

THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

Our Vision Statement: *Sharing Peace Faithfully

Our Mission: *To bring people into contact with the gospel, and help them grow in their relationship in God in Christ

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

815-485-5327

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

March 2022

Vol. XXVII, Issue 3

Down and Dirty

Have you ever fallen in the mud? What happened? What happened after you got up? You couldn't "dust yourself off" but maybe you could scrape off some mud. Did you go to change clothes as fast as you could or were you stuck being wet and dirty? Not a good feeling (unless you were playing mud volleyball.) Personally, over the years I have slipped and fallen in a barnyard, on a riverbank, at a youth event, and undoubtedly sometime on a hidden patch of ice in the spring. Yuk! Maybe some time you didn't fall but got hit by flying mud as a car sped by and you were on the side of the road.

When it comes to life itself, most of us have fallen or gotten splattered by mud of one kind or another. Was it our own making or were we hit by someone else's problem? Some have truly fallen in the mud themselves and have stayed there a long time. Maybe they didn't know how to get up or they just couldn't get their footing. No matter how the muddy life happened, I know of no one who enjoyed being in it.

We are blessed to know that God doesn't just love us when we're clean. The whole Lenten season reminds us God is present to us in the muddy times. God is even at work to help us get out of that scenario. Think how many times Jesus came alongside someone who was blind, lame, deaf, an outcast, a prostitute, a tax collector, a Samaritan and more. Each time the person was invited and assisted in getting out of the mess they were in (big or small.) What was true in Jesus' day is true today. If you or someone you know is currently in the mud or is being splattered, say "yes" to the invitation from the one who is willing to get down and dirty. God's Spirit is working overtime to help us all!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

Lenore, Karyn Kitley, Anne Ott, the family of Bill Mercer, Richard Esposito, Carol Dohrn, Rudi Fuhrmann, Joyce Condon, Evan, Nancy Bohl, Norma Allison, Madelyn, the family of Craig Engberg, the family of Elaine Yager, Carl & Ursala, Betty Golke, Ervin Pander, Steve Barlow, Cindy Silski, Diane Cochran, Kali Davis, the Anderson family, Janet, Priscilla Huffman, Richard Schabes, Dennis Flynn, Chris Durham, John Vogrin, Sheri Gosnell, Steve, Sharen Suste, Jack Goesel, Heather, the family of Richard Moutvic, the family of Jean Butkovic, Tom Burns, Sheri Gosnell, Hannah, Jonah Huelhorst

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Gerry Wurzburger, wife of Larry Wurzburger and mother of Joe & Dave Wurzburger

the family of LaGreta White, daughter of Claire Edgoose

the family of Pam Swyndro

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Ila Jane Jank was baptized on Feb. 20

Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., Apr. 9

As part of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday night service on Apr. 9, we will have an opportunity within the prayers of intercession to especially note those who need special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.

Worship Schedule & Details

We intend to return to previous worship plans (pre-pandemic) and will be adding most pieces back in throughout the month of March. The plan is for Saturday night's worship at 5:00 to remain outdoors to provide an option for people who are not comfortable inside.

Sunday's schedule already is back to 8:30 and 11:00am - both indoors with masks now optional. Live streaming of worship will continue on Saturday nights and at the 8:30am service on Sundays.

We will continue to have communion at all three services. But an option for coming forward will be added, with it being continuous and for the time being wafers and self-selecting an individual cup of wine. We still won't have nursery care yet. More liturgy and pieces of the traditional service are coming. We will restore the hymnals to the pews (and the hymns also will be in the online bulletin.) We will have two hymns plus one communion hymn inside. Volunteers will be requested on a week by week basis instead of assigned ahead of time for ushers, lesson readers, greeters and more. Watch the email for those weekly opportunities. Stay tuned for the word about refreshments after worship (not yet.)

Some specifics

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

Saturday worship is drive-in/outdoors at 5:00pm and is facing the front canopy. Sunday remains indoors at 8:30 & 11:00. 5:00 & 8:30 services are live streamed.

