

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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When You've Lost

In a normal year in mid-March, 68 NCAA men's basketball teams and 64 women's teams and fans would start off hoping for the best. Sixty-seven (63) of them would have lost by this point. On the surface, they're losers, but it would be totally inaccurate deep down. After all, they would have grown, learned, invested themselves, etc. What is true in those kinds of tournaments certainly reflects a truth in so many other places in life of far more importance than basketball. In times like these, it feels like we all have lost...our bearings, our innocence, our invulnerability. Some of you have directly lost jobs. Some have had grades, plans, dreams and more fall apart. Is it possible, though, that something else/ more might also be taking place inside us at the same time, or as a result?

In a normal year, we also now would be journeying with Jesus to a string of stinging defeats: sleeping disciples, a betrayal by one of them, an arrest at night, abandonment, two trials where he was found guilty, denial by Peter, a humiliating walk to his execution, mocking by all kinds of on-lookers, and finally his death. (Talk about a big-time loser!) And yet something else/more is taking place...

Even though the words, "If you really are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" are the world's final judgment of Jesus' failure (and a virus of our mortality), we are struck by some other words of his, such as "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Those are not words of "they won & we lost," but of God's (and our) victory in spite of loss. Those are words that a few days later were followed by an angel's proclamation, "He is not here, he has been raised!" What Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate in real life and real time is that in the long run, the forces of God's self-giving love and life will triumph over those of fear and death, including the coronavirus. Even in death, something else...

Wonderfully, the events and presence of that great loser/victor also lead to our ability to overcome our losses. We can lose our pretending all is well and see how God can give us authentic recovery and hope. We can lose our sin and guilt and be set free to live. Rather than retribution and punishment on top of our fears and failures, God can give us a vision for how we can wait for another day, another chance, another life. May God's Easter word of life be real for us all!!!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

***Please check the website for updates
on an on-going basis:
www.peacenewlenox.org!***

Prayers Requested

Meg, Elinor Trotter, Ella Purtich, the family of Roger Ziliak, the family of Joan Peters, Bill Sykes, Rick Tilquist, Carly, Bill Sandt, Tom DeMik, Logan Treedell, the family of Dr. Burnette, the family of Ceily Marath, Kathy Kreutzer & Cindy Anderson, Julian & Gail Hanks, Vern Sanborn, Eli Hrnhak, Jennifer Thompson (Chubb), the family of Charlie Crocker, Wally Post, the family of Gary Kelly, Hilda Brockman, the family of Ruth Daum, Gene Trezzo, all elderly in nursing homes, Beverly Decker, Kevin Tague (job), elderly in nursing homes, Carly (safe travels & college), Ricky Tilquist (recovery), Robyn Rossi, Ronald Clark

Coronavirus Precautions

You've heard these words before and they'll still apply after we can move about feely: If you don't feel well, stay home! Always wash your hands after you've been out and about. Don't shake hands or touch your face. Try to limit your outings. We will get through this. Meanwhile, please pray for all those who are sick, the health care workers, the people whose jobs and livelihoods have been impacted.

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Chuck Olson, father of Jenny, Chuck, Tom, Sue & Andy

the family of Tammy Conway, wife of Kevin Conway, mother of Greg, Heather, Jennifer, Kevin, Lindsey, Brianne

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:

Cass Ott – table runners
Larry Wurzbarger – Variety Show DVD's
Cathy Rumbaugh – directory assembly
Alex Brown – acolyte
Kevin Chiappetti – usher
Dave Johnson – delivery of business clothing

From:

Mokena Marley FISH Outreach – for the donation
New Lenox Chamber of Commerce – for our service to the community
Bread for the World – for the donation
ELCA World Hunger & Mission Support – for the donation

Special Antioch Thanks!

