

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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April 2018

Vol. XXVIII, Issue 4

Springtime Planting

Sooner or later it is going to stay warm. Trees will bud (some of you will sneeze), flowers will come up and many more will be planted. Growing up on a farm meant springtime planting in a big way. But then or now, if you want those plants to have a better chance to grow, there is a lot of preparation that needs to be done ahead of time. Even then, however, there are many things that are outside of our control – you can only do so much.

Working with another human being, living with another person, interacting with others are all opportunities to plant some God-seeds in people's lives. Some people think the best approach is to just force the seeds in with the equivalent message of "here is the truth about God, believe it (or else)." Some people do accept the message that way and grow. I happen to think a little preparation might do a whole lot (more) good.

One of those preparation ideas has to do with listening. It seems in very short supply these days, with politics being a prime example. People scream at each other, which doesn't get much done. But what if we adopted Jesus' methods of listening? One of those methods was to hear what people really were saying and to respond from that. The result time after time was people were healed in body and spirit. To enter into another's world by hearing what is really going on can make for much better relationships, not to mention room for God!

It also pays to listen to the wisdom of others, whether from long ago or more recently. In the course of doing that, we can glean insights into our own dilemmas, as well as put successes into perspective. When we hear Jesus declare, "Come to me and I will give you rest," or St. Paul write, "It is not for this life only that we have hope," there are teachings that can help us frame any current situation with "this too shall pass." That advice can help us live more freely.

God's self-giving love is constantly being planted in our lives and in the world. Getting ready for it by listening can help it grow more fully in us and bring blessings to the people around us.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Joyce McKay, the family of Danielle Colyer, Roger Cohn, Bill Weber, the family of Dr. Cecil Ingmire, Nicholas Consola, Gail M., Christina Montgomery, Sandy Robertson, George Huffman, Judy Hartmann, Janet Stoller, the family of Jim Galuhn, Mike Huering, Brett DeKing & family, Margie & Don, Kim Bird, Jim Pander, Chris Fehrenkamp, Mary Brouette, the family of George Becker, the family of Phyllis Caneva, Dennis Ogorzaly, Jerry Kolanowski, Terra Neal, Robin, Fred, Lori, Kevin, Mallory, Danny, Belle, Maya, Faith, Brandon, the family of Raymond Kaspari, the family of David Odom, Ed Hovi, Jan Bentley, Denise Jones, Jerri, Margaret Lindbloom, Rene Gruca, the family of Ron DeVitto, Janet Malone, Larry Hauser, Lori Trosen, Kristen & Steve Daughtry, Julie Frejd Schnepfer, Fulkerson family & Cathy, Marijo, Judy, Robert Reynolds, Jean Britten, Alan Booton, the family of Mary Attaway, Michele Lenz, Tyler, Jay, James Jankowski, the family of Rupa & grandma, the family of Ken Zienert, the family of Kelly Herron, Luke Alvarez, Tony & Sarah Dinnocenzo

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Annabelle Kyle, mother of Judy Svancarek-Williams;

the family of Virginia Weiss.

Baptism Orientation – May 12

May 12, 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.

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:

Paige Rogde – offering counter
Carleigh Fountain – Saturday office volunteer
Elli Saathoff, Skylar Smith – acolytes
John O'Brien – nursery
Jason Meister, Ashley Wandersee – ushers

From:

Cathy Rumbaugh – for the prayer shawl
ELCA World Hunger, NI Synod Mission Support,
The Bridge Teen Center, Trinity Services, Daybreak
Center, Aunt Martha's – for the donation
Lincoln-Way Central – for the use of the parking lot
for career day
Feed My Starving Children – for the donation
providing 22,727 meals
Daisy Troop 75133 – for use of the church for their
meetings
Jan & Roger Bentley - thank you for all the cards &
prayers. Roger & I are so blessed to be a part of the
wonderful Peace Church family.

Special Antioch Thanks!

