

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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Look for the Plus Sign

In math, if you add a negative number and another negative number, you just go further in the hole. In human relationships, if two people are in conflict and both are looking for trouble/fault, they are sure to find it and drive the wedge in the relationship even deeper. When alcohol and drug abusers hang around with others of like addictions, the chances of more problems are high. But if you add a positive number to a negative one, you get closer to even, and maybe even a positive outcome. In relationships, if one or both people start to look for solutions, there is a chance for reconciliation. When alcohol or drug abusers hang around with people who are in recovery, many have found a way out of their addictions.

As people of faith we recognize that God is a huge plus sign in life. Forgiveness, a purpose for living, ongoing presence, comfort, the promise of life now and forever, a declaration of our status as "loved" are just some of the reasons we can turn to God. Looking for the plus sign in life is easier when life is going well. The good news of who God is and what God is about also includes that when we're in negative territory, God's love is powerful and plentiful and can make a difference.

There is a boatload of negative news all around us in the national and international scenes, and even in our personal lives. How can we get into the habit of looking for that plus sign? One technique is to look for "the one good thing." That is, no matter how deep the hole, we can train ourselves to ask, "Where is the one good thing?" We can remind ourselves of Jesus words, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We can hear Paul reminding us that nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love. Above all else, it is worth the effort to look to and for the sign of the cross, the ultimate plus sign.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Mark Berens, Christina Montgomery, Michael & kids, Theresa Skowronski, Ryan Jones, George Huffman, Dave Rubner, the family of Karen Johnston, Michael, Tom Moore, Ron Sprandel, Barb Hnetkovsky, Halley Price, Cass Ott, Carol Holschen, Arron, Bev Vogen, Doris Dombrowski, Pete & Nicole Stoller, Marilyn Krauch, Hannah Huelhorst, the family of Kathy Banasiak, Coach Les & family, Diane Lillie, the family of Bob Creech, Bill Sandt, William Paul & family, Kennedy Charlotte Legris, Janis Sobun, Trae Van Zuiden, Judy Sabatino, Bryan & Jessica Howell, Nancy Sons, Joel Peterson, Judy Brann

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

The family of Rich Rosen, husband of Diane Rosen.

Congratulations

Jeremy & Sarah Knudsen (Morgan, Grayson, Logan), parents, and Denise Jones, grandmother, on the birth of Rowan Victoria Knudsen on Jan. 14;

Blayze & Sarah Spooner (Xander, Maddox), parents, and Matt & Becky Prince, grandparents, on the birth of Adelynn Rae Spooner on Jan. 17.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Landon Joseph Malone was baptized Jan. 13;

Luca James Van Dyke was baptized Jan. 20.

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:

Jake Vanderkin – bulletin assembly
Ava Murphy, Georgia Brolley – acolytes
Paulette Overend – giving statement assembly
Marylynn Tyler – organizing the Santa Cruz luncheon, plus helpers Claudia Green, Jiyoan, Gee, Kelton, Ed & Diane Cochran, Chuck & Diane Vick, Janet Park, Heather & Tyler Wolf, Deacon Shari & H.S. kids and everyone who provided food

Darrell & Suzanne Holmquist – Adult Class presentation

From:

ELCA World Hunger, Trinity – for the donations
Augustana Open Arms – for the Christmas gifts
Santa Cruz – for helping with their luncheon
Troops 75185 & 819 – for use of the church
April Blair – for use of fellowship hall
Louise Seanann, grandmother of Emily Pfeffer – for the article on youth voices in the synod news and for the leadership for youth that Peace provides

I would like to thank everyone at Peace Church for your prayers, support, cards and gifts after my recent hip surgery. I also want to send out special thanks to my pit crew who got me through my day to day needs - Karen, Jan, Marylynn - you are the best!! Thank you - Claudia

Our Missionary

Louisa Ishida is from Villa Park, graduated from Valparaiso University, and will be serving in Swaziland in Southern Africa. Her blog address is <https://eswatiniexperience.wordpress.com/> so you can keep up to date on what is going on. Look on our bulletin board on the way into Fellowship Hall for more information. Her physical address is:
PostNet Suite 30
Private Bag X6
Cascades
3203
South Africa

Addresses for Service Personnel

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

Asset Building Toy Drive

As a part of the Asset Building effort that our congregation supports, we will be taking part in a toy drive to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation. Their mission is to provide toddlers to 18-year olds who are going through cancer treatments with a small gift such as new toys, books, crafts, dollar store items, unopened kids' meal toys, accessories and gift certificates. All items must be new. Please – NO stuffed animals. You may deliver your items to the church office or send them with your child to Sunday School by March 3. Any questions please contact Pastor Dave. Thanks for all your support of young people!