Profound Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Antioch such a great success! HIPPO, was filled with laughter, learning, food, fun, and worship. The youth and I would like to especially Thank all of the adults who made this possible either with food, providing a host home, making a donation, providing food, praying for our weekend or keeping us all safe. We especially thank, Vicar Mike, Claudia Green, Marylynn Tyler, Karen Krzak, Linda Wilson, Janet Park, Diane Lilly, Ricky Wesel, Angie Klock, Emily Pfeffer, Gretchen Pfeffer, Eric Wesel, Jenni Vondra, Jeff Lindeman, Beth & Steven Barlow, Ken George and the Congregational Council. Also, our host families, the Vondra family, the Klock family, the Labus family, the Jarchow family, the Salutric family, the Lindbloom family, the Dircks family & the Knutson family. Last, but not least, a very special thank you to my right-hand lady Jess Lindeman for whom without this retreat would never have happened. Thank you for wading through the crazy preparations with me. When you see her in the office or at church please make sure to give her a big thank you. To all who gave of your time and energy a deep thanks for sharing God's promises with our youth.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Deacon Shari

Congratulations

Glenn & Pat Vanderwall, grandparents, on the birth of Maddox Jeffrey Vanderwall on Feb. 26;

Travis & Samantha Danford, parents (Liam & Landon), David & Julie Haas, grandparents, on the birth of Lucas Samuel Danford on Mar. 3.

For just about everything that is listed in the rest of the newsletter that has a date, the word "tentative" applies!

Volunteer Appreciation Weekend – Apr. 25/26

We are so blessed with literally hundreds of volunteers! While we try to remember to say thank you frequently, once a year we set aside time to do it specifically. Volunteer appreciation weekend for our church this year will be April 25 & 26. We have a simple gift that we'll make available as a way for us to express our gratitude.

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – May 2/3

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. May 2/3 will be this year's official time to express our appreciation. Students, feel free to invite a teacher to worship!

Because of You and Your Gifts

Robert is a client who's life has been transformed by the work of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and by the support of people like you. He struggled with mental and physical health problems and did not have the life skills to live independently. Robert suffered from depression and had no hope for a positive future until he met someone from LSSI's Community Support Teams. They worked with him to create a strong network and to connect him with the services and resources he needed to have a better quality of life. Robert says, "LSSI was a lifesaver for me, because if they wouldn't have come into my life when they did, I'd probably be dead by now." This is the difference that LSSI's programs and your support can make in a person's life. Thank you for your commitment to the people we serve.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Apr. 26**. 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.

Check Out Our Social Media Pages

We have a team that has been working over the past few months to bring our social media pages up to date and to post regular content to them. 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. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox.

Our Sponsored Missionary

Our Young Adult in Global Mission is Benjamin David from Chicago (member of Lebanon Lutheran) in Argentina. Below is his email address.

Email: btdavid94@gmail.com

Also, please feel free to follow the “YAGM Argentina-Uruguay” page on Facebook.

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/YAGM-Argentina-Uruguay-538939472824198/>

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn
PO Box # 12989
Annapolis, MD 21412

MA2 Baker, Connor
5600 Shorewood Lane
Norfolk, VA 23502

2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson
947 Burr St. Apt. E
Fort Benning, GA 31905

Looking Ahead... Tentative Dates

Apr. 19 – Sunday School resumes??

Apr. 25/26 – Volunteer Appreciation Weekend

May 6 – Hymn Picking 6:00 p.m.

May 9 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.

May 17 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1st option)

May 31 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2nd option)

July 28 - 31 – Vacation Bible School

Lenten Opportunities

We may not be able to get together ahead of Easter, but we can still do our own version of Lent! 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 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?

Questions Kids Ask Update

The QKA committee has been hard at work tracking down leads for our new Spanish edition. The coronavirus has put a stop to actual opportunities to get to events. Meanwhile, the questions keep coming here at Peace!

Easter Worship

April 11/12

We are looking at having a drive-in worship opportunity. Stay tuned for more information via the website or emails.

Groups - Tentative Dates

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Apr. 20

Quilters meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. You just have to know how to have fun to join. Questions, contact Karen Dircks 815- 462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom 708-479-7338.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Apr. 15 & 29

Come and prepare shawls for people who need to be wrapped in God's love. We meet every other Wed. at 6:00 p.m. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl Gamon at 815-462-3089. There is request box in the narthex if you know someone in need of a shawl.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Apr. 14

Dartball meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. No prior experience needed or helpful. Please join us! We finish up at 9:00 so you've got time for your bedtime ice cream, too. (Whose idea is that???)

Ping Pong Club – Sun., Apr. 19

The ping pong club meets on the third Sunday of the month at noon. If you think you may want to join, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders.

