

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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Does God Watch Us All the Time?

One of the questions from one of Peace's kids that is in our *Questions Kids Ask About God* book was "Does God watch us all the time?" The question might have been asked out of a fearful concern -- because then it would mean God is looking for bad behavior to add to a list already started. It could mean, however, one of gentle concern -- because then it would mean God wants to be on the lookout for us as a loving parent would do for a child.

Omnipresence is the technical word for God being around all the time is. While the word is descriptive, it does not do justice to what God is up to by being around all the time! God is not neutral in God's desire to be a part of our lives, nor is God interested in being judgmental. What God is interested in, as the second option above notes, is be present with and to and for us.

What does that look like in the real world? It certainly means being fully present alongside first responders and essential workers and scientists and others who are trying to figure out how to manage COVID-19. It means as all kinds of people are trying to figure out what to do about opening schools, we should look for God to lead us in what our priorities should be. It means if we will allow it, God can shape the discussions and disagreements about racial inequality and injustice in order to bring understanding. It means there is a peace available to all of us when we are feeling mentally exhausted. (Or as one of our Trailblazers put it, "God is everywhere....even at your wits end.")

I'm grateful God is watching us all the time, not to catch us being bad, but to fill us and all the world with God-inspired wholeness. (Perhaps looking for God all the time also from our end, might be a really smart way to live on a daily basis!)

Pastor Dave Hedlin

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

Prayers Requested

Susan Wagner, Mike, Ali & baby, Liz, Zach & Oliver McDivitt, the family of Glenda Wilkins, Kristie Paprocki, Kathy Drews, Sandy Booten, Vivian Farbak, Claire DeMik, Mary Brouette, Darlene, Pete Viehweg, John Pauls, the family of Steve Wennerholt, Denise Severson

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Elvie Gramlich, mother of Julie Ruth

Congratulations

Michele & Terry Lenz on their 50th wedding anniversary July 11;

Erin Skurka & Nick Wagner on their marriage on July 18.

Lily Sytsma & Tyler Maki on their marriage on July 18;

Tom & Katy Durkin (Thomas, Matthew) on the birth of their daughter, Mabel Kathleen Durkin on March 4.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Aug. 8

Saturday, Aug. 8, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

Drive-in and Online Worship Continue - see instructions below, too

Please join us for Drive-in Worship at 5:00pm on Saturdays (with [Facebook live stream](#) of the worship) and another Drive-in Worship option on Sundays, at 9:45am. Our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#) sites will have the worship recorded and available anytime after Saturday's worship. (You do not need to have a Facebook account to access this public page.) There will be some great music from Todd and a hymn to which you can sing along (words included in the bulletin so be sure to **print out the words**) some liturgy, scripture readings, prayers and a sermon. Join in being together in God's name in your cars or electronically and share the worship post with others!

New! Communion Option Added

FOR EVERYONE

* We're asking all people to enter the parking lot through the south (bank-end) of the Atrium Point complex via Schoolhouse Rd. All will be asked to leave via Rt. 30. If you are doing the outdoor option, we would ask you to park anywhere to the northern half of the parking lot, out of the line of sight of the worship platform and walk to the grass area. For those doing the drive-in option, park facing the long sidewalk anywhere so you can see, and do the every-other-space routine, parking on the line. (Sedans in the row closest to the grass, and other sized vehicles starting in row 2.)

* 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 and the building itself would 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

* 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

* 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 might be able to hear the outdoor loudspeakers, but we're not counting on that.

* 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.

* Why not move indoors? For one thing, we wouldn't be able to sing. For another, we would have to take reservations to limit the number, which means some might be excluded. Also, there would be many more restrictions and a lot more cleaning to do between/after services. Furthermore, the CDC's guidelines still recommend outdoor worship whenever possible. The history of re-openings in other states makes this issue even more current.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Dave!

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.

From:

Max Labus – for the scholarship
Sytsma family – for the wedding

Offering Envelope Boxes & Devotional Booklet Options

Option A: We have some volunteers who are willing to bring your offering envelope box to you even ahead of when we can worship together and pick them up ourselves. Those same people are willing to bring you a devotional booklet. Let us know via peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Option B: 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. If we know you wanted your offering box that way, we'll also put any such requests in there with your name on the offering box. (Just give us at least two days notice.)

Option C: Just wait until we are together. 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! We will have the boxes available outside (weather permitting) for the outdoor worship services.

No matter how: thanks for your offerings!

Lawn Mowing

If you'd like a turn to mow this year, please 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.

NAMI Family-to-Family Classes

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, educational program for family, significant others and friends of people living with mental illness. Registration is now open for fall classes beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 22 in Morris and Thursday, Sept. 24 in Bolingbrook and Joliet. Classes run for 8 weeks from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Call 815-409-7917 or email info@namiwillgrundy.org to reserve your place. Already taken Family-to-Family? No problem - anyone can retake the class at any time.