Profound Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Antioch such a great success! CLIMB, was filled with laughter, learning, food and fun. The youth and I would like to especially Thank all of the adults who made this possible either with food, providing a host home, driving, praying for our weekend or keeping us all safe. We especially thank, Claudia Greene, Marylyn Tyler, Karen Krzak, Linda Wilson, Margie Haugen, Janet Park, Angie Klock, Gretchen Pfeffer, Christina Montgomery, Eric Wesel, Pete Knutson, Jonathan DeMik, Melissa Fountain, Jason Villalobos, Julie Massey, Chris Darley, Jenni Vondra, Angela Scherer, the Stewart family, the Ledvina family, the Klock family, the Wesel family, the Massey family, the Krzak family, the Pfeffer family, and the congregation council. And one more thank you to my right-hand lady Jess Lindeman for whom without this retreat would never have happened. To all who gave of your time and energy a deep thanks to you for giving us your best, the love of Christ!

With Sincere Gratitude,

Deacon Shari

Congratulations

Amy (Tatro) & Mike Milbourn, parents (Elliot) and Carol Tatro, grandmother, on the birth of Miles Edward Arthur Milbourn on Feb. 27;

Jake Treasure & Kimberly Sullivan on their marriage on Mar. 10;

Kyle & Malai Chellios, parents and Ted & Kathy Lingle, grandparents, on the birth of Fitz William Chellios on Mar. 23.

Address for Our Sponsored Missionary

Danielle sent a very nice email to the Peace Church families. You can find a copy on the bulletin board in the hall leading in to Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to send Danielle Steinwart a note sometime this year, here is her address:

Danielle Steinwart
High House,
St. Swithun's School
Alresford Rd
Winchester SO21 1HA, United Kingdom

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! If you would like more information, please 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. Are you or a loved one struggling with heroin or opiate dependence? Addiction is a family disease, because everyone in the family suffers if someone is addicted to or abusing drugs. The good news is people can and do recover and lead happy and productive lives. Please join us! 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.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Apr. 29**. 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. For patient eligibility information: <http://willgrundymedicalclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Eligibility.pdf>.

* **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* – Currently not meeting -please watch the newsletter for future dates.

- *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.

* **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.

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

* **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 Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

* **L.O.M.C. Memorial Day Work Weekend May 25-28, 2018** – Help get the camp ready for another great year of summer camp. For questions, contact Ken Dilbeck at ken@lomc.org or 815-978-5843.

If housing is needed, contact Audrey Adams at registrations@lomc.org or 815-732-2220.

* **Manhattan Friendship Garden Inc.** – The vision of a small group moved to nourish body, mind and soul has a simple mission. Grow fruits & vegetables and friendships in the process. Give to Manhattan community neighbors in need. Help supplement food supplies at the local food pantries. Teach others for grow and preserve their own produce that can be enjoyed year-round. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please call Dale at 815-478-5165 or email manfriendshipgarden@gmail.com.

Prayer Group – April 18

Denise Jones hosts a monthly gathering for prayer. The prayers include our church, our young people, those on the prayer list from the bulletin, and any other concerns or celebrations. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:45 a.m. at her home (17013 Geneva Ave., Lockport). Please call her (815) 838-0388 or the church office (815) 485-5327 so she can prepare appropriately.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Apr. 9 & 23

Quilting meets every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. **No experience necessary.** You just have to know how to have fun to join. And if that's not enticing enough, we always have snacks! Questions, call Karen Dircks (815) 462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom (708) 479-7338

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Apr. 18

Come and prepare shawls for people who need to be wrapped in God's love. We meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. every other week. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl Gamon at (815) 462-3089. To date we have created 154 prayer shawls and given away 102!

Men's Dartball – Apr. 10

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

Trailblazers – Apr. 17

Our next meeting will be April 17, at noon here at church. The menu will be baked chicken.... plus what you bring that you'd enjoy sharing with the group (salad, side dish, dessert.) Our special guest will be Don Wiberg, a magician. Come and see up close, and be amazed! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Even if you've never come before, feel free to come for this program. Invite a friend! We'd love to have a big group, so let us know if you're coming.

Peace Buddies – May 6 & 20

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. New Buddies are always welcome! You do not have to be a part of our church to join us. If you know someone, please invite them to come. We usually meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next meeting is May 6. We will not meet in April. The meeting time is **noon – 2:00 p.m.** Questions, see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546.

Ping Pong Club Invites You – Apr. 15

The new ping pong club meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. We have two tables, so there can be a lot of action. The level of play is competitive, and the camaraderie is outstanding.

