

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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On a Long Road Trip

Did you ever take a long road trip as a child? You probably didn't know exactly where you were going or by what roads. Initially you may have been excited, only later to be bored and tired of the car games. There may have been some great scenery on occasion, but if it was in the Midwest, there were a lot of miles that looked exactly like the "million" miles you had already passed. If there were siblings in the car, you may have had your space invaded ("he touched me") or even been annoyed just because she was breathing.

It seems quite obvious that we are all on a long road trip together these days. The weariness of one day after another looking just like the one before has made us feel so many different emotions, from being afraid to being cranky. We wish we could just *arrive already* and be "there." And we're not.

A little Bible review might help us. Abraham left Haran for an unknown land, and even when he arrived, had to spend a lot of time traveling and wandering and dealing with "junk." Moses and the Hebrew people were so excited to leave Egypt, but those 40 years in the wilderness didn't exactly fly by, with one setback after another. After about 300 years, King David united the people and made a great nation – how fun was that! – which in two generations had fallen apart and for 400 years was a mess as often as it was on solid ground. Then came an exile lasting about 174 years (northern kingdom) and about 38 years (southern kingdom.) Most importantly, remember Jesus himself, with three years of countless misunderstandings followed by being crucified.

All along the way, what was the constant? They weren't alone. Neither are we. Having God with us doesn't make the road trip faster or the bumps or weariness less important or real. It does mean that there is hope that we will get beyond the long trip. The one with whom we are traveling this road has been on it before. The reassurances are real that God cares for us all along the journey and is working tirelessly to help us get "there." In the meantime, look for the special moments and memories that come along the way.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

Krista Peterson, Ruth, Colleen Molgioglio, Barb Hnetkovsky, Karen Legris, Mark Williams, Dan, Terry Lenz, Ellen DeMik, Sharon Obuchina, the family of Christian Arkin, David Leahy, Karen McLaughlin, Vern Sanborn, Lou Pinto, Dave Hennessey, the family of Patricia, the Lohmar family, the family of Dr. Larry Jagmin, Rich Massey, Charlie Rodey Sharon Obuchina, the family of Kathy Oberfranc, Claudia Green, the Clausing family

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Lucille Hostert, mother of Don Hostert;

the family of Dorothy Tyler, mother of Dick Tyler.

Congratulations

Jacob Weber for receiving the Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts;

Kathryn Wolske & Gregory Roulo on their marriage, Oct. 17.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Cameron Herbert Cassidy was baptized on Oct. 4;

Violet Belle Kirk was baptized on Oct. 17.

Details for how we worship each weekend, including Sunday indoor worship

FOR EVERYONE COMING TO WORSHIP AT PEACE

*Whether you drive-in or are outdoors, or even at home, we are adding a **modified communion option**. **Take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service**. Pastor Dave will give the Words of Institution on behalf of all of us and invite us to take our bread/cracker at the same time and partake of this modified version of the Lord's Supper.

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

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

ONE OPTION: OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SATURDAYS AT 5:00PM

* Households would be required to socially distance from each other. We have markings in the grass for individuals/households about 10' apart.

* Those worshipping outdoors can choose whether to bring a blanket or their own chairs.

* Masks would be required when moving to or from the parking lot to the marked spots. (We will have spare masks if you don't have one or forget.)

* Children would have to be with an adult at all times.

* Worship leaders would be set up at the far west end of the long sidewalk (where all the grass is available between the main building and the garage) in front of the door to the education wing, facing the parking lot, which again allows those who choose the drive-in option to see.

* We will have sound projection/speakers for all to hear.

* The worship would continue to be modified so as to last about 30 to 40 minutes. There would be no ushers or greeters or other worship assistants. Worshipping outdoors will allow us to sing!

* In case of bad weather, the service would switch to a drive-in only format centered at the front entrance.

DRIVE-IN OPTION CONTINUES ON SATURDAY NIGHTS

* We have a low power FM transmitter, which allows us to have worship leaders be visible and heard in each person's car via their car radio or an old-fashioned radio.

It will be on channel 89.3. You also might be able to hear through the outdoor loudspeakers.