For just about everything that is listed in the rest of the newsletter that has a date, the words “maybe”, “possible” and “tentative” apply! Check for updates on the website www.peacenewlenox.org

Church Office

The church office has opened up a little more. We have a person in the office M-F from 9:00 to noon. We continue to seek ways to serve and be safe at the same time. If you stop by church, please be sure you wear a mask. The front door may be locked, so ring the doorbell to the left of the door.

Because of You and Your Gifts

Kapinga Eudoxi was saddened by all the sickness in her village — typhoid, malaria, diarrhea. These diseases are mostly preventable, but in Kapinga's village in the Democratic Republic of Congo, they were often deadly. She recalls how frequently her children, friends and neighbors had to be hooked up to IVs, and she remembers the names of so many who died too young; the cause really was just because they were poor and lacked clean water. When your love reached her village with the gift of clean water through Lutheran World Relief, so many things changed. Kapinga and her neighbors no longer had to walk long distances to carry clean water home to their families. They began washing their hands with soap and water before they ate and after using the latrine. They stopped getting sick as frequently. Clean water was literally a gift of life for Kapinga's village.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

It's just a normal day in the neighborhood until you come home to find a wrapped take out hotdog sitting on the top rack of the kitchen sink. "HmMMM?" you say to yourself. Then you mosey on into your office to pay some bills and find they have been doubled paid. Now you need to sit down and resolve that. Next you find a single pill on the kitchen table where the daily pill box is organized. "HmMMM?" you say to yourself again. This IS a normal day for you when you are a caregiver. And that is just the beginning.... (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Aug. 28**. 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

Benjamin David has completed his year of service as a Young Adult in Global Mission. The ELCA will not be sending young adults out in August this year, so we have no new person to sponsor.

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 947 Burr St. Apt. E Fort Benning, GA 31905
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Looking Ahead... Tentative Dates

Aug. 3 – Strong Seniors Exercise Resumes 10:00 a.m.

Aug. 8 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 15 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Aug. 22/23 – Blessings for Education

Aug. 30 – Joliet Slammers Game 5:05 p.m.

Groups - Tentative Dates

Prayer Shawl – Stay Tuned

Stay tuned for when we can get back together! Send an email if you have questions or would like more information.

Summertime Quilting – Aug 10 & 24

Summertime quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:30 a.m. It's very casual and if you can't make it each time, just come when you can. Questions? Contact the church office.

Trailblazers – Tues., Aug. 18

We plan to get together in August, assuming all is okay in Illinois. Stay tuned for the details. 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.

Ping Pong Club – Summer Hiatus

The ping pong club will be taking a summer hiatus. We hope to resume meeting on the third Sunday of Sept. 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.

Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon., Aug. 3

We will resume meeting on Mon., Aug. 3 at 10:00 a.m. Please bring your own chair as we will be meeting outside. Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet Mondays & Thursdays (new day & times) 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Men's Dartball – Stay Tuned

As soon as there is a way to play safely, we will resume meeting. Please watch the bulletin & newsletter.

Peace Buddies Picnic Event – Sun. Aug. 2

Our special needs group, Peace Buddies, has another event on the calendar. **Sunday, Aug. 2, (new date), 12:00 -2:00 pm** Picnic at Firefighters Park in New Lenox (1 Manor Dr, New Lenox)

* They have a shelter, playground and parking lot.

* Bring your own packed lunch and drinks so we can stay COVID safe and wear your masks, everyone!!!

* Meet under the pavilion shelter first for lunch and then Lisa Utter will bring bean bags or bocce ball, games, music and a water balloon toss.

Golf Group – We are back in business!

The golf group is ready to go....weather permitting now! The format will still be "best ball. 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? Call the 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 meets at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information on when the group will resume meeting, contact the church office.

Addiction and Family Support Group

The Addiction & Family Support Group is now meeting via Zoom 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,

Right now, in our country there are so many people asking questions about what we should do with our children. Should they go to school in person? Should they do remote learning? Could there be a combination of the two? We here at Peace are asking a lot of the same questions.

These are such hard decisions to make because we have not only the wellbeing of the children in mind but also the wellbeing of all the adults and the future health of our children and youth ministries. However, we are finding the same sentiment, "Let the little children lead you" to be truer now more than ever.

For VBS this year we opted to do a two-day event, outside, at which we would create some tie-dye projects together. A lot of thought went in to how to keep everyone safe and we set it up in a station format so that no more than one family would be at a station at one time. The children amazed me! They showed up at their appointed time and they were ready to go! There was no complaining about having to wear mask. Not one time did I hear a child say anything about the irritation of having this piece of fabric on their face. Instead, they went through each station with great joy. The ability to be together and to share in God's love was enough.