Adult Fellowship – Dartball & Salad – Apr. 21

The Adult Fellowship Group invites one and all to bring your appetite to sample some of your favorite salad concoctions, all in order to nourish your body for some Dartball. Never heard of Dartball, or never thought of throwing a dart underhand at a stationary "baseball diamond"? This is your chance! Far and away the entertainment is in each other, with an occasional lucky throw. You don't need to know how to play. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office. Childcare will be available for \$3 per child if you let us know in advance.

Peace Page Turners – May 6

The next meeting will be May 6 at 9:45 a.m. and the book we will be discussing is *A Streetcat Named Bob: and How He Saved my Life* by James Bowen. Join us for the discussion, even if you haven't read the book. All are welcome. Questions, contact Kathy Davenport (815) 545-2806

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next events. We look forward to seeing you all soon! Any questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786. Sat., April 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Ladies Day at Olivet Nazarene in Bourbonnais. Join us for a great day of speakers, music and worship. Cost is \$30 plus \$10 for lunch. For more info go to: <https://www.olivet.edu/events/ladies-day-2018>. You will buy your own tickets, but please use sign-up so we know who to expect. We also need someone to coordinate the attendees. Fri., May 4 at 7:00 p.m. - Dinner at Thrive, at their new City Center Campus in downtown Joliet. We are limited to 8 seats and have 2 remaining. This is a sit down dinner. We order off the menu of the night and all preparation and service are provided by the students of the JJC Culinary school. First come, first serve. We may be able to get additional tickets, but no guarantee-get them while they're hot! Last, but not least, looking to gauge interest for a group to visit the Prayer Center of Orland Park-Mosque. They give tours on Saturdays at 12:45. Tour includes - history, observation of prayer service and Q&A. If interested, please use the sign up. This would likely be in May or June.

Adult Class Topics...

Come to our Sunday weekly adult class. It usually meets in the back of the sanctuary, starting about 9:55. Here are the scheduled topics for the coming month.

April 8 - *When Do You Need to Rock the Boat (and Who Should Be in the Boat with You)*

April 15 - How to Help Your Spiritual Life Grow

April 22 - Guest presenter: Mark Ott - My Life in the Military

April 29 - Who Helped Write Your Book (of Life)?

May 6 - Feeling Safer in an Uncertain World

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 *Psalms 19:1-9*.

Evening Bible Study – Apr. 17

Our next meeting date will be April 17 at 7:15 p.m. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to benefit. Luke 11:1 is where we will pick it up. We do need to have a few more people come regularly for this class to continue. (If you'd like a reminder that week, let us know and we'll do that.)

Out to Eat Group – Apr. 14

Our next outing will be to Los Angeles Café (19450 S. LaGrange Rd., Mokena), at 6:25 p.m. They serve authentic Mexican food, plus several other choices. We will make reservations, so please sign up before April 10!

Blood Drive – Apr. 21

Thank you to everyone who donated in February. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Apr. 21 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Earth Day – Apr. 22

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, we are trying to recycle as many bulletins as possible. If you will not be taking your bulletin or any of its pages home with you, please leave it (with all of the pages intact) on the seat of your pew and the ushers will pick them up to be used for the next service.

Looking Ahead...

Apr. 7 – 7th & 8th grade Lincoln Park Zoo trip 10:00 a.m.

Apr. 8 – 5th & 6th grade Pots and Paints 12:00 p.m.

Women's Group Pots and Paints 1:45 p.m.

Apr. 14 – *Special Prayers for Healing 5:00 p.m.*

Out to Eat Group – L.A. Café 6:25 p.m.

Apr. 15 – *New Member Orientations 9:45 & 6:30*

Apr. 21 – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Adult Fellowship – Dartball & Salad 6:15 p.m.

Apr. 22 – *Earth Day*

Reception of New Members 11:00

New Member Luncheon & 7th & 8th gr.

Kids and Adults Luncheon 12 noon

Apr. 24 – *Church Council 7:30 p.m.*

Apr. 25 – *Hymn Picking 6:00 p.m.*

Apr. 28/29 - *Volunteer Appreciation Weekend*

May 1 – *VBS meeting 9a.m.*

Caring Ministry Team 6:30 p.m.

