

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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Where Did You Go?

If you hear about someone who has gone on a vacation, one of the natural questions would be "Where did you go?" If the response strikes a chord, we might well follow up with more questions and learn something about that place (if we hadn't been there ourselves.) If we have been there ourselves, we might see if the person's experience was similar to ours. (When I hear if someone has been to Door County, Wisconsin, for example, I want to know if he or she has consumed some Wilson's Ice Cream.)

Sometimes the question of where someone went, however, is not a positive one. Maybe we couldn't find the person or maybe he or she has purposely gone missing to avoid a situation. Maybe the person has engaged in negative behaviors contrary to what has been his/her history, and we wonder, "Where did the real you go?"

There are people who wonder where God has gone....in their lives in general, in a particular situation of crisis or hurt or death, in a struggle for what to do, in a time of uncertainty or disaster, or in any number of other circumstances. (That there are others who also have been there and can relate to the question need not surprise us.)

The Bible itself has multiple stories of people who have raised the question. The Psalms are filled with people who wonder out loud for all to hear about their concern God has taken a hike and gone missing. In this season of Lent and Holy Week, including Good Friday, we see even Jesus wrestling with this question. From the cross he quotes Psalm 22: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

The question is certainly honest and importantly heartfelt...and is not the last word. In fact, Jesus knew the rest of Psalm 22, the truth of which Jesus had seen throughout his ministry. The lepers, the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the ill and unwanted ones had been cast aside so many times they had to believe even God had gone missing. But Jesus wouldn't let that feeling be the last word for any of them. By his own presence, he answered the question with an emphatic "Right here!" That presence was with Jesus himself as he later said from the cross, "Into your hands I commend my spirit," right through his dying, right into the wonderful resurrection. That presence is consistently here today, even when we can't see or feel it. Look for it, and learn from others who have been there, too. It is an amazing discovery to know we are never without God no matter where we go.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Theresa Skowronski, Penny, Tom Moore, Cass Ott, Joe & Pat Bertucci, Robin Stanford, Barb, Mr. Kula, Jay Robinson, Ken Vrshek, Colleen, Claudia Cole, Hannah Huehlhorst, Coach Les & family, Bill Sandt, Janis Sobun, Grace, Malar, Tom Sprandel, Lee, Terri Dunn, Judy, Jim, Barb Decker, Andrew DeMik, Diane Rosen, Stacey, Lon, Anita, Scott, the family of Paul Nesbig, Lisa Balstrode, the family of Margaret Robertson, Reyna, Judy Braan, Eric Craigmile, Alan Booton, Ned, Liam, Sandy Ringstrom, Amy and family, Darryl, Bill Burnett, Ed Hovi, Elinore Trotter, Margo, Rya, the family of Sonny, Jill Zaki, Marc, the family of Jan Moisan

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Elizabeth Grafleman, mother of Vicky Burns;

the family of Lorraine Fritsch, mother of Margo Stromberg;

the family of Loretta Becker, mother of Barb Hnetkovsky;

the family of Mathias Ruisz, Jr., father of Matt Ruisz;

the family of Roberta Johnson, mother of Corrine Hutton;

the family of Beverly Vogen.

Congratulations

Daniel & Kaitlynn Treasure, parents, Jen & Terry Treasure, grandparents, and Chuck Olson, great grandfather on the birth of Addison Ryann on Mar.19.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Charlee June Burger was baptized on Mar. 24.

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:

Jonah DeMik – acolyte
Dave Preston – lay liturgist
Grace Farrell – nursery

From:

Mary Brouette
Northern Illinois Synod – for Mission Support
ELCA World Hunger – for the donation
The Bridge Thrift Store – for youth group from Antioch serving as volunteers
Kim Kulovitz – for the prayer shawl
Lincoln Way Central High School – for use of church parking lot for their college fair
Sole Hope – for the donation for the shoe & care kit party

Special Antioch Thanks!