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Feb. 24**. 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 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.

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.

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. This year's edition has arrived and are \$25 each. (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) We hope this helps you get some good bargains!

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Feb. 11 & 25

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.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Feb. 6 & 20

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.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Feb. 12

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 Page Turners – Sun., Feb. 24

The next meeting will be Feb. 24 at 9:45 a.m. We will be discussing *The Tuscan Child* by Rhys Bowen. All are welcome. Join us even if you haven't read the book. Questions, contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

Trailblazers – Tues., Feb. 19

Our next meeting will be our usual luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at noon here at church. The food will include gluten-free chicken tenders what you bring for the sides, desserts, etc. We also will have a guest presenter leading us in "chair exercises." If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Peace Buddies – Sun., Feb. 17

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older that meets on the third Sunday of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** You do not have to be a part of our church to join us.

Genealogy Group – Sat., Feb. 9

Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 10:00 a.m. if you are interested in working on genealogies. Some of you are veterans of this work and can share with those who would like to start.

Out to Eat Group – Sat. Feb. 16

The Out-to-Eat group invites you to join in an evening of food and conversation at Rising Sun in Mokena (19215 S. LaGrange Rd) at 6:30 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 16. Please call the church office so we can let them know how many spots to reserve.

Ping Pong Club – Sun., Feb. 17

The ping pong club meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month. Starting in February, we will meet at a new time - about 12:00 noon following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The format includes some singles and some doubles playing among whoever shows up. Please join us for some fun and camaraderie on Feb. 17. If you want to receive email reminders of upcoming ping pong club dates, let the church office know your name and email address.

Faith Discussion Group – Thurs., Feb. 28

Our small group meets on the last Thursday of the month to discuss various topics, 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 meetings!

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. Please join us for our upcoming events.
Thurs., Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. - organ performance followed by Reels at the Rialto - *Sleepless in Seattle*. Cost is \$5.00.
Sat., Mar. 16 at 7:00 p.m.- Chicago Wolves Hockey.
Sun., Apr. 28 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. - Garfield Park Conservatory with Concert.
Please use the sign-up slip. Questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

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.

Feb. 3 - *Faith Is Like a Muscle*

Feb. 10 - *Islam (part 2)* - last fall we had a guest speaker and we ran out of time. Karen Danielson will be back to present and respond to questions

Feb. 17 - Annual Meeting

Feb. 24 - *God's Work or Mine or Both?*

Mar. 3 - *What Are the 12 Steps & the Serenity Prayer?* (and how can they apply to any of us?)

Mar. 10 - *Can You Teach Me How to Die the "Right" Way?* (The first of suggested Lenten topics)

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. February's passage is Isaiah 32:1-8.

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

Our next monthly screening date is Feb. 10, 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.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting – Wed., Feb. 20

It's that time of year to start planning for Vacation Bible School. Our first meeting will be on Wed., Feb. 20, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in making plans for what promises to be another great session of VBS!

2018 Giving Statements are Available

Please pick up your 2018 giving statements in the entrance area. It also serves as the IRS document for those who itemize their taxes.

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 9 – *Genealogy Group meeting – 10:00 a.m.*

The Producers theater event 3:00 p.m.

Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 – *Out to Eat Group – Rising Sun Mokena 6:30*

Feb. 17 – *Annual Meeting 9:45 a.m.*

Ping Pong Club – 12:00 noon

5/6th Grade – Out to Eat event noon

Antioch permission slips due!

Feb. 20 – *V.B.S. Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.*

Feb. 23 – *Active Shooter Class 10:00 a.m.*

Adult Fellowship Bunco 6:10 p.m.

Feb. 24 – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

Peace Variety Show & Dinner 3:00 p.m.

