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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May 2020

Did God Cause This?

Did God cause the coronavirus (a) because the world is bad; (b) because God wanted to teach us a lesson; (c) to demonstrate who is in charge; (d) none of the above? With all my heart I believe the answer is (d.) The COVID-19 virus is a fresh sign in nature that sometimes nature and its multiple organisms and systems "choose" bad options. In human terms, it is a sign of sin – just as it is when we humans choose badly. Make no mistake, God hates sin! But God's choice is not to compound sin by causing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people! God didn't cause this virus.

God's choice, instead, is to bring a spirit of self-sacrifice and wisdom into the midst of the sin to redeem it, transform it, re-direct it - just as God did in Jesus! That's what I see going on all around us. There are many, many stories of people who are going the extra mile to serve others. There are people who have influence in the entertainment/sports industry who are using their talents to lift people's spirits. There are genuinely funny emails and signs that have been created and passed along. There are scientists working night and day to figure out how to test, measure, treat the virus and create a vaccine. There are leaders in government who are not taking an easy path, but instead are trying to see how best to keep people alive. There are parents and kids and teachers and businesspeople and retirees and women and men of every description who are trying to make the best of a terrible situation; of trying to do their part for the sake of others. All of those and more are the work of God.

We don't know when the "curve truly will be flattened" and the beginning of getting out and about will take place. We know that the longer this goes, the more impacts will be felt across the world. Some people won't wait for solutions from earthly wisdom or look for God's leading. They will act selfishly. It's not new behavior. But you are a child of God! You have the ultimate example and leader in Jesus, God in the flesh, who even endured a cross that all might find life in God. Use this time to look for how God is leading us to re-evaluate what really counts in life and to find ways to "take up your cross and follow" God. God causes self-giving love to happen, not viruses! Please check our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest information, videos, and more!

Prayers Requested

The family of Marie Fabiano, the family of Pam O'Shea, Riley, Heidi, Edith Saurer, nurses, all hospital workers and first-responders, Therese Lundgren, Denise Jones and all who have MS or can't receive therapy, Terry Jesk, Robin Scanlan, the family of Gloria Zienert, Bob and Barb Werniak, Jackie Parvin, the family of Joanne Costello, the Flynn family, John and Sharon Galminas, the family of Anne Szudy, the family of Carol Richards, the family of John Moriarty, the family of Jessica Frale, staff and residents of Green Tree Assisted Living facility and other facilities like it, the family of Laura Murphy.

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Bob Haney, father of Sue Rushing

the family of Lillie Conway, mother of Kevin Conway

the family of Patricia Webb, mother of Pam Post & Bill Webb

Congratulations

John & Joy Sotiros, parents and Terry & Jenny Treasure, grandparents, on the birth of Clark Sotiros on March 20;

Bret & Melissa Onderisin, parents and John & Jeanette Vogrin, grandparents, on the birth of Leah Elizabeth Onderisin on April 19.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Vol. XXV, Issue 5

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: All the people who are so supportive of the mission of God through the church, in their homes, in service of others, in making masks, in places of employment, in prayer, and more!

Ken George – all the website and video production work

All the people who have been organizing and or making masks and hats and prayer shawls at home

From: New Lenox Fire Department, Silver Cross Hospital, University of Chicago nurses and many other places – for the masks

Offering Envelopes

The new offering envelopes (that begin in June) will be available sometime after we get back together! If that time isn't before June, then we hope you'll either go online and give, or just send your contribution to PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451. If you have an old envelope, use that and put the right date on it. If you don't, we'll take care of crediting your giving statement!

2020 Member Directories

Our new phone/address directories are now available. They include a business and service directory. Look for them on the counter in the narthex. If you would like a copy but are unable to get one at church, please let us know in the church office at 815- 485-5327.

Lawn Mowing

If you'd like a turn to mow this year, please email the office and we will put you on the schedule. Most of the time you can pick whether to mow on Friday or Saturday. Most mowers took between 1 to 1.5 hours.

Golden Opportunities Books

We are once again offering Golden Opportunity books. They're filled with savings coupons for many different types of places, from food to entertainment to carwashes. **These books are now \$15.** (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) For just about everything that is listed in the rest of the newsletter that has a date, the words "maybe", "possible" and "tentative" apply! Check for updates on the website www.peacenewlenox.org

Teacher Appreciation Weekend – June 6/7

We like to say thanks to teachers – both in our Sunday School and in the world of education. We normally set aside one weekend in worship to recognize them. We are hoping we'll be back in worship in June and can do it then! As a bonus way of recognizing all of our teachers (including retired, piano, Sunday School, the world of education), we want to post pictures of you on our Facebook page. Send a picture of yourself to Vicar Mike at <u>mike.j.markwell@gmail.com</u>.