* Park so you can see the worship leaders at the end of the long sidewalk, or in case of bad weather, back to the area by the main entrance.

ONLINE OPTION CONTINUES

* We will continue to live-stream our worship. We plan each week to record both Saturday and Sunday.

Assuming everything works, both will be available through our Facebook site.

INDOOR WORSHIP RESUMES

We have resumed limited indoor worship on Sunday mornings with two services: 8:30 and 11:00. There are a lot of details that go with that, including that 5:00 Saturday night will continue as is for the time being (both drive-in and outdoor.) What follows is the whole list of what our restrictions and requirements need to be to make indoor worship as safe as possible, and how we can all work together to make this happen.

If you are at a higher risk, please use your own good judgment. **Live-streaming will continue!** If you have questions, please contact us

(peacechurch@peacelenox.org or 815-485-5327.)

* All indoor services will be limited in attendance to 50 people total in the sanctuary and no more than 20 in Fellowship Hall, which will have the video stream in it.

There **will be a registration process** each week (via email and the phone 815-485-5327 or

peacechurch@peacelenox.org) on a first come basis starting after noon each preceding Sunday. We will notify you that we received your email/call and whether you are one of the first 50/20.

* **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.)

* Temperatures will be taken outside the main entrance on the way in, 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 continue to be "bring your own bread or cracker."

* 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!

Offering Envelope Boxes & New Devotional Booklet Available

The next quarter's devotional booklets are now available. We put a second bin outside the front door labeled "devotional booklets" and you can come by the church and pick one up at your convenience. We are also putting them by the sidewalk at outdoor worship times.

If you want your devotional book or offering envelope box to be delivered to you ahead of when we can worship together, we have a volunteer ready to make deliveries. Let us know via peacechurch@peacelenox.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!

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:

Kelly Muehlnickel, Pamela Putrich, Al Davenport – for special music

From:

Kay Johnson – for the prayer shawl

Clarendale of Mokena – for the prayer shawls

Margaret G. – for the prayer shawl

Manteno Interfaith Commission – for the prayer shawls

NAMI You Are Not Alone Webinar

One in four of us will struggle with the challenges of mental illness in any given year. NAMI 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." This program will provide you with a description of the NAMI Will Grundy educational programs and support groups. **There is no cost to attend these webinars.** Visit JJC.edu/LLC to register for one of the free *You are Not Alone* webinars. Dates are Nov. 2 and Dec. 7 from 6-7 pm.

Treats for Troops

Operation Care Package collects individually wrapped candy for distribution to our military throughout the year. Service men and women stationed in foreign countries appreciate getting packages – and bonus treats like chocolates, candy, gum, and mints. Whether you have excess candy left over from the Trick or Treaters or you want to hit the sales after Halloween when the prices are slashed, we will happily take any treats you would like to donate. Please bring the items to church and they will be delivered to OCP by Cass & Pam from our church.

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.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Nov. 29 (one week later)**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

* **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 and walkers available** – The church has received crutches and walkers from members. 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. Let's remember to keep in mind to spread the word that no one is alone in a time of need. Suicide destroys everyone who cares! 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 line – 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, (with the exception of 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.

* **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. The new website is an easy to use tool for potential residents *and* family members to learn about Joshua Arms, including eligibility and floor plans.

* **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. You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners.

* **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.

Check Out Our Social Media Pages

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox. Ways you can help to promote our pages and our church are to follow our pages and engaging our content by commenting, liking, and sharing our posts.

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

Oct. 31 – Halloween Treats with Costumes 10:00 a.m.
Nov. 1 – All Saints Worship 8:30 a.m.
What's the Scoop 12:15 p.m.
Nov. 3 – Thanksgiving Planning Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 7 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 8 – 7/8th Gr. & Peace 360 4-6p.m.
Nov. 22 – Poinsettia Order Deadline/Peace 360 4-6p.m.
Nov. 24 – Church Council 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Worship Service on Facebook
– noon (not in person this year).
24th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner – carry out &
delivery only
Dec. 5 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 6 & 20 – Peace 360
Dec. 19 – Shortest Day/Longest Night Service
Dec. 24 & 25 – Christmas worship services – format to
be determined

Groups

Ruth Circle Quilting – Nov. 2, 16 & 30

Ruth Circle quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. It's very casual and if you can't make it each time, just come when you can. At this time, we will not be having snacks. Questions? Contact the church office.