*** Masks will be optional and in Sunday School will be strongly encouraged.**

*** Children's sermons are back!**

* Whether you drive-in, are on the blacktop or worship at home, we have a modified communion option, with more ideas to come. You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. We will give the Words of Institution on behalf of all of us and invite us to take our bread/cracker at the same time and partake of this modified version of the Lord's Supper.

* In order to keep people's safety in mind, 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 are available. The doors to the bathrooms will be left open to eliminate having to touch them, and for the sake of knowing what kind of distancing/waiting is needed.

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP AT 5:00pm, Saturdays

* Our worship location is from the parking lot, facing the front entrance.

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 AT 8:30 & 11:00am

Here are the notes if you are planning to come:

*** Masks are optional.**

* Congregational singing of hymns is allowed.

* We will be sending an email each week asking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.

* The service length will increase as pieces get added back in. Currently the length is between 30 and 40 minutes and will likely be closer to 50 eventually.

* 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

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!

Daylight Savings Time

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

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: Dave Johnson – for delivering peanut butter & jelly to the New Lenox food pantry

Jill Burger, Mike Kinsel, Mark Muehlnickel, Barb Narish, Diane Weber, Helen Ambrose, Christian Knutson – nominees for Congregation Council

Amy Ambrose, David W. Johnson, Syndy Lindbloom, Kathy Sons – 2023 Nominating Committee

The Demik family from Jan & Roger Bentley – for being shining examples of God's love

From: Diana Wolfson – Chicago Charge Speech Group
LSSI – for the donation

ELCA Good Gifts – for the donation

ELCA World Hunger – for the donation

New Lenox Township Food Pantry – for the donation of peanut butter & jelly

Girl Scout Troop 5549

Catholic Charities – for the donation

Boy Scout Troop 44 – for use the church for their Merit Badge University

Marcia Horan – for the prayer shawl for her mother Marcella Kruc delivered to Clarendale

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Mar. 27.**

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

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

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards are always located in the entrance area. Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives.

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

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

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

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

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated.*

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

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

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

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

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell, 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

Addresses for Service Personnel

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

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

Military Pray for List

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

Looking Ahead

Mar. 5 – Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal 3pm
Mar. 6 – 7th Grade & Beyond Bowling 12:30pm
Mar. 12/13 – Girl Scout Weekend
Mar. 13 – Tired of Isolation Luncheon noon
Mar. 19 – All Church Bonfire 6pm
Mar. 20 – Peace Talent Show Available Online
Mar. 27 – Peace Page Turners 9:55am
Scholarship Application Deadline
Easter Lily order deadline
Apr. 3 – Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt
Scholarship Interviews via Zoom
Apr. 9 – Blood Drive 9am-1pm
Special Prayers for Healing 5pm
Apr. 10 – Palm Sunday
New Member Orientation 9:55am
7th Gr. & Beyond Easter Escape Room 1pm
Apr. 14 – Maundy Thursday Facebook worship
released at 11am
Apr. 14 – Maundy Thursday (Virtual) Dinner in Your
Room at 6:30pm
Apr. 15 – Good Friday Walk of the Cross – 10am
beginning at St. Jude’s in New Lenox (all portions
outdoors)
Apr. 15 – Good Friday in person worship at Peace –
7:00pm
Apr. 16 – Easter Eve Worship 5pm on the grass or
parking lot
Apr. 17 – Easter Sunday worship 8:30am in the
Sanctuary
Modified Easter Breakfast after worship
Easter Sunday worship 11am in the Sanctuary
Apr. 24 – Reception of New Members 11am
May 7 – 3-6th Gr. Mini Retreat 1:30pm
May 14 – Baptism Orientation 3:30pm

Groups

Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Mar. 14 & 28

Quilting will meet on Monday, Mar. 14 & 28 at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. Questions, contact the church office.

