

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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No One Looks Forward to Bad News

Some of you have gotten a call from a doctor's office following a test you've had. The person calling said, "The doctor wants to see you." Immediately your whole body probably reacted with tension, your stomach was in knots and your throat felt like it couldn't swallow. Your hands got sweaty, your heart started racing and your mind operated at 100 mph. The time between that call and your visit was endless as you prepared for the worst.

There are plenty of other times when we have prepared ourselves for bad news. It could be about a job, or a grade in school, or a loved one dying. It could be about a relationship or an event you hoped to experience that you suspected wouldn't work out. The possibilities are multiple, and the anticipation usually has a mixture of hoping things somehow will work out but expecting they won't.

The church year itself has a trajectory in full understanding that sometimes dealing with bad news is going to be our reality. We finished Christmas – talk about an "up"! The next season includes Jesus' baptism and John the Baptist's witness, both of which affirm Jesus as the Son of God – more great moments! And now comes the other shoe: Lent. We're going to see Jesus heading into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. As we keep walking the path of these 40+ days, we'll end with betrayal and denials and inhumane treatment and Jesus on the cross. The Bible doesn't skip over the bad news. God knows firsthand that life has these moments.

So, how can we deal with (anticipated) bad news? God's relationship with us invites us to be real. For example, the Psalms are filled with people who are struggling with some aspect of life. King David prepared himself for the death of a child. Job lost everything. We are attuned to Jesus and his experiences. Each time the people involved didn't hesitate to bring their worries and complaints and arguments to God. And somehow, through that honest sharing with God and others, they did and we can find a path through the bad news. Far from "cheer up," God seems to say turn to me in your honesty, and I will walk with you through it all – better news for sure!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Marty Kolar, Dave Boer, Mrs. Misna, the family of Joe Schultz, Pam Shea, Eric Stohlquist, Gary Gould, Edna Anglin, the family of Gary Holmquist, Shirley Maier, Esther Coulter, Frankie, Halley, Jessica, the family of Leo Kiebles, Lynn McGuire, Jeff Howell, Sandi, Christy Chenoweth, the family of Brian Gramza, Brandon, Marty, Em, Kaitlyn Halper, Robert Larsen, Brenda Easton, Greg Liska, the family of Richard Gardner, the family of Donny Wentz, Danny, Pam & George Ogorzaly, Amber & Carly, Stacey, Mark Miller, Miles

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Pauline Lee, mother of Paula Miller

Congratulations

Liz & Zach McDivitt, parents (Oliver & Sullivan) on the birth of Emerson Joy McDivitt on Nov. 19.

Welcome New Members

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

Robert & Pamela Putrich

Notice of Annual Meeting – Sun., Feb. 16

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 16, at 9:55 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.

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:

Skye & Hunter Brugler – help with church projects
Madison Mitchell, Jack Rimkunas – acolyte
Kevin Chiappetti – offering counter
Mason Querio – nursery
Katie Querio – communion server
Ed & Diane Cochran, Chuck & Diane Vick, Marty
& Linda Johnson, Don & Sue Lafferty, Ken & Renee
Gatewood, Ann Goeglein, Gail Hanks – Food and/or
help with Santa Cruz Luncheon
Everyone who donated items for the Blessing bags
Jenni Vondra & Gretchen Pfeffer – for helping
during the MLK service day
Everyone who helped with or provided food for the
New member luncheon

From:

The Paape family – for the donation to Ronald
McDonald House in honor of Gavin
LSSI – for the donation
LSSI Augustana group – for the Christmas presents
ELCA World Hunger – for the donation
Trinity Services – for the donation
Katie's Closet – for the donation of food

Our Sponsored Missionary

Our Young Adult in Global Mission is Benjamin David from Chicago (member of Lebanon Lutheran) in Argentina. Below is his email address. When he finds a way to receive mail at his permanent housing, we will add it here. Email: btdavid94@gmail.com
Also, please feel free to follow the “YAGM Argentina-Uruguay” page on Facebook.
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/YAGM-Argentina-Uruguay-538939472824198/>

Addresses for Service Personnel

Midshipman Trevor Horn
PO Box # 12989
Annapolis, MD 21412

MA2 Baker, Connor 2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson
5600 Shorewood Lane 947 Burr St. Apt. E
Norfolk, VA 23502 Fort Benning, GA 31905

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 1. Any questions please contact Pastor Dave. Thanks for all your support of young people!