Prayer Shawl – Nov. 11 & 25

We will meet every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in room 5/7. Come when you can and leave when it's good for you. Not sure you are ready to be in person? Then 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 – Next Year

We keep ourselves on the radar but will hold off meeting once again. Stay tuned for another update, but currently are thinking to wait until next year. 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 – Mon. & Wed.

We will now meet Mondays 12:00 - 1:00 and Wednesdays 11:30 -12:30 in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own chair. Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors.

Ping Pong Club – We have resumed

If you think you may want to play, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org).

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Nov. 22

Our next combination Zoom and in-person meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22, at 9:30 a.m. The in-person will be separated safely (plus wear a mask while moving to and from.) We will discuss *Crashing through : a true story of risk, adventure, and the man who dared to see* by Robert Kurson. If you are using Zoom, be sure to let us know so we can get the codes to you. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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 - 8:30 p.m. 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. (Maybe January?) 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. If you would like more information please contact Janet at griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Peace Members and Friends,

As we enter the next wave of this pandemic, I wonder how your feeling. Perhaps you are like me where every day seems to hold a different emotion. With the holidays approaching I am hungry for tradition and yet very aware that things will have to be different this year. How is it that God will show up if we don't have the Thanksgiving Dinner exactly like we have for the past 23 years? Or will Christmas still be just as magical without the traditional 11pm service by candlelight?

We remember at times like these that God's love is not dependent on our actions. God shows up in ways we never expected him to. There is no doubt that the magic of the holidays will be present no matter how different it might look. We as a congregation are looking at how we might be creative in allowing Christ love to reach out beyond the walls of our building. Just because it is different does not mean that it is bad and sometimes, we even stumble across something that enhances the way God speaks in our lives.

For Thanksgiving this year, we could have said we will do nothing. We could have closed the church and allowed everyone to do their own thing and it would have been ok. Instead we as a congregation, with some amazing committee leaders, envisioned how we might do it differently. How could we still feed people? How could we still show our thankfulness for God's abundant blessings, especially in a year when it takes intent to remember them? The idea of meals to go became a reality! What a creative and faithful solution to a desire to serve. So, this year on Thanksgiving people will come and pick up their pre-packaged meal from a friendly face. They will be greeted with the love of Christ and they will have a full stomach and the ways in which God will work will be many.

I am so blessed to be a part of a church family that never says can't. We come together and we make Christ love known to a world that absolutely needs it right now! May you be surrounded by God's love this upcoming holiday season and know that the people here at peace will be serving God in creative ways right alongside of you.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

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'll 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. November's passage is Psalm 145:10-14.

Wednesday Bible Study - Now both in person and on-line

Each Wednesday for many weeks now, people have been joining our Bible Study through the wonders of Zoom! We offer both an in-person version and the continuation of the online method. For those using the online version for the first time, let us know via the church's email so we can send you the meeting ID and password. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to join this class! For those who will be coming to the in-person version, we will have some requirements for distancing, etc. Be sure to let us know if you plan to come to the in-person version.

Sun. Morning Adult Class – Nov. 8 & 22

We invite anyone who wants to participate in an adult class on join us on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 9:45am, either online via Zoom or in person. Be sure to let us know if you're coming and by which means so we can give out the codes or have the right socially distanced spaces. The topic will be "There Are Many Ways God Can Heal Us." We have more than just physical pain, although that also matters greatly! We will look at the multiple paths God has given for healing. The following class will be Nov. 22, with the topic "Humility Can Work Miracles."

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>.

General Announcements

Special All Saints Worship – Sun., Nov. 1

Our annual remembrance of people who have died through the lighting of candles at the 8:30 service will take place but be different. If you would like candles lit in memory of someone, use the online sign-up, email or call the office with your name and contact information, and the person(s) you are remembering (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org). At the worship service, Deacon Shari & Pastor Dave will light the candles as special music takes place in the background.