Trailblazers – Tues., Mar. 15

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but "over the hill" to come together on Mar. 15 at noon at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided (corned beef & cabbage). Email or 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 – Wed., Mar. 9 & 23

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00pm. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Any questions, please contact the church office.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Mar. 27

Our next book, a novel written by Kim Michele Richardson, is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be Sun., Mar. 27, and the time will be 9:55am (to match all the other Education Hour times.) 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 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@peacelenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

Addiction and Family Support Group

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

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

Adult Education class meets at 9:55 a.m. after the Sunday School opening in the front of the sanctuary. Come in person or let us know for the Zoom codes!

Mar. 6 - What's the Deal with Ashes and Lent in general?

Mar. 13 - Shame 101 (a look at the non-biblical emotion)

Mar. 20 - What *Is* the Kingdom of God?

Mar. 27 - Book Discussion (with Peace Page Turners)

April 3 - What's New on Your/the Menu?

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.

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 just let us know via peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Lenten Devotionals and Other Opportunities for Lent

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? The Lenten Devotionals can be found both inside the church building and outside in the bin. If you need a copy mailed to you, let us know.

General Announcements

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Sun., Mar. 20

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. 20. The cost of each lily is \$14.

Holy Week Worship Plans

Maundy Thursday, April 14, worship via Facebook, released at 11:00am

(and a Zoom Meal in Your Room at 6:30pm)

Apr. 15 – Good Friday Walk of the Cross – 10am beginning at St. Jude's in New Lenox (all portions outdoors)

Apr. 15 – Good Friday in person worship at Peace – 7:00pm

Apr. 16 – Easter Eve Worship 5pm on the grass or parking lot (live-streamed)

Apr. 17 – Easter Sunday worship in the Sanctuary (live-streamed)

Modified Easter Breakfast after 8:30am worship
Easter Sunday worship 11am in the Sanctuary (live-streamed)

Meal in Your Room – Maundy Thursday Breaking Bread Together – April 14

Instead of our usual Maundy Thursday Meal in the Upper Room, we will for one more year have a “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, but if you’d like, we have 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 14, the time is 6:30pm. There will be prayers and the reading of Bible passages as a part of the evening for which we would like volunteers. There will also be opportunity to share our voices and view our faces. Please RSVP at MIUR or 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org so we can get the Zoom codes to you.

Easter Breakfast & Baskets - NEED TO SIGN UP BY APRIL 10

Our Fellowship Committee has decided to go for it....the Easter Breakfast, that is. So, there will be a full Easter menu of (most likely) eggs and sausages and bacon and french toast and potatoes and fruit and danish. The breakfast cost is on a donation basis. There also will be Easter baskets for the kids who have signed up. We will need many people to act as servers of the food Easter Sunday morning, set up on Saturday and clean up afterwards on Sunday. Use the [Sign Up](#) to let us know if you’re coming and if you’ll be able to help. Seating will be in Fellowship Hall (and if needed the classrooms.) Because of the need to let the caterer know the exact count this year, you will need to sign up by April 10; sorry, no last minute guests.

Results of Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 20 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 Jill Burger, Mike Kinsel, Mark Muehlnickel, Barb Narish & Diane Weber. Nominated to serve as our youth representative were Helen Ambrose and Christian Knutson, with Helen elected. Our Nominating Committee for 2023 will

consist of Amy Ambrose, David W. Johnson, Syndy Lindbloom, Kathy Sons.

Tired of COVID Isolation? Consider This: Sun., Mar. 13

Do you miss people? Do you miss conversation? Do you miss sharing with others? (Would you benefit from a COVID gripe session? ☺) Bring your own lunch and join other like-minded people distanced in Fellowship Hall from noon to 1:00pm on Sun., Mar.13. Let us know if you’re coming so we can set up tables.

All Church Bonfire – Sat., Mar. 19

Weather permitting, we will have a bonfire from 6-8pm. All are welcome! We will have several fire pits set up in our parking lot so we can spread out and have some fun! If we must cancel, we’ll reschedule in April. [Sign Up](#)

Blood Drive – Sat., Apr. 9

Thank you to everyone who donated in January. We had a record collection of 30 units!!! Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Apr. 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Visit the Versiti website schedule an appointment.