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 **Feb. 23**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

***Crutches and walkers available** – The church has received crutches and walkers from members. Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.

* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give the individual the names and telephone numbers of people who could be contacted and if possible, have the person meet these people. Give them the suicide prevention hotline. **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Let's remember to keep in mind to spread the word that no one is alone in a time of need. Suicide destroys everyone who cares! Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives. Crisis Line – 815-469-6166, text line – 741741, and online – www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Not currently meeting – please watch the newsletter.

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

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

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping and other daily living services. The new website is an easy to use tool for potential residents and family members to learn about Joshua Arms, including eligibility and floor plans.

***Cleaning for a Reason** – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to: www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html. You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners.

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 in the hallway leading 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.

Follow Us on Social Media

Snapchat: [plutheranchurch](#)

Instagram: [peacechurch1062](#)

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.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., Feb. 10 & 24

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

Prayer Shawl – Wed., Feb. 5 & 19

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 Gamen at 815-462-3089. There is request box in the narthex if you know someone in need of a shawl.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Feb. 11

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

Out to Eat Group – Sat., Feb. 15

Back by popular demand, we're heading next to LA Café at 19450 S. LaGrange Rd., Mokena at 6:30 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 15. This authentic Mexican restaurant also has plenty of alternate choices. Please use the sign-up or call the church office. (Our March event will be to Portillo's on the 14th.)

Peace Buddies – Sun., Feb. 16

For our Feb. 16 meeting we will be taking part in the All Church Bowling Event. Please see that announcement for all the details. 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.

Ping Pong Club – Sun., Feb. 16

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

Trailblazers – Tues., Feb. 18

Our next meeting will be our usual day Tues., Feb. 18, at noon here at church. The food will be sloppy joes, plus your usual food donations. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

VBS Planning Meeting – Wed., Feb. 19

Yes, it's time to think summer! Our VBS is amazing and involves lots of people each helping in some way. The planning crew invites you to join in the behind-the-scenes fun (we're not kidding) of putting this great event together. Join us Wed., Feb. 19, at 9:00 a.m., or let us know of your interest in helping if you can't make the date or time. Use the sign-up or call the office.

Adult Fellowship Pizza, Planning & Games – Sat., Feb. 22

Because of all the fun we had with Trivia Night, the group delayed our planning night until February. But now it's time! Set aside Saturday, Feb. 22, beginning at 6:05 p.m., for some fun, fellowship, pizza (wide variety), games, and planning our activities for the coming year. The cost is \$3 each. Need childcare? Let us know (also \$3.) Use the sign-up or call the office.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Feb. 23

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be Feb. 23 at 9:45 a.m. We will discuss *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. All are welcome. Questions please contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

Chess Tournament – Tues., Mar. 24

Calling all chess players! We now have a confirmed date for Peace's first chess tournament: Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. It is an open tournament and everyone is welcome, from the youngest generation to the most experienced generations. ☺ If interested (and why wouldn't you be?), please use the sign-up slip or contact Al Davenport directly at al.davenport@comcast.net, or call or text Al at 708-977-7339. Whether you win or lose, the tournament will be a hoot!

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. 2 - *Dimensions of Prayer*

Feb. 9 - *Darrell Holmquist will present on the history of Peace Lutheran Church!*

Feb. 16 - *Is It the Same God? (Comparing the Old & New Testaments)*

Feb. 23 - *Manipulative Behaviors - Why & How to Deal with Them*

Mar. 1 - *Forgiveness: A Part of the Journey toward Healing*

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: Deuteronomy 6:4-12.

Blood Drive – Sat., Apr. 4

Thank you to everyone who donated on February 1st. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Apr. 4 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Movie Discussion for Adults: Green Book – Sun., Feb. 9

Come at 12:15 pm on Sunday, Feb. 9 at church for a movie and discussion. This new opportunity came out of our "What's the Scoop" meetings, and with our new license to show movies, we hope you'll come. We will be watching *Green Book*, the 2019 Academy Awards winner for best picture. *Green Book* is set in the 1960's and is based on the unlikely relationship of Don Shirley, an African American pianist and Tony Vallelonga, an Italian American bouncer from the Bronx. Vallelonga becomes Shirley's driver and bodyguard. As they travel the South together, they struggle to get along with two clashing views of life and the world, all the while experiencing racial injustice. Following the film, we will discuss various themes we saw present in the film and how these themes relate to us. A light lunch will be served, featuring hot dogs and chips and popcorn! Please use the sign-up or call the office to let us know how many will be coming, and if you'll need childcare.