Because of You and Your Gifts

"I am so thankful for Storybook. My little girl is 5. She is my heart and joy. She loves getting the books and CDs. God bless all of you." Last year 4,963 children received books from their incarcerated parents through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. LSSI also offers Affordable Housing for older adults and people over the age of 18 with disabilities at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois. Last year LSSI provided housing for 1,485 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000. And there's more! LSSI's Step-Up School-Based Counseling Program served 539 students at 25 grammar and high schools that make up the Chicago Public Schools. The program has now grown to include 45 schools.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

You fold your hands in prayer and ask God to always be there. It isn't doubt, it isn't fear, it's just that NEED to want Him near. In the sleepless nights, and the worrying days, you tremble with sadness and laugh with tears. Keep my loved one safe you pray, keep me strong and healthy with each new day. Remind me dear God to always trust, no matter what the day may bring. Remind me too dear God, that my loved one also folds their hands in prayer and asks that I be there. Find more comfort in: Psalm 23, Psalm 119:73-77 and Isaiah 12. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics – see our display in the narthex)

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **May 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.

*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 saving about their lives. Crisis Line - 815-469-6166, text line - 741741, and online - www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

* Bereavement Support Groups

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

Evening Adult Support Group – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, donation appreciated.
Afternoon Adult Support Group – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, donation appreciated.
For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

***Thrivent members** – For those of you who have Thrivent dollars to donate, don't forget Peace is one of those choices. * LSSI's Joshua Arms Website - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping and other daily living services. The new website is an easy to use tool for potential residents *and* family members to learn about Joshua Arms, including eligibility and floor plans.

*Cleaning for a Reason – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to:

www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html. You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners.

Check Out Our Social Media Pages

We have a team that has been working over the past few months to bring our social media pages up to date and to post regular content to them. Ways you can help to promote our pages and our church are to follow our pages and engaging our content by commenting, liking, and sharing our posts. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle @PeaceNewLenox.

Our Sponsored Missionary

Our Young Adult in Global Mission is Benjamin David from Chicago (member of Lebanon Lutheran) in Argentina. Below is his email address. 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

Looking Ahead... Tentative Dates

May 3 – Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m. – Zoom May 6 – Hymn Picking lists are due May 9 – Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m. – Zoom May 13 – VBS Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m. – Zoom May 26 – Church Council 7:30 p.m. – Zoom June 6/7 – Teacher Appreciation weekend June 7 – What's the Scoop 12 noon Outdoor Worship 6:00 p.m. June 13 – Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. June 13/14 – Recognition of Graduates June 21 – Father's Day Special Congregational Meeting 9:30 a.m. Ice Cream Social 9:45 a.m. July 27 – Vacation Bible School Set-up July 28 - 31 – Vacation Bible School Sept. 13 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45 a.m.

Groups - Tentative Dates

Men's Dartball – Tues., June 9

We will try to meet Tues., June 9 so we can get together before fall. 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???)

Prayer Shawl – Wed., June 10 & 24

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.

Ping Pong Club – Summer Hiatus

The ping pong club will be taking a summer hiatus. They will resume meeting on the third Sunday of September. If you think you may want to join them, let the church office know your name and email address, and you will be added to the email reminders.

Peace Buddies – Stay tuned

Please watch the bulletin updates for our next event. Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older that usually 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.

Summertime Quilting

Summertime quilting probably will meet every other Monday at 9:30 a.m. starting in June. It's very casual and if you can't make it each time, just come when you can. Questions? Call Karen (815) 462-9527 or Syndy (708) 479-7338

Trailblazers – Tues., June 16

Our next meeting will be on Tues., June 16, at noon here at church. The food will be fish filets. Questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Strong Seniors Exercise – Stay tuned

When the time is right, we'll restart this great 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.

Golf Group

The golf group will be playing each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We play 9 holes, best ball format (usually at Woodruff or Green Garden courses), eat lunch at the course and finish around 1:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome and you do not have to play every week. Each week an email to the interested golfers to find out who is playing, schedule a tee time, and email players when and where to meet. Questions or to sign up, contact Mike 815-277-2636 or mbohl1@gmail.com. You may also use the sign-up in the bulletin or contact the church office.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for information and support? The Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information on when the group will resume meeting, contact Karin Knutson at karinknutson@hotmail.com.