May 2 – *Mandatory Confirmation rehearsal 7:00 p.m.*

May 5/6 – *Commitment Weekend*

Teacher Appreciation Weekend

May 6 – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

What's the Scoop (Bring ideas to the group)

potluck & idea exchange - noon

May 12 – *Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.*

May 13 – *Mother's Day*

May 20 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1st option)*

May 27 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2nd option)*

June 2 – *Chicago Design Museum 12 noon*

July 30 – *Vacation Bible School Set-up*

July 31-Aug. 3 – *Vacation Bible School*

Special Prayers for Healing – Apr. 14

As a part of the 5:00 Saturday night service on Apr. 14, we will have an opportunity for people to come forward for special prayers for healing. They can be for you or for somebody you know.

Hymn Picking – Apr. 25

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place on Wednesday, April 25, 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.

Caring Ministry Team – May 1

We care about people who have not attended recently. This team wants to find compassionate and respectful ways to reach out and offer ministry to them. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
How do you pray? Did you know that there are many ways to pray? During our Antioch retreat last month the youth and I explored this idea. Day 2 of the retreat was all about practice makes perfect and the way that we practice or live in to our faith is through prayer. We started by listing all the ways that one could pray and the youth had a hard time coming up with more than 2 or 3. I told them there are so many ways to pray, because prayer is about relationship with God and together we practiced 5 of these ways. The first prayer station was praying through music and the youth listened to a contemporary Christian hymn and then talked about what it meant to them. The second station was Lectio Devina which is where you read a bible passage out loud 3 times and then you discuss what stood out and what questions do you have. The third station was meditation. We lit some candles and we took time to be quiet with God and pray through silence. Surprisingly, this ended up being the youth's favorite station. The fourth station was a prayer labyrinth. A labyrinth is where you follow a path and stop along the way to reflect on your own journey with God. At the end of this station I had youth asking if we could make a prayer labyrinth to keep at Peace. The fifth and final station was letters to God. In this station the youth were encouraged to pray by writing it down in the form of a letter to God. These letters were profound. I had expected them to be thank yous for the weekend, or please keep us safe, or help people who are sick; which would have been perfect. However, what these youth did instead was write beautiful, deep, and meaningful prayers to a God who they knew was reading them. They prayed for family by name, for loved ones who were sick, for those who had died, for struggles in school and with friends, for peace in our world and also for the fun weekend. I was deeply moved by the prayer practice I was seeing before me. God works in all of our lives both in quiet, in walking, in reading, in listening, in writing, and in praying. These youth have relationships with God that are real and tangible and they serve as witnesses to me and I hope to all of you that God's love for us is one of a deep longing for relationship with each of us. So perhaps you will try one of these prayer stations. Ask our youth for help in deciding which one might work best for you!
God's Peace,

Deacon Shari

We Say Yes! Stewardship Appeal

Starting April 2, volunteers from our church began to make some home visits, and then later others will be making some phone calls, and all of us will be given a packet of materials by the end of April. We want to thank you for your financial support, celebrate together what God has done, and provide some information about what our goals are for this year (to pay for our increased witness through social media, support our growing youth ministry, continue to reach out to serve others, and of course, to support all the wonderful ministries happening right here.) Part of what we will be asking people to pray and consider in order to achieve these goals is percentage giving, or if that's not something you'd like to do, to increase what will be given by 10%.

New Members – Apr. 15 & 22

We will be privileged once again to welcome more people officially to become partners with us in our mission of spreading the Gospel and growing in faith. The three-part orientation and get-acquainted sessions will take place (1) on Sunday, April 15, during the 9:45 a.m. education hour at church; (2) at 6:30 p.m. that evening at the church; (3) on April 22, during the luncheon that follows the actual reception of new members, which is at the 11:00 a.m. worship service that day. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, use the sign-up, call the church office at (815) 485-5327 or see Pastor Dave.

New Member Sponsors

We want new members to feel welcome. Having sponsors is one key element. The "job description" for our sponsors includes the New Member Orientation Class on April 15, at 9:45 a.m., plus the 11:00 worship and luncheon on April 22. We would also like you to keep in contact with your new members from time to time. If you are interested, please call the office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

Salads & Desserts for New Member Luncheon – Apr. 22

We would appreciate volunteers who would be willing to provide a salad, dessert, bread/rolls, or help with serving or cleaning up for the new member luncheon on April 22. If you could provide any one of these, please use the sign-up in the bulletin or call the church office. You will be reminded at a later date. (Also, please put your name on the item and/or give a recipe if possible.)