Trailblazers – Tues., Apr. 14 (1 week early)

Our next meeting will be one week early on Tues., Apr. 14, at noon here at church. The food will be fish filets. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Out to Eat Group – Sat., Apr. 25

The Out to Eat Group next will hopefully be able to head for Lou Malnati's in Tinley Park on Sat., April 25, meeting there at 6:30. In this environment of deliciousness, you can order whatever you want from their varied menu. Be sure to use the sign-up or call the office so we know how many to expect, or to cancel as needed.

Peace Buddies – Sun., Apr. 26

For our April 26 meeting we will determine our activity as we get closer to the date. Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older that meets on the third Sunday of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** You do not have to be a part of our church to join us.

Strong Seniors Exercise Group

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet Mondays 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Note – we will not be meeting during the month of April.

Golf Group

The golf group will be playing each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We play 9 holes, best ball format (usually at Woodruff or Green Garden courses), eat lunch at the course and finish around 1:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome, our goal is to have fun and fellowship. You do not have to play every week. We will start around April 8, weather permitting. Each week Mike will send out an email to the interested golfers to find out who is playing, schedule a tee time, and email players when and where to meet. We play in temps between 50° and 90°. Questions or to sign up, contact Mike 815-277-2636 or mbohl1@gmail.com. You may also use the sign-up in the bulletin or 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? You are not alone. There is an Alzheimer's Association Support Group meeting at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, contact Karin Knutson at karinknutson@hotmail.com.

Addiction and Family Support Group

An Addiction & Family Support Group meets here at Peace each Tuesday night 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 Tom Moore at 815-354-3195.

Faith Development/Education* *Tentative Dates

Adult Class

Watch the website for when adult classes will resume!

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. April's passage is: Psalm 27.

Peace Page Turners –

The Peace Page Turners are meeting viz Zoom on March 29. All are welcome. Questions please contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

VBS theme change; dates the same

Next planning meeting – Wed., Apr. 15

Our amazing Vacation Bible School planning crew met and has created another outstanding opportunity for kids (and volunteers) to grow closer to God. Our theme will be changing because of the postponement of the Olympics. Stay tuned! The dates will be July 28 -31. The next planning meeting will be Apr. 15 at 9:00 a.m. If you'd like to help in any way this year (including more planning!), please let us know in the office. Please register online or you can find registration forms on the counter in the narthex.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 9

Saturday, May 9, 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.

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 Pastor Dave or the Sunday School office know.

Devotional Ideas for Lent and Beyond

Our own Peace website has a link to the ELCA website which can connect you to a page called Enter the Bible. You can create a free account on this extensive site, which covers all the books of the Old and New Testaments. There is also a link called Everything You Wanted to Know about the Bible. It has a place for questions and also has some videos. Another website is luthersem.edu/godpause/. The God Pause site contains daily devotions and more. For those Facebook followers, there is a website call GodVine. It is not associated with a specific church or denomination. It too has a daily posting. Their purpose is to bring a Christian, positive light to the Internet.

And don't forget our own daily written devotional, Christ in Our Home, with more readings for each day recently added, and a whole set of Lenten written devotionals which are in the entrance area. There are also special Lenten devotional booklets on the table here at church.

Fellowship Opportunities/Tickets & Events

Tickets Available – Email the church

Shrek the Musical – Sat., June 6, at 12:00 p.m. at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook. Tickets are \$15 (if we get a group of 15 or more). Email the church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. **Deadline to sign up: April 5.**

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night - Sat. June 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Drama Group Theatre in Chicago Heights. This drama tells the story of Christopher, at 15-year old math genius who has difficulty dealing with everyday life. While investigating the death of his neighbor's dog, he unearths life-changing secrets. Tickets are \$23.00. Email the church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. **Deadline to sign up: April 12.**

Ain't Misbehavin' the Fats Waller Musical – Sat. July 18, at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre in Munster. "Fats" Waller was an American Jazz pianist, organist, composer, violinist, singer and comedic entertainer. His innovations in the Harlem stride style laid the groundwork for modern jazz piano. His best-known compositions are "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Honeysuckle Rose." Tickets are \$46.00. Email the church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. **Deadline to sign up: April 19.**