New Member Orientation – Sun., Apr. 10

We will be receiving new members again in April. Orientation will be Sun., Apr. 10, at 9:55am and the reception of new members will be Sun., Apr. 24 during the 11:00am worship. Please call the church office to let us know if you’ll be involved.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 14

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

Children’s Choir Rehearsals

We would like to invite youth 2nd - 8th grade to join us in Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 9:00-9:30am. No sign up required, just come to Fellowship Hall! Any questions please contact the church office

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and friends of Peace,

I really hate lemons, but I absolutely love lemonade. The past three years have been filled with lemons, or disappointment. Last month our youth were dealt what felt like the final blow. The National Youth Gathering that was supposed to have been this summer got canceled due to Covid concerns. This event is a weeklong and our youth gather with 30,000 other youth from around the country. To miss this event is a big deal! Our youth have already been meeting once a month to prepare for this event and having to call them and tell them that it was no longer happening was devastating. How do we model for our youth, grace during adversity? Let me be real, it is hard. I was just as angry and disappointed as our kids. I understood the reasoning behind the decision, but I was tired of having to take things away from them. However, I was surprised. Our youth taught me something about making lemonade out of lemons. They accepted the reality, mourned the loss, and then came up with three new plans. They did not dwell on their disappointment. They did not blame others like most of us adults are prone to do. They were filled with grace, acknowledging that it was a tough decision to make and there was no easy way to make it. We will still be going on a weeklong trip. Plan A is to go to Rockford, IL and spend time with the youth of our synod and doing service in the city of Rockford. Then we will head to Wisconsin Dells where we will have some fun! The only request the youth made was to have some fun! Plan B, if Covid becomes a problem, will be to go camping where we can be outside but still have fun! Plan C, if everything has to shut down, will be to have an event at church and of course have some fun. I am so proud of our youth, and I am trying to learn from them. They have grown up knowing that things change, and they are leading the way on how to handle disappointment in real but loving ways. May we have the courage and humility to follow.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

Peace Pickleball Players – Present and Future

We have the opportunity to join a newly forming Pickleball group, being started by Al Davenport's friend Steve Soderberg at Parkview Church in New Lenox. This group will start on March 16 and meet every Wednesday at MPX Fitness at 15301 S Bell Rd, Homer Glen, from noon to 3pm. Cost will be \$5 for 3 hours. You sign up, and if you can make it, you come, you pay, and you play. This small group will gather weekly to enjoy fellowship, devotions and FUN through playing PICKLEBALL together. To sign up, follow this link: <https://my.parkviewchurch.com/sgfinder> Then find Pickleball and register by giving your name, email and phone number. Unfortunately, not everyone can make this time slot, but this is a start, giving those who can, a definite playing time every week with no worries about the weather. Steve plans on continuing this until the weather gets better, and more predictable, and then take this group outside. So come join us! Al will be signing up and should make most, if not all Wednesdays. No experience? No problem! We will teach you. No personal equipment? No Problem! It will be provided. However, this is not just for beginners. All levels of play are welcome. Pickleball is a combination of ping pong, tennis and badminton. If you do sign up, please notify Peace Church, so we know how many of our members are going to participate. Any questions or problems signing up, please call the office and Al Davenport will get back to you. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and hopefully an Olympic sport in the future. Check it out and join the fun!!!!

Peace Fantasy Baseball League – Sign Up by Mar. 6

Tired of cold weather and snow? Wanting to think about warm summer days and being outside at the ballpark? Even though the players and owners might be fighting and delay the start of the season, we are planning on starting a Fantasy Baseball League. If you are interested, please email Scott Howell at scotth1288@yahoo.com by March 6.