Profound Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Antioch such a great success! It was our largest yet with 40 youth! CROSS, 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, driving, praying for our weekend or keeping us all safe. We especially thank, Claudia Green, Marylynn Tyler, Karen Krzak, Linda Wilson, Renee Gatewood, Janet Park, Ricky Wesel, Angie Klock, Gretchen Pfeffer, Eric Wesel, Pete Knutson, Jenni Vondra, Angela Scheerer, Dawn Murphy, Cheryl and Wayne Brown. Also, our host families, the Vondra family, the Ledvina family, Angie & Todd Klock, the Wesel family, the Muehlnickel family, the Krzak family, the Pfeffer family, the Brown family, Jan Stoller and the congregation council. 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 walking in the way of the cross with us.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Deacon Shari

Our Missionary

Louisa Ishida is from Villa Park, graduated from Valparaiso University, and is serving in Swaziland in Southern Africa. Her blog address is <https://eswatiniexperience.wordpress.com/>
Her physical address is:
PostNet Suite 30
Private Bag X6
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South Africa

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn Sgt. Pafford, Devin
PO Box # 12989 PO Box 1351
Annapolis, Maryland 21412 Eglin AFB, Florida 32542

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. 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.

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.peacenewelenox.org), click on the donate tab and then use the donate through PayPal tab. You can use most major credit cards.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Apr. 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. 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.

***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.

Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

We have an ongoing partnership with Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in Joliet. They have a food pantry & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. We have a list now of specific items they can use in their pantry. You can bring these anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall.

cereal (all kinds)	canned fruit
coffee (ground) all kinds	creamers (powdered)
ice cream cones (summer only)	juices
hand soap (bar & liquid)	toothpaste
dish soap	disposable diapers

Donations for MorningStar Treasure Chest

We are still accepting donations of clothing and household goods for MorningStar Treasure Chest. Place your donations in the basket marked MorningStar located in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall.

Business Attire Collection

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. Many of the people do not have adequate clothing. We can help! We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! We'll use the same bin to collect these items.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Apr. 8 & 22

Quilting meets 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 815-462-9527 or Syndy 708-479-7338.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Apr. 16

Dartball meets on the second Tues. 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???)

Peace Buddies – No Meeting in April

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. We usually meet on the third Sunday of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** We will not meet in April so everyone can celebrate Easter with family. Questions, see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546.

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. Please join us for our upcoming events:
Fri., Apr. 5 at 7:00 p.m. – Easter Egg decoration Big Girl Style! We will be using silk ties, napkins/tissue paper, yarn, nail polish, and natural items to dye and decorate eggs. Please see the photos & supply list of examples in the Fellowship Hall. So we are able to plan the needed materials, please place a hash mark on the page(s) you would like to do. Don't forget to bring an egg carton with you to take your eggs home.
Sun., Apr. 28 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. – Garfield Park Conservatory with Concert. Deadline for signup is Mar. 31. Please use the sign-up slip. Questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Apr. 3 & 17

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 815-462-3089. If you know someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl, look for the request box on the narthex counter.

Out to Eat Group – Sat. Apr. 6

We are putting this outing together in a hurry because of other things going on through church. So, come to McAlister's Deli (11215 Lincoln Hwy., Mokena) on Saturday, April 6, meeting there at 6:30. We'll group ourselves together at tables and be able to order individually. They have a wide variety on their menu, so all tastes should be accommodated! Please use the sign-up or call the office to let us know that you'll be coming. All are welcome!!!

Ping Pong Club – Sun., Apr. 14

The ping pong club meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon. (This month we will meet on the second Sunday because of Easter). The format includes some singles and some doubles playing among whoever shows up. If you want to receive email reminders of upcoming ping pong club dates, let the church office know your name and email address.

Trailblazers – Tues., Apr. 16

Our next meeting will be our usual luncheon on Tues. Apr. 16 at noon here at church. The food will include hot beef to make sandwiches and what you bring for the sides, desserts, etc. Questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Adult Fellowship - The Best of... – Sat., May 11

Come join the Adult Fellowship Group on Sat., May 11 at 6:15 p.m. for The Best of... We want to have some fun while getting to know more about each other. Bring "something" to show and tell and/or a story that no one in the group knows about you. We will try to guess who belongs to what! Also bring a dish/appetizer/dessert that reminds you of childhood. Use the sign-up in the bulletin if you plan to attend. If you need childcare, let us know that too by Apr. 21 (\$3 per child).

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Apr. 28

The next meeting will be Apr. 28 at 9:45 a.m. We will be discussing *The Good Neighbor: Life & Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King. All are welcome. Join us even if you haven't read the book. Questions, contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

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 7 - *How Can We Carry "Lent" Forward?* (A suggestion for our Lenten discussions)

April 14 - Darrell Holmquist will present on "***The History of Lincoln Highway***," concentrating on its span through our area.