Mar. 1-3 – *Antioch Retreat*

Mar. 2/3 – *Girl Scout Weekend*

Mar. 6 – *Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.*

Mar. 17– *All Church Bowling Event 12:45 p.m.*

Mar. 21 – *Indoor Go-Karting*

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

Apr. 14 – *Palm Sunday*

Apr. 21 – *Easter Sunday*

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

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

Christmas Generosity Thanks

Once again, the people of Peace have opened their hearts to let God's love flow through them and out into the world. We gave gifts to 25 young people at Augustana Center with Open Arms and to approximately 100 people connected to Santa Cruz and their ministries to their neighborhood. Through the ELCA's Good Gifts program (\$1881!!!), we have provided a week of meals for 2 refugee families, 17 goats, 9 groups of honeybees, 6 groups of chicks, 1 rooster, 8 pigs, 3 Bibles, 4 solar powered lanterns, 2 sets of school supplies, school fees/uniforms for 4 girls, and 1 latrine! Our Global Barnyard coin boxes also yielded another \$182, which we have designated for a fruit tree nursery, 2 groups of chicks, and a Bible. How wonderful it is to give!!! promises to be another great session of VBS!

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 9

Feb. 9, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

It's Antioch time! Some of you might be asking, "what is Antioch?" Antioch is our annual youth event for 7th - 12th graders, on March 1st through the 3rd. During this weekend we will gather at the church to learn about God and to have fun together! On the first night of Antioch we stay at host homes and get to know people in our church family. This is an awesome opportunity for everyone to be involved in Antioch. Perhaps you would like the privilege of getting to know some of our youth and you can house at least 2 teenagers for 1 night? You do not provide dinner, but snacks are the way to any teens heart. The second day of Antioch is very busy. In the morning we do several service projects. After lunch we spend time preparing for the evening worship service which the youth lead. Please come on Saturday, March 2 and worship with us! The energy is high, and the spirit of God is alive and well! That evening, a group of amazing ladies from the church will prepare a special dinner for us and we celebrate how awesome the weekend has been. Then it is more learning, more games, and hopefully a little bit of sleep as the second night is spent at a lock-in at church. The last morning, we wake up slowly, and the fun continues until lunch time. During lunch we will gather with our families to share all that we have learned and all the fun shenanigans we have had. If you are saying to yourself, "wow, this seems like fun, how do I get involved?" here are the awesome ways that you can be a part of this event. You can:

- 1) Serve as a host home
- 2) Help prepare Saturday night dinner
- 3) Donate food for the weekend
- 4) Attend Saturday night worship
- 5) Help drive youth to various service projects
- 6) Pray for the youth, Deacon Shari, and the other adult leaders that will be involved
- 7) Ask a youth about their experience!

Our youth look forward to this event all year long. The theme of Antioch this year is C.R.O.S.S. The meaning of the acronym remains a surprise until the first night and the youth try to guess. Please prayerfully consider being involved in this amazing ministry. We are blessed with amazing young people who have a lot to give the world. You will not be sorry you get to know them.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari

Welcome New Members

We are honored to welcome the following people who have affirmed their faith by signing the charter of Peace Lutheran Church!

Ellen Burnett
Esther Coulter
Wayne Hansen
Dave & Carol Hennessey
Mike & Julie Kinsel
Patty Matoush
LaVerne Piecuch
David Preston & Kayley
Pam Swyndro

Ash Wednesday Worship – Mar. 6

The worldwide observance of Lent begins this year on Mar. 6 with Ash Wednesday. This solemn occasion reminds us of our mortality, as well as our need for forgiveness. We will have worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The option for the imposition of ashes will be available at both services.

Lenten Devotionals

This year we will have Lenten calendars and bookmarks with suggested daily Bible readings as well as devotionals for young adults and children. Look for them on the table in the narthex in the middle of Feb.

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?

Antioch Host Families Wanted

Our youth's annual Antioch retreat (grades 7-12) is blessed by having host families for one-over-night stay. Host families provide overnight lodging on Friday, March 1, as well as transportation for their youth to and from the church. Host families will host at least two youth (of the same gender). If you are willing to be a host family, or if you have questions, please call the church office or see Deacon Shari.

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!

Sun., Feb. 3 - Dinner and discussions at church.
Breakfast for dinner.

Sun., Feb. 10 - Snow games if the weather holds. It's a "Chopped" competition for dinner.

Sun., Feb. 17 - Off campus for dinner at Mamma Onesta's Italian Restaurant.

Sun., Feb. 24 - Variety Show and dinner with church.