What's the Scoop? (Bring Your Ideas to the Group!) – May 6

It used to be called, “Everybody Come” night. But as a part of our Long-Range Plan’s 2018 ideas for implementation, we wanted a new title. At the annual meeting we also heard a great idea about moving the time and date so more people could participate. So, we’re “on” for May 6 at noon. We’ll eat and share ideas for ministry and try to be finished in 1.5 hours or less. For the food, we’ll provide hot dogs, and we encourage you to bring something to share (salads or fruit would be nice). We’ll also have ice cream (in keeping with our title!) The teens have volunteered to provide childcare during the meeting. Please let us know if you’re coming and if you need childcare. (We’ll have these sessions four times a year.)

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Apr. 8

High blood pressure can start at any age and can cause catastrophic illness in our bodies if it goes untreated. Our next monthly screening date is Apr. 8, between the two services. Your pressure will be measured by health care professionals and will be kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions, or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to be a part of the team, please contact Marylynn Tyler at 815-423-6407.

Volunteer Appreciation Weekend – Apr. 28/29

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 28 & 29. We have a simple gift that we’ll make available as another way for us to express our gratitude.

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – May 5/6

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. May 5 & 6 will be this year’s official time to express our appreciation. Students, feel free to invite a teacher to worship with you!

Vacation Bible School – July 31 - Aug. 3

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 *Finding God’s Treasures*. The dates will be July 31 - Aug. 3. The next planning meeting will be May 1 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. Registration forms will be in a rack on the counter in the narthex.

Genealogy Group – Apr. 15

We’ve had this on our radar. Now it’s time to see about the level of interest. So, on April 15 at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, we’ll invite any of you who have an interest in forming a new group to gather. (If you’re interested, but can’t make that meeting, let us know.) The meeting will only take 15 minutes, and will begin to ask for everyone’s input for what you’d like the group to be about (share tricks you’ve learned, if you’re starting from scratch where to start, share stories from the past.)

Faith Discussion Group – May 3

Our small group meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss various topics, usually centered around a book, and are designed to deepen our faith and build relationships within the group. We welcome anyone to join- men and women of all ages-you do not have to attend all of the meetings! Our next is on May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Janet Stoller’s home. If interested, please email her at jlstoller2000@yahoo.com. P.S. we have great snacks!

New Website is Live!

After terrific work by our task force on social media, and so much detail work by Kenneth George to put it together, we are ready to launch our new website. As with anything new, we expect a glitch or two, and count on you to let us know about those! There are still a few pages that are under development and some more that will be added to as we get more pictures and notes. But this dream is now ready to be another of our welcoming pieces. The goal is to make our church visible on social media in a way that points to Christ and welcomes people to come and see for themselves.

Discussion Starters for Families

Search Institute has identified five essential actions in Parent-child relationships that help children and teens grow up well. Here is one of the discussion-starter questions that can help you talk with your children and teens about different parts of your relationship. The goal is not to get the right answer, but to share each person's experiences, feelings, and beliefs so you get to know each other better. Ask these questions when people are not rushed or distracted. Start with just one question. Then try others if people are interested and available. Have fun discovering new things about each other and your family and watch the newsletter for more discussion-starter questions.

Expressing Care: Different Families express care in different ways. How do your family members see each other expressing care? Use these questions to talk together about how people have opened possibilities for you—and other horizons you would love to explore together.

- Tell about a time when someone wasn't really listening that led to a funny moment. It might be in your extended family, among friends, at school, or at work.
- What do you find to be enjoyable about spending time with people who are different from you family? What can make it hard?
- Who are people you really trust? What do they do that helps you trust them?

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

The asset for the month of April is:

Sense of Purpose

Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."

April quote of the month:

"It's those who start with "why" that have the ability to inspire."

~ Simon Sinek

Youth Announcements High School

Peace 360 Meets Sundays at 4-7 p.m.!

Attention all high school youth! Have you ever wished that there was a place that you could hang with your friends (from church and elsewhere)? We have that place for you... Peace 360! We will meet most weekends on Sunday evenings at 4:00 p.m. If you can't make it every week, that's okay. Whenever you can be here you'll be a welcome addition!

Apr. 15 - Fancy Dinner at the Olive Garden

Apr. 21 - Saturday service project at The Bridge Teen Center 1-4 p.m.