April 21 - No class (**Easter Breakfast!**)

April 28 - *Islam* (part 3) - Karen Danielson returns to answer all kinds of questions we raised after session 2

May 5 - *No Thanks, God* (You wouldn't be the first to think God must be asking someone else)

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 : Isaiah 56:1-8.

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Apr. 14

Our next monthly screening date is Apr. 14, between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to help, please contact Marylynn Tyler at (815) 423-6407.

Blood Drive – Sat., Apr. 6

Thank you to everyone who donated in February. We registered 21 and collected 21...no deferrals, no incompletes! Our next Heartland blood drive will be Apr. 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the mobile coach.

Hymn Picking – Wed., May 8

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place on Wednesday, May 8 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.

Looking Ahead...

Apr. 3 – V.B.S. *Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.*

Apr. 5 – *Women's Group Egg Decorating 7:00 p.m.*

Apr. 6 – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

7th & 8th Gr. Zoo Event – Cancelled

Out to Eat Group – McAlister's Deli 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 7 – *Easter Lily order deadline*

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 a.m.

5th & 6th Gr. Pizza & Painting 12 noon

Apr. 13 – *Special Prayers for Healing 5:00 p.m.*

Apr. 14 – *Palm Sunday*

New Member Orientations 9:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 18 – *Meal in the Upper Room 6:30 p.m.*

Maundy Thursday Worship 8:00 p.m.

Apr. 19 – *Good Friday Crosswalks –*

Cross Walk in New Lenox (starts at St. Jude's) @ 10:00 a.m.

Cross Walk in Frankfort (starts at St. Peter's) @ 12:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Vigil after worship until 9:00 p.m.

Apr. 20 – *Easter Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.*

Apr. 21 – *Easter Sunday worship 8:30 & 11:00*

Easter Breakfast 9:45 a.m. (no Education Hour)

Apr. 28 – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

Reception of New Members 11:00 a.m.

New Member Luncheon 12 noon

Kids & Adults Luncheon 12 noon

May 1 – *8th Gr. mandatory Confirmation meeting 7 p.m.*

May 4 – *Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.*

May 5 – *What's the Scoop 12 noon*

May 8 – *Hymn Picking 6:00 p.m.*

May 11 – *Adult Fellowship – The Best of... 6:15 p.m.*

May 19 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 a.m. (1st option)*

May 26 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 a.m. (2nd option)*

Cub's Game 1:20 p.m.

July 30 - Aug. 2 – *Vacation Bible School*

Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., Apr. 13

As a part of the 5:00 Saturday night service on Apr. 13, 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.

Genealogy Group – Sat., Apr. 27

The next gathering for anyone interested in learning more about how to do genealogical searches will be Sat., Apr. 27 at 10:00. We'll have a projector so all can see the real nuts and bolts! Please join us.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

The season of Lent is upon us and this is the month that we will await Easter. I love the season of Lent because it gives time for us as individuals and as a church to reflect, but I also dislike Lent for the same reason. Sometimes it is hard to reflect on your past actions, thoughts, words. This Lenten discipline can become too much if we think of it as a dirty laundry list of all our mistakes and sins. However, this is not the focus of Lent. Last month we had our annual youth retreat, Antioch. This year the theme was C.R.O.S.S. which stands for Christ Redeems Our Sin and Suffering. This is the focus of Lent! As I was teaching our youth about this important theme, we talked about what the word redeem means. What does it mean to redeem something? If you redeem something you give it back its value. Lent is the time we realize that Christ has redeemed God's people! We as a people, left to our own devices would not live up to our true value as God's children. Through Christ love, his word, and his teaching we are redeemed, our value is restored. This gift of the cross is not just a one time sacrifice and gift that can be lost again but is rather a living sacrifice that is given repeatedly. Our value is reclaimed and proclaimed to us each moment of our lives. I constantly remind our youth that there is nothing any of us can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. Our sin has been redeemed and our value restored. Our suffering has been redeemed and our hearts restored. May we reflect not on our list of failings but instead on the vastness that is the love of God.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

Baptism Orientation – Sun., May 4

May 4, 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.

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.

Lenten Opportunity: Soup, Salad, Discussions & More

A small group opportunity for "taking something on this Lent" is taking shape. You are invited to come at noon on Sundays. Our theme will be "Following in the Footsteps of Jesus." All are welcome to join. You do not need to attend all the sessions. The remaining sessions will be Meditation (Mar. 31), Prayer (Apr. 7) and Resurrection (Apr. 14). Please use the sign-up or call the office.