What's the Scoop – Sun., Nov. 1

We press on in the name of God! What's the Scoop will be Sun., Nov. 1 at 12:15. Whether it will be all Zoom or a mixture.... stay tuned. Let us know if you will join us (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.)

Thanksgiving Planning – Tues., Nov. 3

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, all kinds of people help in a variety of ways, but this year it will be different. We'll need some people to be on a food assembly line, some to carry the food out from Fellowship Hall to the parking lot, and many others to take deliveries to people at their homes. The planning meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7:00 p.m. (socially distanced or on Zoom) to help set the whole effort in motion. If you would like to help, please call or email the church office. For safety's sake, all the food will be catered this year.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Nov. 7

November 7, 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. It will be in Fellowship Hall at church.

CPR & AED Class – Cancelled

The New Lenox Fire Department has cancelled all CPR & AED training at this time.

Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome these new members into our church!

Ron & Barbara Otto

Blood Drive – Sat., Dec. 5

Thank you to everyone who donated in Oct. We had 12 donors, 1 deferred, 3 donated double red cells, for a total of 14 successful pints. These pints will help save up to 42 lives by utilizing each donor's red blood cells, platelets, and plasma.

Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Dec. 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please visit the Versiti website for any questions or to schedule a time to donate.

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.)

Questions Kids Ask About God Update

This month we received an order for 100 of our coloring books from a church in Kansas that wanted to use them for its preschool. The reaction: the director *loved them!* (What's not to love, right?) Pastor Forni from Santa Cruz also blessed us by reading a page from our Spanish edition on a video, which is now on posted our Facebook page. You can help this ministry by liking the Facebook page and by remembering the book (either English or Spanish in full color or as a coloring book) on a gift-giving occasion or as an outreach tool. Please email the church: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Golden Opportunities Books are Back

We are once again offering Golden Opportunity books. They're filled with savings coupons for many different types of places, from food to entertainment to carwashes. This year's edition has arrived and are \$25 each. (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) We hope this helps you get some good bargains!

Faith & Life Experience

(We are going to feature stories from members and friends of Peace from time to time. This month's is from Sharon Galminas, mother of Steve)

A Conversation with Sharon Galminas, survivor of COVID -19

The following is from an arranged phone call that I had the privilege of having with a survivor of COVID-19. I hope the inspiration of talking with her shines through these words! ~ *Pastor Dave*

On April 4 Sharon called a doctor because of how she was feeling. An appointment was made with a clinic to get tested. She was very surprised when the attending physician said, "I think you have pneumonia." While waiting for the COVID results to come back, he prescribed some antibiotics and said if she felt worse to not hesitate. She went home and it was the last thing she can remember for a very long time to come. By April 8, her symptoms were getting so bad, her husband and family decided to go to the emergency room. Her oxygen level was 50%, compared to 98% as normal. She was immediately hospitalized and put into a coma. She was on a respirator for 16 days, was transferred from the local hospital in Plymouth, IN to Mishawaka, IN. In ICU there were several times her family was notified to say their good-byes, including once when blood was in her stomach. Her kidney doctor voted against putting her on hospice at one point because "I know she's in there. She'll come out." Because she had it so early in the history of COVID, they threw everything and anything at it. The wrapping in sheets and putting her on her chest helped.

When Sharon began to "wake up," she was still in a fog. She saw people walking around in space suits, and thought she was on an alien planet. She didn't know it was a hospital. Her children told her to be prepared for the fight of her life....and it was and has been. She couldn't talk, or walk, or stand on her own. Because of fear of brain function loss, they wanted her to talk and tried everything, including trying to get her to sing, but nothing was working. Even though she couldn't let them know, she was able to pray! And she did - constantly. Then one day the prayers came out her mouth, and a wonderful nurse started to pray with her, too. Then she could sing, and hymns were what came to her lips. The burden for the family of not being able to visit her was attempted to be dealt with through Facetime. It helped a little, but she couldn't figure out the Ipad without help - it seemed like a foreign object. Even though Sharon was alone in so many ways, in others she was far from alone. In the community where

she lives, the whole neighborhood gathered outdoors one night with their flashlights and cell phones on in her honor. It was recorded and shown to her later. She found out that prayers were being said for her in so many quarters, including Peace Lutheran, and in her words, "I felt it, like arms around me."