Faith & Life Experience

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

What has challenged your faith in the past? Maybe it's been a sickness, job loss, relationship that hasn't worked, etc. A few of mine have been polio and smallpox scares (and then the vaccines!) as a child, Cuban missile crisis, draft for Viet Nam, the energy crisis in 1973, job loss and a number of other crises in my lifetime.

I am a survivor of several faith challenging issues. Fortunately, my Lutheran upbringing and Christian parents have helped me along the way. It's not easy dealing with adversity. We are finding that out during the current corona virus pandemic. But God and our faith will assist us in this challenge and getting through all of this. The challenges have made me stronger and more appreciative of my life and the things I take for granted.

What has challenged your faith? I am sure you have gone through many different challenging times. I remember my confirmation verse: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. You and I are survivors. Our faith in God has led us through time and again.

Chuck Wolske

Because of You

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois guides clients aged 18 or older with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities toward a plan to live successfully in their community. LSSI's person-centered services at 25 locations across the state range from residential to community-based living and include programming at their Shady Oaks Developmental Training Center.

For older adults and people over age 18 with disabilities, LSSI provides affordable housing at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois. A Social Service Coordinator is available at every site to assist residents. From July 2020 - June 2021, LSSI provided affordable housing to 1,456 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Variety Show 2022 Available Sun., Mar. 20

Our Fellowship Committee keeps thinking of ways to keep our congregation connected. This year's Variety Show is no exception and will be available online starting March 20. Go to the church website or directly to our Facebook page and enjoy some talents shared by members of the congregation.

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@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327.

Questions Kids Ask About God

More kids and more questions!

Does God know every kid's name?

100%, yes! Over and over the Bible tells us how much God loves us as individuals. In the Psalms and in Jeremiah, it talks about God knowing us before we were born. Jesus called people by name as his disciples.

Jesus loved people as individuals whenever possible.

Over and over again, God invites people to turn to God with all our hopes and dreams and broken hearts and when we're hurting in any way. That kind of God even invited us to think of God as "daddy."

Parents/grandparents/kids, please keep those questions coming!

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.

March Pasta & Sauce Collection

Our Service Committee has an idea to have an emphasis of the month for helping others. Your generosity is amazing, and we continue to want to connect that to people in need. In March we will collect boxes of pasta & jars of sauce to be given to the New Lenox Township Food Pantry.

Business Attire Collection

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 in the bin inside, or just leave them outside the front door and we'll take them from there.

Thanks for the Souper Bowl Gifts!

The online and in person gifts allowed us to donate \$1,008.39 to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal! This wonderful ministry of the ELCA truly makes a difference both on the front lines of feeding hungry people in the US and around the world They also encourage us to keep reminding our leaders of Jesus' words, "I was hungry, and you fed me." In addition to all the money received, we also had many cans of soup donated. It matters as we directly help feed local people who are struggling.

Soup Thank You

COVID or no COVID, thank you so much for helping to feed the hungry. Because of your generosity, we collected 303 cans of soup for the New Lenox Township food bank. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Peace Church Scholarship

Peace Church will make available the annual scholarship for high school seniors who are planning to attend 4- or 2-year college programs or technical/trade schools. Up to 5 scholarships will be awarded. Recipients will be chosen based on several factors, which are detailed in the application form. These forms are available on the counter in the narthex and must be submitted no later than March 27, 2022. [Printable Scholarship 2022](#). The interviews will take place on April 3, 2022, via Zoom.

We Are Heading Back to Broadway in Chicago! ([Sign Up](#))

We are going to put our proverbial toes in the water and offer a show 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.

Are You Interested? ([Sign Up](#))

The Fellowship Committee wants to bring some more shows to your attention. If you have an interest, you can get your own tickets. However, if you have an interest to go with some others from church, let us know through the sign up and we'll see what we can do to get the tickets for you!