Lenten Opportunities

Some people in their observance of Lent give something up. It is an option that can work if approached in the right way. We suggest, as an alternative, that you take something on for Lent! How about if you take on Bible reading or meditation or some personal discipline or attending the Sunday morning adult class 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?

Earth Day – Apr. 27/28

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.

For more tips, check out the Sunday School News each week, it is also online at www.peacenewlenox.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Weekend – Apr. 27/28

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

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – May 4/5

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. May 4/5 will be this year's official time to express our appreciation. Students, feel free to invite a teacher to worship!

Holy Week and Easter Worship

April 18

- 6:30 p.m. - Meal in the Upper Room
- 8:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Worship

April 19

- 10:00 a.m. - Cross Walk in New Lenox
(starts at St. Jude's)
- 12:30 p.m. - Cross Walk in Frankfort
(starts at St. Peter's)
- 7:30 p.m. - Good Friday Worship at Peace Church
followed by Vigil until 9:00 p.m.

April 20

- 5:00 p.m. - Easter Eve Worship
(transition from dark to light)

April 21

- 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Communion Festival Worship
- 9:45 a.m. - Easter Breakfast

Meal in the Upper Room – Thurs., Apr. 18

You are invited to the Maundy Thursday celebration of the "Meal in the Upper Room" on Apr. 18, at 6:30 p.m. This holiday is a celebration of the Jewish people's emancipation from slavery during the pharaoh's rule in Egypt. Led by Moses, we are reminded of the hardship that the Jews endured before achieving freedom. We are inspired by God's word and special music. Questions, please contact Jan Bentley (815-485-3273) or Deb Howell (815-838-8478). Because of the special nature of this event, many volunteers are needed. Please call the church office if you are willing to help or if you would like to attend. The deadline to sign up is Apr. 14. Childcare is available. There is a maximum of 150 people for this meal, so be sure to sign up.

Good Friday Vigil – Fri., Apr. 19

After the 7:30 p.m. worship service on Good Friday, we are once again offering an opportunity to quietly reflect and pray in the darkened sanctuary. The church will be open until 9:00 p.m. to anyone who would like to participate.

Easter Breakfast – Sun., Apr. 21

This year's Easter breakfast on April 21 will begin about 9:45 after the 8:30 a.m. service and will conclude about 10:30 a.m. It will feature eggs and three kinds of meat, pancakes, French toast, fruit, juice, coffee, etc. The cost is a free will offering. Please call the church office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

New Members – Apr. 14 & 28

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 14, during the 9:45 a.m. education hour at church; (2) at 6:30 p.m. that evening at the church; (3) on April 28, 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 14, at 9:45 a.m., plus the 11:00 worship and luncheon on April 28. 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. 28

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 28. 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.)

VBS July 30 – Aug. 2

Next planning meeting – Wed., Apr. 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 *God's Love is Out of this World*. The dates will be July 30 - Aug. 2. The next planning meeting will be Apr. 3 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 are available on the counter in the narthex or sign up online.

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Apr. 7

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people (events) that are important to them by donating an Easter lily to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the narthex and the deadline to order is April 7. The cost of the plants is \$12.

Strong Seniors Exercise Group

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week; Mondays 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Questions, call Anita Drake (815) 299-4417.

Singers Wanted for Adult Choir

Do you like to sing? Looking for a fun activity? Want to kick the winter blahs to the curb and welcome Spring? Come and check out the Adult Choir! Springtime is the perfect time to check us out and be part of the beautiful Lent and Easter Season. Rehearsals are only once a week and our members will welcome you warmly. Men and women with interest or questions can contact the office or Pamela Putrich. Come Make A Joyful Noise!!

Cubs Game – Sun., May 26

We were able to secure 20 tickets for the game against the Cincinnati Reds, on Sun., May 26, with the game at 1:20 p.m. Our seats are in section 225 on the first base side. The group rate price is \$69. We have **4** tickets left. We will either have a van or a bus going to the game. The cost for that will be \$5 per person, maximum \$15 per household. Your friends are welcome, too. (The tickets could be a great Mother's Day or early Father's Day present.) Use the sign-up or call the office.