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 8 – *Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.*

Feb. 8/9 – *BSA Scout Weekend*

Feb. 9 – *Green Book Movie Discussion 12:15 p.m.*

Feb. 15 – *Out to Eat Group - LA Café 6:30 p.m.*

Feb. 16 – *Annual Meeting 9:55 a.m.*

All Church Bowling 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 19 – *VBS Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.*

Bible Buddies 3rd-6th grade 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 22 – *Adult Fellowship Pizza & Planning 6:05 p.m.*

Feb. 23 – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

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

Feb. 26 – *Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.*

Mar. 6-8 – *Antioch Retreat*

Mar. 7/8 – *Girl Scout Weekend*

Apr. 4 – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Apr. 5 – *Palm Sunday*

Mental Health First Aid 12:00 noon

Apr. 12 – *Easter Sunday*

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

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

Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry

If you would like special prayers said for someone, we have a Circle of Prayer ministry that is ready to help. Just let the office know of a particular need for prayer. We will send out an email to the praying volunteers with that need. Each will offer prayer on his or her own schedule.

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Sun., Feb. 9

Our next monthly screening date is Sun., Feb. 9 between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you 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. 19

It's that time of year to start planning for Vacation Bible School. Our first meeting will be on Wed., Feb. 19, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in making plans for what promises to be another great session of VBS!

From Vicar Mike Markwell

Greetings and Peace to you,

I regularly listen to the podcast “Pro Church Tools.” They help explain trends and methods for churches to approach social media. Their tagline is “helping churches navigate the biggest communication shift in the past 500 years”. A few years back, in one of my seminary courses on church history, we identified how the church shifted to adapt to new medias. 500 years ago Martin Luther and other church reformers capitalized on the printing press in order to make the Bible more accessible. In the 1920s Moody and other churches began to utilize radio, transforming the way that people were able to be exposed to hymns and sermons beyond what was in their local congregation. In the 1950s Billy Graham and others began to understand how television could be used to get the church’s message into homes across the world.

Today, leaders in ministry are trying to figure out how to use social media effectively in ministry. Over the past few months, I have been working with a team of volunteers from the congregation on a project to update and utilize Peace’s social ministry pages. We have begun to create content and make regular posts on Facebook and Twitter. Many of you have already seen it and been part of our conversations there. Our hope is that we will continue to engage and connect with people in our ministry, but also begin to build connection and relationship with people outside of our ministry through our social media presence.

Each week we post the This Week and Beyond and the sermons in case you were unable to attend worship. There are also opportunities to engage in conversation around questions and topics that get posted. The easiest way to get connected with what we are doing on social media is to like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/peacenewlenox](https://www.facebook.com/peacenewlenox) and follow us on Twitter at @peacenewlenox. As we navigate this shift in communication, we hope that we will be able to use it in ways to better connect with you and those in our communities.

In addition to the work on social media, I have also been working on an adult education opportunity. On February 9 we will be watching the movie *Green Book (2018)* and having a discussion to follow. *Green Book* is the 2019 winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture. The movie takes place in the 1960’s. An Italian American bouncer from the Bronx takes a job driving an African American concert pianist on his tour through the southern part of the United States. The movie shows the reality of racial disparity and prejudice as the two form an unlikely relationship. Join us at 12:15 on February 9 in Fellowship hall for hotdogs and popcorn as we watch and discuss the movie. Childcare will be available.

Vicar Mike Markwell

Ash Wednesday Worship – Feb. 26

The worldwide observance of Lent begins this year on Feb. 26 with Ash Wednesday. This solemn occasion reminds us of our mortality, as well as our need for forgiveness. We will have worship services 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?