Apr. 22 - No meeting

Apr. 28/29 - Lock In

Confirmation:

7th Grade – Apr. 18 **6:30 p.m.** – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

8th Grade – Apr. 11 & 25 **6:30 p.m.** – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

8th Grade Kids & Adults Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal – May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sundays – May 20 & 27

7th & 8th grade- Kids and Adults End of the Year Lunch– Apr. 22

The last Kids & Adults get together of the year will take place on Sunday, April 22 at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of our Kids & Adults get together has been for the youth to meet and get know other adults in the congregation. This year the New Members Luncheon is at the same time - so we are broadening the scope of Kids & Adults and we will all join together for some food and fellowship! **Confirmation Parents:** Your whole family is invited! Please RSVP by April 15 to let us know how many will be attending the luncheon by calling, emailing the church office, or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin. Come & enjoy!

Questions Kids Ask

The questions keep coming! If you haven't taken a look at our book, there is a copy out in the entrance area. It, along with its companion coloring book are great ways to share the faith, and encourage kids in asking their own questions.

God's Work in Action

As one of this year's goals in our Long-Range Plan, we want to highlight at least 10 people from church who are volunteering outside of Peace. God's work gets done by you in so many different ways; we want to celebrate how you take your gifts from God and apply them! This month's contribution is from Janet Park.

About a year ago, Pastor Dave asked me if I would consider being a leader in a program called Grief Share. Pat and Margaret Haugen started this program in our church several years ago. My first inclination was to say "No, I can't do this." God, however had other plans for me. I kept hearing this faint, yet persistent voice that said "Yes, you can."

Let me briefly share with you a little about Grief Share. Grief Share is a network of thousands of grief recovery support groups that meet around the world. It is a Christian based program with direction and purpose. The goal of Grief Share is to learn how to walk through the grief journey and be supported on the way. It is a place where grieving people find healing and hope.

I met with the Haugens during the summer and we formed our team. Grief Share urges you to build a team of facilitators instead of just one person. As fate would have it, the very first night of our scheduled group was the day Pat and Margaret moved into their home in Indiana. I was going to have to run our very first meeting by myself! My prayer after that first meeting was that some of the people would return the following week. And they did! We had a solid group of eight people that came week after week.

During the weeks that followed, I was concerned that I wasn't qualified enough to help this group. Again, the faint voice told me to "Just listen." Through the sharing of our grief stories we started to build a bond of trust with each other. Some weeks were harder than others depending on what the topic was for that week.

I truly cared about these people and prayed for them during the week. It was also an eye-opener for me. Everyone experiences grief at some point in life. How you handle that grief can change your life. I am very grateful to God that he allowed me to use and share my grief journey with others. By listening to that faint, yet persistent voice I did something I didn't think I was capable of doing. And hopefully, helped others in their journey. ~ Janet Park

One Warm Coat Results

Thank you for your generosity! We collected 132 coats, 94 scarves, 121 hats, 87 pairs of gloves/mittens, 18 pairs of boots, 8 ear muffs, 6 pairs of snow pants, and 5 vests.

Chicago Design Museum – June 2

Our Fellowship Committee is always trying to find new ways to bring people together. Our next offering will be a trip to the Chicago Design Museum (108 N. State St., Third Floor, Chicago) on June 2, meeting there at noon. [The museum is run by the daughter (and her husband) of our members, Wallace & Kristie Paprocki!] The museum is free, and we will get our own tour guide through their current exhibition, *Great Ideas of Humanity: Out of the Container*. This exhibit seeks to celebrate and share the ideas that unite us, inspire us, and caution us; to consider ideas that transcend our individual worldviews and establish a common ground that binds us. As a special component to the exhibition, 10 posters reflect the quotes of distinguished Chicagoans such as Ida B. Wells, Buckminster Fuller and László Moholy-Nagy, and are designed by Chicago artists and designers. For more information on the museum and this special exhibit, see <http://greatideasofhumanity.com>. Please sign up so we can let them know how many to expect, and whether you would like to carpool.

A New Opportunity to Bless Others – Business Attire

The Will County Center for Community Concerns helps people who are unemployed find jobs, including training them for interviews and for how to dress for success. We can help! We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes, suits, sport coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! Look for the bin in the narthex.