Informal Golf Group

Mike Bohl is willing to help us form a new informal "let's have fun" golf group. Each week the group would play 9 holes, most likely starting at 10:00 a.m. You would have lunch and finish around 1:30 p.m. The format would be best ball. Each week Mike would send out an email to the interested golfers to find out who is playing, and then he'd schedule a tee time. Depending on the wishes of the group, the likely days are Tues., Wed., or Thurs. (In case of less than 50° or more than 90° or other weather problems, there'd be no golf.) You may call Mike with questions at 815-277-2636, or to sign up. You may also use the sign-up in the bulletin or call the office.

Tickets

August Rush - Sat., May 18, 3:00 p.m.

Paramount Theatre - We have **5** tickets left at \$37 each.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum -

Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m.

This classic comedy will be performed by The Drama Group of Chicago Heights in their theater. Tickets will be \$23 for "regular" adults, \$21 for seniors, and \$17 for students. There isn't a bad seat in the house, and the group has consistently put on good shows. Let us know if you'd like to go!

More Tickets!

Legally Blonde, the "hilarious and touching" musical to be presented by Lincoln Way Central. 30 seats are reserved for us at a cost of \$10 each. The date is Sat., May 4, at 7:00 p.m. These tickets go fast!

The Good Old Times and the Good (?) New News

During the heyday of radio, many shows used studio audiences during presentation or recording. That is still alive and well in Chicago with National Public Radio's *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* - We will be getting tickets for the Thurs., June 20, 7:30 p.m. performance of this comedic look at current news and culture at the Chase Bank Auditorium at 10 S. Dearborn in Chicago. Ticket price is \$30 and we are thinking about a bus to get us there. We will need your commitment to the show (and bus) no later than May 5. Never heard of this radio show? Check their website for more info or a sampling of a performance.

Can't Beat the Classics! *Hamlet*, presented by Chicago's Shakespeare Theater, will be available to us on Sun., June 9, at 2:00 p.m. at the Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier. Tickets will be \$70 on the main floor, and we will have 10 available, but should be able to get a few more. These productions are first-rate and make Shakespeare come alive (and understandable.) As Hamlet himself might have said "To go or not to go....that is the question." No doubt about it. GO!

Use the sign-up sheet or call the church office if you would like tickets to any of these shows.

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.)

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? Peace 360! meets 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!

Sun., Apr. 7 – Project Linus (please bring 2 pieces of fleece 1.5 yards each)

Sun., Apr. 14 – Dinner and discussions

Sun., Apr. 21 – No meeting. Happy Easter

Sun., Apr. 28 – Dinner and discussions

Teen Bible Study– Wednesdays

High school age youth are invited to a new Teen Bible study with Deacon Shari. We will meet at church on Wed., Apr. 10 & Apr. 24 (Bible buddies) from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will cover in-depth, yet compact and easy to understand Bible lessons while covering topics relevant to teens.

Confirmation Schedule– Wednesdays

7th Grade- Apr. 3 Pizza 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Grade- Apr. 10 Pizza 6:30p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Grade April 24

Pizza 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mandatory Confirmation rehearsal is on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 a parent/adult needs to be present.

Confirmation Sunday dates

Confirmation Sundays will be held at the 11 o'clock services on **May 19** and **May 26**. Please let the office know which date your 8th grader would like to be confirmed. You can also use the sign up in the bulletin.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt – Sun., Apr. 7

During the Sunday School hour on April 7, the kids will be hunting for Easter eggs!

7th & 8th grade Zoo Trip – Cancelled

This event has been cancelled.

College Information Packets

There are college information packets for HS students located in the narthex on the counter.

5th & 6th graders Pizza, Painting, & Partaay – Sun., Apr. 7

Come and join us on Sun. April 7 at 12 p.m.-2 p.m. We will eat some pizza, paint a picture and have some party fun! Please use the online sign up, sign up in the bulletin or on the sheet in the narthex.

Bible Buddies – Wed., April 24

5th & 6th graders and 9-12th graders are invited to come and have dinner together on Wednesday night at 6:30. At 7 p.m. they will split into a small group led by the high schoolers and monitored by Deacon Shari. Please use the sign up in the bulletin if your 5/6th grader is interested in joining us.

7th and 8th grade Kids & Adults End of the Year Luncheon – Sun., Apr. 28

The last Kids & Adults get together of the year will be on Sun., April 28 at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of our Kids & Adults get togethers is for the youth to meet and get know other adults in the congregation. This year we will join the New Members Luncheon for some food and fellowship!

Confirmation Parents: The family is invited! Please RSVP to let us know how many will be attending the luncheon by calling or emailing the church office, use the online sign up on our church website, or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin. Come & enjoy!