New Flower Chart

Each week people donate the cost of altar flowers (\$20 per arrangement). The process is very simple. There is a chart in the hallway leading into Fellowship Hall. Sign your name and phone number for the week(s) you want to donate flowers. We will contact you to find out the reason (if any) for the donation. Envelopes for the cost are by the chart and also are mailed the week following your selected week. Upcoming dates available are: Mar. 1, 8, & 15, May 3 & 31, June 14, 21 & 28, plus many others.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Feb. 8

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

Strong Seniors Exercise Group

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet Mondays 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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., Feb. 9 – Dinner and Discussions. Dinner is pizza.

Sun., Feb. 16 – All Church Bowling 12:45-3:00p.m. \$11 Fancy Fancy Dinner at Mamma Onesta's \$25 for dinner and a drink.

Sat., Feb 22 – Teen Bridge Center

Sun., Feb. 23 – Peace Variety Show 3:00p.m.

Confirmation Schedule - Wednesdays

7th Gr. Confirmation: Feb. 5 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Gr. Confirmation: Feb. 12 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Kids & Adults: Feb. 19 Hot dogs 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Gr. Together: Apr. 1 Pizza 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

8th Gr. mandatory meeting: May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Students and a parent /other adult should attend.

Confirmation Sundays are May 17 & May 31, 2020

All-Church Bowling – Sun., Feb. 16

Our All-Church Bowling outing will be on Feb 16, at 1:00 p.m. at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox (1009 W. Laraway Rd.). Please arrive around 12:45 p.m. to get your shoes, bowling ball and lane ready. The cost will be \$11 per person for 2 games and shoes. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office. The event is also the Peace Buddies, 5th /6th gr. and 7th/8th gr. group activities for Feb.

Bible Buddies – Wed., Feb. 19

3-6th graders are welcome to join the HS youth and Deacon Shari for a bible lesson on Feb. 19 at 7:00p.m.! Kids are welcome to eat dinner with us at 6:30 p.m. (suggested \$3 donation for hot dogs). Please let us know if your youth would like to attend.

7th-12th Gr. Antioch Weekend Mar. 6-8

7th - 12th grade youth are invited to gather for this weekend-long spiritual retreat. The name Antioch comes from the book of Acts, after 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 6:00 p.m., Friday, March 6 until approximately 1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 8. The cost of the retreat is \$25 (don't forget about the Hope Fund if needed) and registration is due by Feb. 16. Sat., March 7 we are going to a FMSC packing site in Schaumburg!! 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 fill out the registration form found in the narthex. Parents, we need chaperones during the day, overnight chaperones and, food providers. Please let Deacon Shari or Jess Lindeman know if you would like to be involved in any way!

Sunday School Collection

During the new year, the 5/6th graders would like to help one of our local pet shelters. Here is a list of items that they need. You can drop items off in the Sunday School office or in the 5 & 6th grade classroom.

Thank you so much!

Canned dog, cat or kitten food(any brand), dry dog food (chicken flavor is preferable and we typically feed Purina One), cat litter (scoop able), paper towels, laundry detergent, trash bags (13 and 33 gallon), and gift cards to pet supply stores or hardware stores.

Youth Events Looking Ahead...

Sun., Feb. 16 – All Church Bowling- sign up online, in the narthex, or in the bulletin.

Antioch registration & fee due

Wed., Feb. 19 – Bible buddies 3-6th grade

Sun., Feb. 23 – Scholarship Applications are due
Church Talent Show 3:00 p.m.

Mar. 6, 7, & 8 – 7-12th grade Antioch Weekend

Sun., Mar. 15 – 5 / 6th grade Pizza and Painting

Sun., April 19 – 7 / 8th grade Service Project around Peace. Indoor and outdoor clean up 10a.m. – 3:00p.m.

Sat., April 25 – 5/6th grade In-house escape room 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Sun., April 26 – 7/8th Kids & Adults End of the Year luncheon at noon.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is **Safety Skills (Relationship Skills)**. ***A young person can avoid negative peer pressure and avoid dangerous situations.***

"We rise by lifting others." ~ Robert Ingersol.

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:

Do not tolerate hurtful words or actions in your home. Model loving respectful behavior towards family and friends.

At school:

Encourage teachers, administrators, and staff to watch out for student safety.

In the community:

Meet with teens in the community to find out where they do and don't feel safe. Determine what can be done to increase their feeling of safety.