At each station they completed a different part of their tie-dye project. They came to a station where Pastor Dave, Vicar Mike and I taught them a lesson about how God's love is working in the world right now, in the midst of this pandemic and then we sang a song together about how God's love is a banner that goes with us everywhere. Our children sang with masks on! They put rubber bands on their shirts and spread tie-dye with masks on. At one point I encouraged one of our children to come a little closer and her response humbled me, "No Deacon Shari I don't want you to get sick, I can sing right here".

It never stops surprising me the wisdom and compassion of our children. It is true that there is not a good answer for school or Sunday School this upcoming year. However, whatever the best we can do is, we should follow the example of our children. I have no doubt that their concern will be for those around them. I have no doubt that their joy will be present in the hardest of days. May we each be humbled by their faithful witness and follow them in the way of God's love.

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. August's passage is: Philippians 2:1-11

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.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Aug. 23

Our next combination Zoom and in-person meeting is scheduled for Aug. 23, at 10:45a.m. The in-person will be separated safely (plus wear a mask while moving to and from.) We will discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. It is a fascinating book about how she overcame an abusive family and all she has learned along the way. 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. (There might be some copies of the book still available at church.)

Want Special Prayers?

Because we aren't together in worship, you maybe would like opportunities to have prayers for specific people. Please feel free to share those via our email peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org or call the office.

diakonia™ Online in 2020

Are you ready to take the next step in your growth as a Christian and in your service to your congregation and community? If so, you are looking for diakonia™! The next series of courses is scheduled to meet on Tuesdays, beginning September 1st, 2020, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Due to the uncertainties of the current pandemic, courses will be offered online via Zoom. diakonia™ is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran Church. This process occurs in three basic ways:

- By thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, Biblical, systematic, and historical theology;
- By identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry and encouraging their use in the local parish and community; and
- By providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, pastor-mentors, and instructors.

For More Information: Go to

www.nisynod.org/diakonia/ and/or

www.diakoniusa.org/diakonia-program-overview/.

Fellowship Opportunities

Joliet Slammers Game – Sun., Aug. 30

Baseball is back, but to see it in person you'll need to save Sunday August 30 at 5:05 p.m. at DuPage Medical Group Field in Joliet to see the Slammers play Nerds Herd. This is Independent League baseball and the player's abilities are quite good. Tickets are \$10 and we need you to commit by August 17. Call or email the church office. Temperature checks and social distancing will be in place and masks (when not in your seat or stuffing that hot dog in your face) will be mandatory. The Slammers are taking many precautions to make your experience safe and enjoyable.

Interested in Playing Pickleball?

Come join us for fun exercise and learn the social/competitive game of Pickleball! 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 hoping to be able to start in August. We will teach you and even provide paddles and balls. Questions? Contact the church office.

General Announcements

Blood Drive – Sat., Aug. 15

Thank you to everyone who donated in June. Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Aug. 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Blessings for Education – Aug. 22 & 23

During the worship services on Aug. 22 & 23 there will be an opportunity to receive a blessing for all things related to education – teachers, students, parents, bus drivers, custodians, room helpers, IT people, secretaries, etc., as well as for any supplies for school.

School Supplies to Help Others by Aug. 31

We know it is a different kind of year as far as which schools will be open and when. No matter for that, however, are kids who will need supplies to use at home or in school. So when you're out shopping, feel free to pick up some supplies and bring them to church. Inside the front door during the week we'll have a container you can access from 9:00 to noon. During the weekends at worship time, we'll move that container outside. If you want to come at a different time, feel free to leave the supplies by the grey container outside the front door! Please bring the supplies by Aug. 31.

Blood Pressure Screenings – Maybe Sept.

Our next monthly screening date keeps getting postponed. Maybe September will work?

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.

Questions Kids Ask About God Update

Taking time to read together is a wonderful thing for both children and parents. What could be better than reading our QKA book and/or its Spanish edition? If you know someone who would like to have either edition (kids do have questions and do have time), please email the church: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. Our QKA Facebook page has been updated, so check it out and like it!

Parking Lot Island Watering Volunteers

All the new landscaping we installed last year is looking great! We have new hoses and timers to water all the plants next to the building, but the ones in the parking lot islands probably could use some regular watering if it turns dry again. If you would be willing to take a turn (say once a month) for an hour, let us know via email or call the church office.

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.)

College Information Packets

We have college information packets for HS students available. Please contact the office if you would like to pick one up.

Away From Home Addresses/Emails

It's that time of year when we ask for the addresses and email addresses for young people who are away from home. We like to email them the newsletter and let them know we're thinking about them. Please email the church office.

Looking for a Job? Have a Job to Hire?

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, we are creating a list of sites online you can use to help you. And if you have a job offer needing to be filled, let us know that, too, so we can share any names we get of people looking for work.