Because of You and Your Gifts

On a half-acre on the island of Nias, Indonesia, Yaatulo and his wife, Mariata, grow bananas to support themselves and their two children. While they work hard, the income from the bananas wasn't enough to support the family. One day while working, Yaatulo heard about a development program of the Center for Disaster Risk Management & Community Development Studies, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. He decided to join, and soon he had the support to borrow enough money for chili seed. Over two months, Yaatulo and Mariata planted more than 1,000 chili bushes. Chilis can be harvested multiple times per year, giving farmers more opportunities to sell them at market and have extra income. Thanks to your gifts, farmers like Yaatulo have improved access to tools, training, livestock, seeds and more that will help their families increase farm production and have more to eat and sell at market.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is ***Positive View of Personal Future- Grit and the Power of Passion***: A young person believes the future is full of positive possibilities and deep down wants to make those come true no matter what. Here are some suggestions for how to help this asset happen at home, at school, in the community, and in church or public organization.

At home:

Don't dismiss your children's dreams as naive or unrealistic. Ask questions about their dreams and what it will take to make those dreams happen.

In the community:

Encourage kids to name their fears- things that might stop them from reaching their goals. Affirm and publicize the good things about your community.

In the church or public organization:

Encourage kids to talk about their hopes and dreams. Pass on to young people the hope that is integral to your group's tradition.

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

The asset for the month of April is:
Positive View of Personal Future-
Grit & the Power of Passion

April quote of the month:

"Grit is sticking with your future day in and day out; not just for the week or month, but years." -*Angela Lee Duckworth*

Questions Kids Ask Update

The effort to produce a Spanish version of the book and the coloring book continues to move forward. The committee invites you to let them know of your interest. Meanwhile, the questions keep coming, including this one: *What good is Lent if you don't have anything to give up?* More important than giving something up is using the season of Lent to reflect on our lives, and how God might be leading us to take on something more from our relationship with God!

Called by Grace Stewardship Appeal

Starting in early April, the 2019 *Called by Grace* appeal will begin in earnest. This year we will be trying something new with various online methods of communicating with as many as possible. If you prefer hard copies, those will be available at church and through the mail. (Just let us know.)

Now to the important part: **Our theme is a reflection of the love God has for us, our many blessings, and an opportunity for each of us to respond in gratitude.** In addition to supporting all the ministries here at Peace, locally in our community, nationally and internationally – thank you for wonderful generosity – our main new goal is to **support Mike Markwell, a seminary intern in his year with us. With the help of so many individuals and the great example of this congregation, we expect to provide a positive experience for Mike, and a meaningful time for us at Peace as he serves us!** It takes money to do that (about \$25,000 above and beyond our current giving levels.) But we believe God has provided this opportunity and we have been *Called by Grace!*

What's the Scoop? (Bring Your Ideas to the Group!) – May 5

These idea exchanging events have been great! We're ready for you to join us on May 5 at noon for the next round. We'll eat and share ideas for ministry and try to be finished in 1.5 hours or less. For the food, we'll be having pizza, 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!). Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office to let us know if you're coming and if you need childcare

Caregiver Tip of the Month

Just as a much needed vacation takes you away from your normal routine of work, daily obligations, and all the stressors in your life, greater is that need for caregivers. A cruise, the sunshine, relaxing by the water, fishing, hiking, or experiencing a totally new adventure is what we wait for all year. Lunch with a friend, a movie at a theatre, shopping alone or just a quiet walk in the park can make a big difference for the mind and spirit of a caregiver. If you are a caregiver, reach out to friends and family to help you make your small vacation the best vacation you've had in a long time. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex)

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).

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 laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the box marked small toys in the narthex.

Recyclable & Craft Donations for Frankfort Kids Work Museum

In order to have a cost-effective craft area for the children who visit the KidsWork Museum in Frankfort, they rely on donations of clean, recyclable materials.

Please make sure your items are clean before dropping them off. They are in need of egg cartons, toilet paper & paper towel tubes, and yogurt containers. Crafty items like full sheets of felt, buttons, sequins, pipe cleaners and googly eyes would all be appreciated.

Follow Us on Social Media

Snapchat: plutheranchurch

Instagram: peacelutheranchurch1062

Twitter: peacechurch1062

Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church

Deacon Shari will be updating Facebook each month and the youth will be keeping up with the other three.

Summer Camps

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center's 2019 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).