In the church or public organization:

Work with the community for change that can make neighbor hoods safer for the children and teens.

BSA Scout Weekend – Feb. 8/9

The annual BSA Scout weekend is coming up on Feb. 8/9. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 7/8 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout Sunday.

Variety Show & Dinner – Sun., Feb. 23

The stage is calling! Back by popular demand is our Annual Variety Show & Dinner - Sun., Feb. 23, at 3:00 p.m. All ages and talents are welcome and encouraged to perform. Perhaps a short skit, instrumental, or vocal performance? Maybe a duet, trio, quartet, or quintet? Let's do our best to top last year's show! If you wish to perform, we ask that you fill out an information form available in Kelly Muehlnickel's mailbox or in the church office. Please return the completed form to her mailbox or the office. The deadline to sign up is February 12. Not ready to perform? Then be sure to attend the show! As a delicious bonus, a catered dinner will follow the show beginning about 4:45/ 5:00 p.m. on a free-will offering basis. Come join the fun! Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office if you wish to attend. Call Mark Muehlnickel at 815-463-8836 with any questions.

Tickets Available

A Tribute to Whitney Houston - Sat., Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m. at Governor's State. Belinda Davis, a chart-topping artist. There will be all the theatrical sounds, dancing, lights, and songs from the amazing Whitney Houston. **We have 4 tickets left.** Tickets are \$40 each. Contact the church office if you would like to purchase tickets.

Shakespeare's As You Like It - Sat., June 13, 3:00 p.m. at the Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier. This high-spirited version infuses Shakespeare's comedy with the hit songs of The Beatles! Tickets are \$72. **We have 1 ticket left, but probably can get more.** Please use the sign-up or call the office to let us know.

Dear Evan Hansen – Sun., July 12, 2:00 p.m., at the CIBC Theater in Chicago. Tickets are \$38. This musical won six Tony awards, including best musical in 2017. The story is both "heavy" and redeeming. It is based on the life of a person who is seen as a misfit in his school, and a letter that was never meant to be seen, a lie that was never meant to be told. It also features a life he never dreamed he could have. This is a deeply personal and profoundly contemporary musical about life and the way we live it. The first set of tickets were sold out, but we can get more as needed. Please use the sign-up sheet or call the office **by March 1** to request tickets.

Wolves Hockey Game – Sat., Mar. 14

We have a block of up to 30 main level seats for the 7:00 p.m., Saturday March 14th Wolves hockey game vs. Rockford. Tickets are \$23 each and include a Wolves cap for all. We're planning on a bus to take us to Allstate Arena in Rosemont. Bus cost will be \$5 per person or \$10 per family (beats fighting the expressway traffic and exorbitant parking fees). This promises to be a great night of fellowship, fun, food and hockey. Use the sign-up sheet, or call the church office, and indicate the number of tickets and how many for the bus.

Cubs Game – Sun., May 31

We were able to secure 20 tickets for the game against the Cincinnati Reds, on Sun., May 31, with the game at 1:20 p.m. Our seats are in section 228 about halfway down the right field line. The group rate price with all taxes and fees is \$45. 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.

Pastor Dave Selected as New Lenox Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Pastor Dave, who was selected as the 2019 Citizen of the Year by the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber not only recognized his leadership in the community over these many years, but also the work of Peace Lutheran Church to make this a better community. Our church's involvement with the Asset Building program, our Thanksgiving dinner, the numerous ways we are generous with our time and resources were just some of the reasons why the Chamber lifted up Peace in its selection.

Peanut Butter Thank You

Thanks to your generosity, we have 251 jars of peanut butter going to the food pantry!

2019 Giving Statements are Available

Please pick up your 2019 giving statements in the entrance area. It also serves as the IRS document for those who itemize their taxes.

Blessing Bag Donations Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the Blessing Bags. As part of their MLK service day, the 5th – 12th grade youth put together 103 bags that Peace 360 distributed at MorningStar mission.

One Warm Coat Drive Thank You!!!

Our *One Warm Coat* collection has come to an end. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. We have collected 60 men's coats, 51 women's coats, 52 children's coats, 8 snow pants, 78 scarves, 184 hats, 132 gloves, 3 socks/tights, 12 boots, 2 vests, 3 earmuffs – for a total of 585 items!!!