Deathtrap - Mar. 18-27 - Curtain Call in Mokena (comedy-thriller with twists and turns of devilish cleverness)

Groundhog Day - through Mar.13 - Paramount Theatre

Rock of Ages - Apr. 13 - May 29 - The Drama Group in Chicago Heights

Run for Your Wife (comedy) June 1-19 - The Drama Group in Chicago Heights

Leading Ladies (comedy) Aug. 5-14 - The Drama Group in Chicago Heights

Caregiver Tip of the Month



Praying while walking go hand in hand
It calms the heart like nothing can
Take a moment of time just for you
The benefit, the reward, will change the hue

Interested in a Chicago Fire Soccer Game?

The Fellowship Committee is always on the lookout for new opportunities to bring people together. We know there are some soccer fans in our congregation. How about a group outing? The date we are picking is Saturday, July 9, and the time of the game is 7:00pm. The cost of the group tickets will be between \$20 and \$30 each. Please contact the church (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327) to let us know if you are interested (and if you have advice on pricing for yourself.)

Want to Help the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center?

Instead of having the typical Memorial Day Work Weekend we will be switching to an individual group or family workday or weekend. Contact LOMC at ken@lomc.org for open weekends and potential projects. It is also possible to help them out through Thrivent gift cards to fund the projects.

Cleaning Supplies for Santa Cruz

In addition to the non-perishable food items and personal care items that are needed for their food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood, Santa Cruz is in need of cleaning supplies and garbage bags for the church. If you would like to donate these or any items for the food pantry, please bring them to church and put them in the baskets by the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

Youth Events

Confirmation Schedule:

7th gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Mar. 9 & 16

8th gr. Confirmation 7:00pm Mar. 9 & 23

7th Gr. & Beyond – Bowling at Laraway Lanes – Sun., Mar. 6

Please meet us at Laraway Lanes at 12:30-2pm. Cost is \$4 for shoes and \$4.75 per game. Sign up and let us know you are coming, please eat lunch beforehand. [Sign Up](#)

3-6 Gr. Bible Buddies – Wed., Mar. 9 & 16

Come join us for Bible Buddies! On two Wednesdays of the month, from 7-8:00pm, we invite our 3rd-6th graders to come and hang out with Miss Jess. Please let us know if you're planning to come. [Bible Buddies sign up](#)

3-6th Gr. Painting Party – Sat., March 26

Please join us in Fellowship Hall, from 6-8pm, as we channel our inner artist! Deacon Shari will lead us in some instructions for this event and the cost is \$5 for supplies. You can bring an easel if you want, too.

[Sign Up](#)

7th Gr. & Beyond – Easter Escape Room Sun., Apr. 10

7th Graders and older are invited to participate in our first ever Easter Escape Room, from 1-3:00pm. Let us know if your youth is interested in participating! [Sign Up](#)

3-6th Mini Retreat Lego and Let God – Sat., May 7

3-6th graders are invited to join us on Sat., May 7 from 1:30-4:30. We will have fun, play games, build with Lego all while helping them build a relationship with God! Please sign up by May 1, so we know how many builders to expect! There will be a snack break. [Lego & Let God Sign Up](#)

National Youth Gathering Meeting – Sun., May 15

NYG group will meet from noon – 4pm. We will be busy tie dying our shirts and socks and making our goodie bags. Lunch will be provided.

Antioch: Hidden in Plain Sight – Sat./Sun., June 11 & 12

Youth going into 8th Grade & Beyond are invited to join us the weekend of June 11 & 12! We will meet at church at 10:30am and get ready to host a youth led service on Sat., June 11. After that we will set up camp and have a great night! If the weather is bad we will camp out in Fellowship Hall. Please let us know if your youth can come! Please sign up by May 31. [Antioch 2022](#)

College Information Packets

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

2022 Stewardship Appeal



We are opening the door to the 2022 Stewardship Appeal, coming this spring. This year's theme is ***Opening Doors***. Through our contributions to the church, we open many doors for people who might otherwise feel that the world has shut them out. More information will be coming in March and April, but please start praying and considering what God would lead you to do in making a financial commitment to Peace Lutheran to keep opening doors to those in need.

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>