targeted. Grief and loss are apart of our human existence. They are also a part of the human existence that God took on in the person of Jesus. Jesus suffered grief and loss. Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus and Jesus suffered pain and death on a cross. We are not alone because we have a God who loved us enough to experience loss for himself so that God might accompany us through it.

When Grief becomes your burden know that I and the rest of the staff at Peace will be there to help you carry the load. God will be there to accompany you along the shared path of suffering. Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning. Grief, sorrow, and loss are a part of life, but thanks be to God that they are not all of it! May joy be yours anew at the end of your time of grief. May laughter find you in sweet memories and new memories made. May the presence of a friend, a family member and God himself fill you with love overflowing.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

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!

General Announcements

Welcome New Members

We are honored to welcome the following people who are affirming their faith today by signing the charter of Peace Lutheran Church!

Stefan & Rebecca Mendell and Elena
Bill & Robin Russo and Logan

Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 1

Saturday, May 1, 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. Please let us know if you will be attending, in person or via Zoom.

What's the Scoop (Bring your ideas to the group!) – Sun., May 2

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 - even in these crazy times. We hope you'll join the effort either in person or via Zoom! Our next meeting is Sun., May 2, at noon. Let us know if you plan to attend and how so that we can send you information ahead of time (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

Sunday School Curriculum Task Force – Mon., May 3

Next meeting will be Monday, May 3, at 7:00pm via Zoom to look ahead to our Sunday School curriculum and plans for the fall of 2021!

Confirmation Dates – Sun., May 16 & 23

There will be two options once again from which the 8th grade families may choose: May 16 or May 23. Both dates will have an extra worship service at 11:00am for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation.) The plan is to have the service outside so that we can sing out loud and won't have to restrict attendance. (In case of rain, we will move inside but the attendance will be limited to immediate family.) For our confirmands and parents, please pick a confirmation Bible verse you really like. You can find a long list of suggested ones by clicking [Sample Verses](#). You also should submit the date that you have chosen to be confirmed and the chosen verse by clicking [Confirmation Date & Verse Selection](#).

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – June 5/6

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. We normally set aside one weekend in worship to recognize them and this year that will be June 5 & 6. As a bonus way of recognizing all of our teachers (including retired, piano, Sunday School, the world of education), we want to post pictures of you on our Facebook page. Send a picture of yourself to the church office at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Recognition of Graduates – June 12/13

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

Blood Drive – Sat., June 12

Thank you to everyone who donated in April. We had 19 donors registered, 4 deferrals, 3 double reds, 17 pints collected for a total of 51 lives saved! Our next blood drive will be Sat., June 12 from 9:00am -1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment.

Special Congregational Meeting – Sat., June 19

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

Faith & Life Experience

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

Enjoy this one from Julie Ruth

My faith journey began when I was baptized at my maternal grandparents' Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church in northern Minnesota 6 decades ago. Their focus on drawing closer to God was so intense; "distractions" like movies, dancing, drinking alcohol and competing in sports were discouraged.

When my parents wed my mother resisted my paternal grandfather's attempts to convert her to Catholicism with typical Finnish Sisu (extreme determination). She did not like their encouraged reliance upon intermediaries such as saints and priests. Similarly, she left the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church when I was confirmed because they denied her access to the body and blood of Christ (communion).

Hence began our searches for "where do we really belong"? Over time I learned to pray, look for evidence of God's love, pray some more, listen and trust what gave me a sense of peace, pray some more and act on that sense of peace. When I became fearful that my career was drawing me too far from God and my family, I did that same pattern. It led me to a 30-year career helping building officials make the built-environment safer, more accessible, more energy efficient and greener, with some wonderful experiences and friendships along the way!

I often have to remind myself to "Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). But the good news is God hasn't given up on me yet!

In the darkness of this past year, I asked God to show me his light. He led me to an opportunity to help with vaccine distribution at the Will County Health Department. It has been so great to see the joy on people's faces when they receive their vaccine! I am inspired by the others who work many more hours there than I do.

God is bringing joy back to our lives. Thanks be to God!!

~ Julie Ruth

Altar Flowers

Please email church at peacechurch@peacelenox.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.

Sunday School Teachers/Helpers Wanted

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

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!

Hand-in Hand Parenting Opportunity

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

Operation Care Package Collection

Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer 501 C-3 Public Charity that mails care packages to deployed troops weekly. We are collecting bar soap and packs of new washcloths to include in the packages. If you would like to donate items, please look for the patriotic quilt & basket in the narthex or you can leave your items in the gray bin outside the church doors and we will take them from there. Thank you to everyone who has donated already. So far, we have collected 48 washcloths and 50 bars of soap.

Quilters – Spreading God’s Love

COVID did not keep the Ruth Circle Quilters from spreading God’s love! 6 members of the quilting group have continued to meet safely. They have made and donated 48 quilts to Manteno for the homeless and 54 to Silver Cross Hospital.

Business Attire Collection

Over the years 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, suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! Please bring your items to church and put them outside the front door and we’ll take them from there. Thank you to everyone who has dropped off items already. So far, we have collected:

Women’s skirts - 27, pants - 29, dresses - 20, shirts - 74, sweaters - 31, blazers - 27, belts - 18 nylons - 5, shoes - 5, jeans - 3, coats - 5
Men’s suits - 10, pants - 43, shirts - 49, sport coats - 4, belts - 8, jeans - 6, ties - 16, socks - 2. Thank you!!!