Shrek – May 5

If you've seen the movie, you'll want to see the show. This one could not be more convenient: across the street at Lincoln-Way Central High School. The date will be May 5 at 7:00. Tickets are only \$10. The first block of tickets are gone, but we'll keep adding tickets as long as they're available. This family-friendly show has some great theology hidden among the humor, scenes, music, and characters. Use the sign-up or call the church office.

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone in need of being wrapped in prayer? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will create a prayer shawl for that person. Please put your requests in the box on the narthex counter. We will contact you when your shawl is ready.

Because of You and Your Gifts

In communities around the world, where families depend on their land for survival, there is a time that is known as "the lean season." This is the time after food stores have run out from the last harvest, but before a new harvest has come in. In countries like Niger and people like Sawdi Zakari, there is little rain and the lean season means hunger for her family. But now, thanks to compassionate people like you, Sawdi has greater hope for her family's future. Through Lutheran World Relief, one of Sawdi's neighbors learned to raise sheep. That neighbor then taught Sawdi to do the same and, with the help of a small loan, Sawdi purchased two lambs to raise. When prices were highest, she was able to sell the sheep, pay back her loan, and make a good profit that helped feed her family through the lean season — with enough left over to save for more sheep! This is just one example of how your gifts help not just one family, but entire villages escape hunger and poverty. With your gifts, you help create widespread, lasting change.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

A gentle touch, a kiss on the head, a smile and a wink, is a simple reminder to your loved one that you care. Hold their hand. Comb their hair. They just want to know you're there. Share the past. Laugh the laugh. If the tears flow, they won't last. Pray together. Seek the Lord. Now that's something we can all afford. This isn't supposed to rhyme today, but somehow it just worked out that way. So, make a visit, make a call, wrap yourself in the moment... that's all. *(For information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex and don't forget to borrow a book from the bin.)*

Small Toys Needed

Jodie Brugler is creating a prize box for the children at the school where she works. If you have any small toys (McDonald's Happy Meal toys, dollar store toys, etc.) laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the box marked small toys in the narthex. Thank you!

C.D.s & Podcast Available

Would you like a C.D. copy of a worship service? Look for the sign-up on the narthex counter. If you want to listen to a sermon you missed or want to hear one again, go to the link on our website www.peacenewlenox.org

Do You Have a Passion for the Environment?

We are looking for people who are interested in a new group in our church (which we're calling Waste-Watchers) that has a passion for "reduce, re-use, recycle." We have been trying to reduce our own carbon-imprint for many years here at church and would like even more ideas. We'd also like to encourage others to consider easy (and not-so-easy) ways to do that every day. Let us know if you're interested!

Addresses for Service Personnel

Mail for four of our members serving overseas in the military can be sent to:

MA 3Connor Wayne Baker	Sgt Pafford, Devin
PSC 455 Box 173	MC Alpha
FPO AP 96540-1070	PO Box 92421
	Yuma AZ 85369

Daniel Treasure	Jacob Treasure
USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115)	3749 Radcliffe Rd.
Unit 100415 Box 1505	Abilene, TX 79602
FPO AP 96694	

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Last year we made a change in the amount of mowing our volunteers had to do. We hired a company to mow the north half (eliminating the part with the slope along Hwy. 30, which is quite steep) and the part along the east side of the parking lot. Most of the time you can pick whether to mow on Friday or Saturday. Most mowers took between 1 to 1.5 hours (basically it's south of the building.) Please use the sign-up or call/email the office to volunteer.

Do You Give Electronically or Want To?

For those of you who give electronically and would like to put something in the offering plate, we have cards located on the counter you may use. If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. Also, if you want to give on-line at any time, you can go to our website (www.peacenewlenox.org), click on the donate tab and then use the donate through Paypal tab. You can use most major credit cards.

The Hope Fund

If your child(ren) would like to participate in a youth event but the cost involved is keeping him/her/them from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. The Hope Fund has been established through the generous donation of a Peace Lutheran Church family. Just talk to Deacon Shari or Pastor Dave – and no one else will know.

Recycling Items

We are still continuing to accept some items for recycling. The following items can be dropped off in the basket in the narthex. DVD players, Game Boys, digital cameras, laptops, tablets, cell phones & most printer cartridges. Chargers, phone cases and cables are not recyclable. Please note that Epson cartridges are no longer accepted, these items can be disposed of at another location (village hall or schools).