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!

Another Opportunity to Bless Others – 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. Look through your closets for suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! We'll use the same bin to collect these items.

Questions Kids Ask Update

We are beginning to get leads for where and how to let people know about our new Spanish version of the Questions Kids Ask About God book. It is very exciting to think about this new outreach on God's behalf, made possible because of your support and the hard work of our committee! Meanwhile, the questions keep coming, including one about what happens to our bodies in heaven? Will we always be children, or adults or wrinkly or what? While we don't know the exact answer, we do know we will be God's, and that God will give us a new body appropriate for our new life. That new body will still be you, but in a different form.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

Care giving to an adult, you would think, it is just so easy because they have done tasks a million times. So why do we get so angry or lose our patience when having to repeat something to them and they still have trouble following thru? Because they are an adult. That sounds like a good answer. They have had these experiences their whole life. Sounds pretty simple. But it is so much farther from their reality. They want to do for themselves. They recognize something is wrong but can't quite pinpoint it. Sometimes they are very aware of the changes and frustration and withdrawal sets in and they're scared. Hobbies are no longer interesting. Daily chores are confusing. Sometimes people and places are forgotten. As a caregiver, it's understandably tough. Keep the Faith. Pray for guidance. Reach out to those who understand you and what you are facing, it will be O.K. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers – Feb. 28 & 29

The Will County Habitat for Humanity is constructing multiple homes this year. They anticipate needing some volunteers for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 & 29. While the jobs to be done are not finalized yet, they think they may need people to help with siding, or drywall or painting. That is quite a variety! But we know some of you have skills and others of you have willingness to give a day or two so that others may have a home! Not able to do that kind of volunteering? They also have a resale shop (ReStore) that can use volunteers as well. Let us know through the sign-up.

Because of You and Your Gifts

Because you supported the ELCA's churchwide ministries in 2019, you were there all year long as we walked alongside one another and our brothers and sisters around the globe. Through your generosity, you were a light in this world. You were a light for those who experience hunger and poverty. A light for those whose lives have been upended by disaster. A light for our missionaries and volunteers who are walking alongside our brothers and sisters and serving as they have been called to serve. A light for future leaders, both in this church and in Lutheran churches around the world, who through your support can let their own light shine as brightly as God intended.

Operation Care Package

Operation Care Package is an all-volunteer 501 C-3 Public Charity based in Manhattan. We ship "Care" packages to deployed troops weekly. Our organization is about supporting the men and women who bravely answer the call to duty for you, me and our country. If you know a service person, please submit their name, address, birthday, and date deployment ends. Call Pam Swyndro at 815-258-0474 or email jpswyn.att.net.

LOMC Memorial Day Work Weekend

LOMC will have a work weekend May 22-25. If you would like to sign up please contact Audrey at 815-732-2220 or registrations@lomc.org. Questions, contact Ken at ken@lomc.org or 815-978-5843.

Recyclable & Craft Donations for KidsWork Children's 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. Also, donations of plastic 35mm film canisters and unwanted CDs would be useful for STEM projects for this year's summer camp.

New Feeding Ministry

The Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago's food closet for its seminarians is low on supplies. We will be having an ongoing food drive to help fill the shelves and lift the burden that seminary can sometimes be for students and their families. A list of needed items can be found in the narthex.

Joliet Area Community Hospice – Grief Support

Joliet Area Community Hospice Bereavement Program offers a variety of programs and series to encourage healthy grieving before and/or after the death of a loved one. Services are provided not only to hospice families, but also to community members, and are free of charge. Grief Support & Services include; parent support for grieving children & adolescence, support groups and workshops, memorial services, individual and family grief counselling, including art therapy. The Joliet Area Community hospice provides programs such as; General Loss Support Groups, Teen Nights; for teens who have experienced loss, and Spousal/Partner Loss. The JACH also have workshops based around writing and art therapy, which can help to provide a healthy outlet for grief. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from these programs please go to <https://www.joliethospice.org/>, or call the director or Bereavement Services, Patrice Martin at 815-460-3282.

Feb 5 & 19 – Expressions of Healing 1 of 6 sessions (6-7:30 p.m.)

March 5 – Spring Grief Workshop (6-8 p.m.)