After 3 hospitals and 68 days later, Sharon came home. She lost three months of her life, and still has scarred lungs, hair that can fall out, still can't walk too well, and has atrophied muscles. She is still in physical, occupational and speech therapy. But "I'm a stubborn Swede," and "I'm not done yet." There were no near-death bright lights, but there were doctors and family members who were there for her. There were neighbors lined up on the street the day she came home. There have been family members and friends who have helped them maintain a two-person watch at first at home, and now still haven't forgotten.

What life-lessons have been learned?

* "I don't see myself as the 'miracle lady.' But I know prayer works."

* The family has grown so much closer - petty disagreements just don't seem so important. "It has changed all of us."

* Others have noted that she and her husband have demonstrated true love, even 56 years into their relationship; that self-giving matters.

* "I hope no one has to have it this bad."

* "When life is overwhelming, let go and let God; turn it over to him."

ELCA World Hunger Resources

This year due to the pandemic we will not have copies of the ELCA Good Gifts catalogs and resources available. Please go to [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://www.elca.org/hunger/resources) to find unique seasonal giving ideas that help fight hunger and poverty around the world.

Coat Drive to Help Others

One Warm Coat is a ministry of our church to assist in the collection of clean, reusable coats and jackets for donation to local individuals free of charge. We are grateful for our ability in all circumstances to continue in our mission to meet basic human needs. Items can be dropped off at church including left outside the front door in a bag or box. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots are also accepted. Thank you for your continued support.

**Thanksgiving Worship
Via Facebook**

Thursday, November 26, starting at noon - our recorded worship will be available anytime. (There will be no in person worship because of the needs for our carry-out dinner plan.)

**IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD!**

**Thanksgiving Dinner Help & Planning –
Tues. Nov. 3 – 7:00pm**

For our wonderful dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, the situation this year is going to be very different! One thing that hasn't changed: we still need all kinds of people helping in a variety of ways. All meals will be carry-out or delivered – no one will be eating at church this year. Also, because of restrictions, all the food will be catered. Even so, **we are going to need lots**

of help with...

- A) assembling the meals in safely spaced out Fellowship Hall
 - B) bringing the food out to the parking lot to the waiting pick-up people
 - C) taking meals for delivery
 - D) clean up
 - E) on Wed. night putting together some extra food bags
- The guests picking up food/getting deliveries will have specific pick-up/delivery times from 11:30am until we're done, but no later than 1:30pm. The planning meeting will be Tues., Nov. 3, at 7:00 p.m. If you'd like to help set the whole effort in motion or for one of the slots A) - E), please contact the church office (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or 815-485-5327.)
- God's work continues!

Thanksgiving & Christmas Offerings

Each year the money we receive in our Thanksgiving and Christmas special envelopes is given away to others, divided between the ELCA's Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church that serves so many people in need), mission churches (Santa Cruz in Joliet and Resurrection in Channahon – Pastor Ben's church), and local ministries that help others (Groundwork, Daybreak, Trinity Services, and MorningStar Mission). Under normal circumstances, these gifts total over \$10,000. Again, your generosity will make a huge difference! Please let us know when you've made the donation if online, otherwise just include a note with your offering if by mail or in person.

**24th Annual
Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thursday, Nov. 26

The format this year will be pick-up for those who have transportation, and delivery to some within our service area who have none.

No meals will be eaten in the church.

*Reservations will be required for all
by Nov. 19.*

All will be given a time to come and pick up their dinners between 11:30am and 1:00pm. If we are delivering, we will also give them an approximate delivery time.

*Call in your reservations for this **FREE DINNER** by Nov. 19 to Peace Lutheran Church, 815-485-5327, or e-mail us at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.*

Let us know how many adults and children will be getting a meal.