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., Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27 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- Feb. 20 & Mar. 20 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Grade- Feb. 13 & Mar. 20 Pizza 6:30p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Kid & Adults Feb. 6 Hot dogs 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Grade April 24 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

***Lincoln Way walk through for incoming freshmen is on Feb. 13, subsequently this is also a confirmation night for 8th graders. Your 8th grader may make up this missed Confirmation meeting on Feb. 20, 2019

Bible Buddies

5th & 6th Grade April 24

Peace Church Scholarship

Peace Church will make available the annual scholarship for high school seniors who are planning to attend 4- or 2-year college programs or technical/trade schools. Up to 5 scholarships will be awarded. Recipients will be chosen based on several factors, which are detailed in the application form. These forms are available on the counter in the narthex and must be submitted no later than Feb. 24.

Sunday School grades P3-12

We will be R.O.A.R ing at the Variety Show! Peace Church's **Annual Variety Show & Dinner** - Sun., Feb. 24, at 3:00 p.m. The Sunday School classes will sing a song during the Variety Show this year. After the show there will be a dinner, too!!! Please let us know if your youth can sing with our group and if you all will stay for dinner! Please use the online sign up or the sign up in the bulletin. Sign up by Feb 17.

7th & 8th/ HS Antioch Retreat – Mar. 1-3

PERMISSION SLIPS RETURNED BY FEB. 17

For the past several years, the 7th - 12th grade youth have gathered together for this weekend-long spiritual retreat. The name Antioch comes from the book of Acts when a group of people studied together and learned what it meant to be a Christian (Act 11). This retreat will be a time of prayer, worship, friendship and fun. This year's retreat will be from 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 1 until approximately 1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 3. **The cost of the retreat is \$20 (don't forget about the Hope Fund if needed) and registration is due by Feb. 17.** Friends are also welcome. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in participating but not sure you can come for the whole weekend talk to Deacon Shari! Please use the online sign up; and the information and registration form can be found on the counter in the narthex.

5th & 6th Out to Eat Event – Sun., Feb. 17

We will meet at church at 12:00p.m. and go to Chili's for lunch! Please bring \$15-\$20 for food and drink. Parents, please use the online sign up found on our church website, use the bulletin in the bulletin, or use the signup sheet in the narthex. If you would like to drive/chaperone, please let us know.

Business Attire Collection

Our Warm Coat campaign has once again brought an overwhelming, wonderful response. In February, we switch our emphasis to another need: clothes for people who are seeking employment (interviews and jobs). 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.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is Empowerment: Growth Mindset. A young person has internal motivation to achieve and do well in life. 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:

Model what it means to have an internal motivation to achieve and do well. Listen to your kids when they talk about their dreams. Ask how you can help – get excited.

Teachers at school:

Listen to your kids when they talk about their dreams. Ask how you can help – get excited. Give students opportunities to reflect on and shape their own future.

In the community:

Recognize the skills and accomplishments of youth in the community. Provide meaningful opportunities for youth to contribute to community life.

In the church or public organization:

With your group, discuss the great questions of life: Why was I born? Why am I here? Speak explicitly to kids about creating meaning in their lives and how that translates into daily activities, career choices, relationships, behaviors, etc.

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

**The asset for the month of February is:
Empowerment: Growth Mindset
February quote of the month:**

“In a growth mindset, challenges are exciting rather than threatening.” -Carol Dweck

Indoor Go-Kart Outing – Thurs., Mar. 21

Did you ever want to try your "racing skills?" We think adults (13 yrs. and up) and juniors (8-12 yrs.) would enjoy a single race consisting of 14 laps for adults and 12 laps for juniors at the "Accelerate Indoor Speedway" in Mokena. The cost is \$19.99 per person for both adults and juniors and a first time driver's license fee of \$7.95 per person. There is a place to eat if anyone is interested. Watch for more details in the bulletin.

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. Please call Anita Drake (815) 299-4417 with any questions.

Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 17

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Highlights will include the election of council members, perhaps staffing updates/votes and definitely reflections on our ministries on God's behalf. Please plan to attend.

Bunco is Back! - Sat., Feb. 23

You are invited to participate in the fun that comes with playing Bunco, and the white elephant prizes that follow. The date is Saturday, Feb. 23, at about 6:10 p.m. The evening starts with appetizers/snacks/desserts that you bring, and then the rounds of 1's and 2's follow. Never played Bunco? You don't need to know a thing except how to laugh and enjoy yourself. The white elephant exchange comes as the culmination, and the "better" the white elephants (tackier = better), the more laughs we all have. The Adult Fellowship Group hosts the event, but all are welcome. Please use the sign-up to give us a clue as to how many to expect. If you need childcare, let us know by Feb. 17 (\$3 per child).