Forever Plaid – Sat. Sept. 12, at 3:00 p.m. at the Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook. On the way to their first big gig, tragedy strikes Forever Plaid, a "guy group" specializing in barbershop quartet harmonies and pitch-perfect melodies. Forever Plaid begins when the guys are given the chance to perform from the afterlife. This smash hit musical is a nostalgic homage to the music of the '50s and includes hits such as "Three Coins in the Fountain" and "Love is a Many Splendored Thing." Tickets are \$62.75 if we get a group of 15 or more. Email the church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. **Deadline to sign up: May 3.**

Simon & Garfunkel Story – Sun., Dec. 6, at 2:00 p.m. We are exploring how many would be interested in seeing the *Simon & Garfunkel Story* in Chicago on If we have at least 10, then we can get first balcony tickets for \$38.00 each! Email the church at peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Interested in Playing Pickleball?

Anyone interested in learning the fastest growing sport in the world? Come join us for fun exercise and learn the social/competitive game of Pickleball! Have you ever played tennis, table tennis, racquetball, badminton, or anything which required hand eye coordination? C'mon people, I'm sure you have at least swatted a fly before! Pickleball is a cross between tennis and table tennis, played with paddles and a hard wiffleball. Please sign up and indicate what times are best for you....weeknights, or weekends or both. We are looking to start this activity as soon as mid May or June...depending on weather, outside court availability and your interest. We will teach you and even provide paddles and balls. So get off that couch or lawn chair and let's play some Pickleball! Questions? Contact Al Davenport 708-977-7339 or al.davenport@comcast.net

General Announcements

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., May 10

Our next monthly screening date (because of Easter in April) is Sun., May 10, between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you have questions, or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to help, contact Marylynn Tyler at (815) 423-6407.

Earth Day – Apr. 18/19

Peace Church celebrates Earth Day everyday! Here are some ways you can help reduce our carbon footprint.

- Recycle your bulletin for the next service to use.
- Get your newsletter emailed instead of mailed to save paper. Please contact the office if you would like to make this change.

Hymn Picking – Wed., May 6

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. Your input is always welcome! Please let us know that you're planning to come so we can get you a pre-list ahead of time.

2020 Member Directories

Our new phone/address directories are now available. They include a business and service directory. Look for them on the counter in the narthex. If you would like a copy but are unable to get one at church, please let us know in the church office at 815- 485-5327.

Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry

If you would like special prayers said for someone, we have a Circle of Prayer ministry that is ready to help. Just let the office know of a particular need for prayer.

Artwork for Christmas Bulletin Covers

We know there are a lot of talented artists in our congregation! We have seen some of your work over the years, and now we'd like to see if we can use some of that talent for our Christmas bulletin covers. (We have bought commercially produced ones in the past, but the quality of the paper they send has gone downhill.) Here are the general requirements: 1) one half of a page landscape layout (no more than 8" tall x 5" wide); 2) line drawings only in black and white with the lines heavy enough to show up when copied; 3) some part of the Christmas (religious) theme. We probably would add scripture and/or our Peace logo or other information to the cover. (If you have suggestions for what or where to locate that on the page, include separately from your drawing.) We would like to have your drawings by August 1st so we can see what choices we may have moving forward.

Lawn Mowing

If you'd like a turn to mow this year, please use the sign-up or call/email the office and we will put you on the schedule. Most of the time you can pick whether to mow on Friday or Saturday. Most mowers took between 1 to 1.5 hours.

Golden Opportunities Books

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. **These books are now \$15.** (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.)

Wish List

From time to time, people want to make "above and beyond" financial gifts to the church. These gifts are not in place of regular, faithful stewardship – giving from the heart, off the top. Instead they are signs of extra gratitude/joy for the blessings of God. If you would like to make one of those gifts, see Pastor Dave for a list of items that are on his wish list (beyond the budget.)

Summer Camps

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center's 2020 activities brochure (at www.lomc.org) is now available. You can also check out brochures from Lutherdale in Wisconsin (<http://www.lutherdale.org>), (www.lutherdale.org) and Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort (www.manitoqua.org).

Amazon Smile Donation Thanks

We received word that another \$72.78 has been sent to Peace through the Amazon Smile Foundation's donation program; thanks to all who have used it! If you would like to designate Peace (or some other worthy cause) as a beneficiary of the program, just use <https://smile.amazon.com> as the go-to site. Everything else is the same and it costs you nothing.