We will be needing many volunteers to assist in this ministry. Please also let us know of your willingness.

Poinsettia Tributes due by Sun., Nov. 22

This year we still are not sure exactly what Christmas worship will be like. But we want to honor all those who would like to remember or honor loved ones through a poinsettia. The donation amount will be \$10 this year. Call, use email or the online sign up to let us know your information or for any questions.

Virtual Fall Potluck – Sat., Nov. 7 – 6:30pm

What is more "Us" at Peace than a meal together? Since we cannot get together in person here is a way to eat together-virtually! The idea is to prepare a one dish meal of your choosing, set your table, and sit down to dinner with others by Zoom. (Instructions to be sent to those who wish to participate.) So, picture your favorite "Tuna Casserole" all steaming, ready to be served at your house, and "shared" with the others. Be prepared for those folks who will want the recipe! Please RSVP so we know who's joining (815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.)

Caregiver Tip of the Month

It takes a team to make the right decisions, to call on the right doctors, to do the research, to find help for every day challenges to care for ourselves as caregivers while providing for our loved ones. It takes a team to sit down together and talk about what to do. It takes a team to understand the needs. It takes a team to provide strength and guidance. Find that team. Embrace that team. Stay with that team. It's a win win.

(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 cereal (all kinds), canned fruit, peanut butter, soups**, coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.

Christmas Gift "Tree" Giving – Please Be Generous

The donation Christmas tree that we set up in the entrance area would go largely unnoticed and unused this year. Yet, we know how generous the people of this congregation are and how you have a heart for others. So, we are going to set up a Christmas gift-giving fund to which you can contribute. We know it doesn't feel as good as actually buying a present, but let's concentrate on the people who are in need and plan for a normal 2021 Christmas season!

Our causes will be the same, so you can designate which one(s) you wish to support and the amount(s). So that we don't blend these gifts with regular offerings, would you please send a check that gives which cause(s) and amount(s)? If you don't have checks anymore, you can drop off an envelope at church with cash, or you can use the online giving and send/email us a note for the special contribution so we look for it.

We will buy gift cards/send in the donations for the organizations/causes from the moneys we receive.

The causes

Santa Cruz in Joliet (our mission partner) - children and teens (\$10 to \$50)

Santa Cruz in Joliet - homeless adults (\$10 to \$50)

Augustana Open Arms - orphaned teens (\$25 to \$50)

ELCA Good Gifts ministry - assisting people all over the world with animals & more (chicks - \$10; honey bees - \$20; piglet - \$30; school uniform for girls - \$40; goats - \$50; feed 50 people at a soup kitchen - \$100; cow - \$500)

Because of You and Your Gifts

"Eight years ago, my economic condition was miserable. My family went to sleep many nights without a meal," Mrs. Mafuza said. Mrs. Mafuza joined a community-based savings group, organized by Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh (LHCB) and supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. She received a small loan from the group and started a tea shop near the police station. Within one year, she repaid the loan and took out another loan to expand her business. With her increased income from the larger business, she's happy, healthy, and excited to report that all of her children attend school, with her eldest enrolled in college.

Youth Events

Confirmation

7th Grade Nov. 4 & 18 (7:00p.m.)

8th Grade Nov. 11 & 18 (8:00p.m.)

7/8th Grade & Peace 360 Cards for Sunny Hill – Sun., Nov. 8

We invite 7-12 graders to help us make Thanksgiving Day cards for the residents at Sunny Hill. Please use the sign-up page on our website. Remember to wear your mask and we will be social distancing.

Peace 360 – Meetings 4-6p.m.

Nov. 8 & 22

Dec. 6 & 20

Habitat for Humanity Project

To sign up volunteers for Saturday work on the Will County home site, email Ellie Roth, volunteer coordinator. There is a 6 volunteer limit 18 years old on up or as young as 16 years old with adult. Sanitized tools available or bring your own. Water is provided. This will count toward service hours & develop a sense of pride & accomplishment building a home for a grateful family, fostering teamwork skills with peers. There will be prayers offered over site. Bring your mask.

[<eroth@habitatwill.org>](mailto:eroth@habitatwill.org)