Come Chill Out Dudes & Dudettes! – Sun., Feb. 24

Life a hassle? "The Man" bugging you at work? Wondering what happened to Lava Lamps, Bead Curtains and Rock & Roll? Never fear compadre! Save the afternoon of Feb. 24 for the Peace Variety Show. You'll mellow out listening to some groovy music, laugh uncontrollably and re-live (or live for the first time!) the music and culture of the 60's. And there will be food afterwards. Never fear, it won't be your old man's kielbasa and rutabaga hot dish! Dinner this year will be a casual catered dinner (think Italian beef and chicken tenders and mac and cheese and potato wedges and more!) beginning about 4:45/5:00 p.m. Come join the fun! So, put on your baggies, jump in your woody, cause the surf will be up! Peace, Power to the People and use the sign-up slip.

Ticket Options

Our ever-vigilant Fellowship Committee has been scouting the various upcoming shows, and here are their latest offerings. Use the sign-up, call the office, use our email to reserve your seats. First-come, first-served.

MAMA MIA - SUN., APRIL 7, 6:00 p.m.

Drury Lane in Oakbrook is the site for this musical performance. If we get 15 people interested in going, we'll get discounted tickets for Sunday, April 7, at 6:00 p.m. The cost for the tickets (about \$20 off full price) would be \$57.50 (\$41.75 for students.) Please use the sign-up or call the church office.

THE ULTIMATE QUEEN CELEBRATION STARRING MARC MARTE - SAT., APR. 27, 8:00 p.m.

The lead singer was hand-chosen by Queen to be the star of their tribute band. He is also the lead singer for the new movie! Wow! This show is at Governors State's Performing Arts Center. Our seats are 8 rows from the stage. Our discounted tickets are \$36. We now have 65 tickets, with 54 of them already gone!

AUGUST RUSH - SAT., MAY 18, 3:00 p.m.

Paramount Theatre is producing this brand-new musical for the first time. Based on the movie, follow the journey of 11-year-old Evan on his search to find his parents. The story-line and music alone would be worth the price – deeply discounted at \$37 each. We have **8** seats left.

ANOTHER NEW SHOW TO CONSIDER

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!

Cubs Game – Sun., May 26

We were able to secure 20 tickets for the game against the Cincinnati Reds, on Sunday, May 26, with the game at 1:20 p.m. We have **20** tickets reserved. Our seats are in section 225 on the first base side. The group rate price is \$69. If there is interest, 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 – first come basis. (The tickets could be a great Mother's Day or early Father's Day present.) Use the sign-up or call the office.

Active Shooter Class - Sat., Feb. 23

Recent national tragedies and local examples remind us that the risk is real; an active shooter incident can happen in any place at any time. Mass shootings start and end very quickly; first responders often cannot get to a scene in time. Sixty-three percent of active shooter events are concluded by the 15-minute mark, either by police action or by suspect suicide. The best way to make sure you and your loved ones stay safe are to prepare ahead of time and be ready. Taking a few steps now and mentally rehearsing what to do can help you react quickly when every second counts. Peace is hosting an event led by Will County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Jerz, a local leader in training people all over the county. The date will be Feb. 23, starting at 10:00 a.m. It will conclude before noon. Please let us know that you are coming so we can prepare adequately. The learning objectives are that by the end we should be able to...

- Understand why advance preparation is essential.
- Develop a survival mindset.
- Learn options on how to respond during an active shooter incident.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

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

Because of You and Your Gifts

A new class of future leaders began their studies last fall at ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries, including 26 women from our global companion churches pursuing four-year degrees with the International Women Leaders initiative. Dora, an International Women Leaders scholarship recipient from Cameroon studying at Concordia College, shares, “If I were to use one word to describe this program, it's hope. The hope to gain better education than I would have ever had at home, the hope to be a pillar in my church and my society, and the hope to participate in life-changing experiences. The hope to bring a contribution to the development of my church and my country. The hope that one day, like those who help me, I will help young girls who can't afford education. The hope to see my dream come true.”