Because of You and Your Gifts

Rose, of Malawi, lacked enough to feed her family, leading to chronic malnutrition. “I used to beg for food, even soap for washing,” Rose explained. Though they had access to farmland, they needed to learn new skills in modern farming methods and sustainable agriculture. Rose signed up for Farmer Field Schools offered by Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS), a partner of ELCA World Hunger. The skills Rose learned led her to start growing hybrid maize (corn), which yielded a bumper crop six times larger than their usual harvest - enough for all of them to eat. The family also grew tomatoes, vegetables, sugarcane and drought-tolerant crops, such as pigeon peas and sorghum, which they could eat or sell at the market. Through hard work and participation in the ELDS programs, Rose and her family have broken the cycle of extreme poverty and now live a middle-class lifestyle in their village. They are even able to assist other families in the village with material resources and education.

Questions Kids Ask About God

While we wait for more opportunities to share our *Questions Kids Ask About God* book with others, we recognize the questions don’t stop. Here are some that were from our Sunday School last year: 1) What were the names of Rachel’s brothers (as in Jacob’s wife)? *One of the things we can appreciate about the Bible is that the names of secondary characters are seldom mentioned. The emphasis is always on what God is up to in the story. You don’t have to be “important” in the eyes of others to be important to God.*

2) Where do my dollars go that we put in the offering? *You might be surprised! We give away about 20 - 30% to others to help them serve more people, and to help them get to know God (better.) About another 15% is for our mortgage. The rest does things like pay the salaries of our staff, provide for our Sunday School and youth groups, keep the church building in shape, provide treats and lemonade and coffee and other social events, welcome new members, keep the lights on and the heat working, insurance, and more and more and more.*

3) Why does God let the devil tempt us? *A quality relationship has to be based on trusting each other. It is the same reason your parents will let you do more and more on your own as you grow up. For God to love us and for us to love God, there comes a point when God has to stop protecting us and let us figure out what is right and wrong.*

Daily Devotionals Available

There is a black bin outside the front door labeled “devotional booklets.” You can come by the church and pick one up at your convenience. If you want it mailed to you, just let us know via peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. Also, 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>.

Institute on Aging Friendship Line

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

Caregiver Tip of the Month

April showers bring May flowers - so they say. And boy do we need flowers, sunshine and fresh air. The seasonal change will lift our spirits. We will shine again, sing again and we'll be ready again to embrace each new day with a greater sense of hope. Think positive. Stay positive. Pray positive. Caregivers.... unite with peace in your heart, the Lord in your soul and a renewed spirit. Find the happy in today, forget the past and worry about tomorrow... tomorrow. THAT is what we need to do TODAY. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex)

Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

We have an ongoing partnership with Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in Joliet. They have a food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring donations anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall. The pantry is in need of the following specific items: **especially cereals, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaning products, personal care items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, easy-open snack-type items (protein bars, cookies, chips, nuts),** coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.

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."

To sign up or for more information go to:

info@namiwillgrundy.org

www.namiwillgrundy.org

or call 815-409-7917.

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.

New Lenox Community Programs

A Matter of Balance - a free month-long program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. May 3-26 (Mon. & Wed.), 9:30-11:30am or 1:00-3:00pm at the New Lenox Public Library. Class sizes are limited and Covid safety protocols will be observed. Registration required at: 815-462-6493 or dmartin@newlenox.net.

A Pathway to Hope and Healing - a free 60-minute program that will touch on how we as individuals and communities can make a difference in suicide prevention. There will also be a presentation on holistic mental health. Tues., May 4, 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom. Registration required at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-pathway-to-hope-and-healing-in-support-of-suicide-prevention-awareness-tickets-148975025311>.

Stop the Bleed - a free 90-minute session that focuses on recognition of life-threatening bleeding and appropriate ways to stop it. Thurs., May 6, 7:00-8:30pm in the Community Room of Village Hall. Class sizes are limited and Covid safety protocols will be observed. Registration required at: <https://eventbrite.com/e/free-bleeding-control-training-stop-the-bleed-tickets-149192578017>.

AARP Smart Driver - a 2-day course (\$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members) especially designed for drivers 50 and older to help brush up on driving skills. Thurs., May 13 & Fri., May 14, 9:00am-1:00pm. in the Community Room of Village Hall. Class sizes are limited and Covid safety protocols will be observed. Registration required at: 815-462-6493 or dmartin@newlenox.net.

Operation Lifesaver - a free 60-minute program designed to promote railroad safety and awareness for adults and children of all ages. Thurs., May 27, 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom. Registration required at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/operation-lifesaver-free-rail-safety-presentation-via-zoom-tickets-150249392979>.



2021 Stewardship Appeal

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your support! Thank you also for taking the time to read through this and to respond.

Twice a year we focus on the giving side of our relationship with God. In April/May our attention is on the financial aspects of that and in September we concentrate on our time and abilities. Year round, all that we have is a gift from God. In return, we want to give back – to God and in countless other ways.

We ask you to go to the church website and the stewardship button or directly via <http://www.peacenewlenox.org/stewardship-2021/>. You can quickly read through the materials there or in the attachment. Then we ask you to pray and consider what God is leading you to do for a response. Seek how God is inviting you to grow in faith by an increase in your giving. Giving from the heart always brings more joy.

It helps us if you make that response known to us – you can do it right on the site, or through email or by mailing in something. But at a minimum, even if you don't respond to us, make a response for yourself to encourage your own commitment!

Thank you again for all your support. Commitment weekend is May 1 & 2, when we will celebrate all the responses we have received to date. If you need more time to consider your response, by all means make the response when you are ready.

Blessings to you and to our church's efforts to be faithful to God!

Pastor Dave

Paul & Kathy Sons (co-chairs of The Joy of Giving appeal)