Addiction and Family Support Group

The Addiction & Family Support Group is now meeting via Zoom Tuesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. This support group meeting is for those struggling, those who love someone struggling, or those who just want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and prescription pain medications in our community. For more information, contact Tom Moore at 815-354-3195.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

I miss you! I miss your faces, voices, and energy! This has been such an interesting and scary time but that's not all it has been. We are an Easter people with an Easter hope! We know that death and sin is never the end of the story. There is much more going on right now!

I have had the joy of spending time with our youth on zoom and they are proof that there is so much more going on right now. We have laughed together and cared for one another and the only thing that ends our time together is a parent calling for them to come to dinner.

The return of family time, friendships, and even quiet personal time has erupted into existence yet again. There is so much more going on during this pandemic. Our communities have rallied around vocations that would have received little praise before. We have remembered the joy of a slow pace, and the value of relationship with one another. The earth has gotten to take a much-needed breath and we have remembered the importance of hope, the importance of the real end to the story.

As Easter people with an Easter hope we know that there is no end to the story, there is just a new chapter. God is the author of our stories. God is present in each paragraph and sentence. God's very breath breathing into the words of our lives.

See there is so much more going on here than fear and illness. There is hope swirling in between each moment. This paragraph will find its end and the next will be one of rebuilding. However, no matter what the next paragraph holds we still have the same author, the same hope, the same Easter promise.

Deacon Shari Trotter

Faith Development/Education Tentative Dates

Adult Class

Watch the website for when adult classes will resume!

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. May's passage is: Psalm 49:5-13.

Summer Sunday & Other Class Ideas

Each year Pastor Dave solicits ideas for summer adult classes you would like to have. He usually does these between services on Sunday but is open to other times as well. Please let us know of your suggestions via email: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., May 3

The plan for our group is another Zoom meeting, May 3 at 9:45a.m. We will discuss *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Everyone is encouraged to obtain the book electronically, on-line or borrow from a friend. Even if you haven't read the book, but would like to join the meeting, you are welcome to do so. Contact Kathy Davenport at 815-545-2806 to get the right ID and password.

VBS Planning Meeting – Wed., May 13

Our amazing Vacation Bible School planning crew is creating another outstanding opportunity for kids (and volunteers) to grow closer to God. The dates will be July 28 - 31. Our theme will be "All Aboard God's Love!" The next VBS **online planning meeting will be May 13 at 9:00 a.m.** If you'd like to help in any way (including planning), please let us know. Let us know via email!

Baptism Orientation – Sat., May 9

Saturday, May 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. We'll be having the class via **Zoom**, so please let us know (peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org) if you're planning to participate!

Sunday School Teachers/Helpers Wanted

Parents/guardians, have you ever been interested in teaching, being a substitute, or a helper for our Sunday School? A few of our teachers have had some life changes and they can no longer teach Sunday School. We are looking for energetic parents/guardians to help with our Sunday School program for next year. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please let Pastor Dave or the Sunday School office know.

A Great Website for Older Adults

There is a Lutheran group called Adult Lutherans Organized for Action. Their website is <u>https://aloaserves.org</u>. They have information and webinars, including ones archived about choosing nursing homes and much more.

Fellowship Opportunities/Tickets & Events

Interested in Playing Pickleball?

Anyone interested in learning the fastest growing sport in the world? Come join us for fun exercise and learn the social/competitive game of Pickleball! Have you ever played tennis, table tennis, racquetball, badminton, or anything which required hand eye coordination? Pickleball is a cross between tennis and table tennis, played with paddles and a hard wiffleball. Please sign up and indicate what times are best for you - weeknights, or weekends or both. We are looking to start this activity in June depending on weather, outside court availability and your interest. We will teach you and even provide paddles and balls. So, get off that couch or lawn chair and let's play some Pickleball! Questions? Contact Al Davenport 708-977-7339 or al.davenport@comcast.net

Tickets for Shows

Because of the great uncertainty with theater options, we're going to hold off on scheduling anything at this time.

General Announcements

Hymn Picking – Plan B

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place via email exchanges, with suggestions due by Wednesday, May 6. Your input is always welcome in the efforts to make our worship meaningful! Please email the church if you would like to be involved and we will get you a pre-list and the overall plan.

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

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

What's the Scoop – Sun., June 7

Rather than meeting in May when we normally would, we're going to postpone this for a month and hope for the best. We've been at these for a year now, and they have been wonderful. This gathering involves brainstorming ideas and getting them going. We will meet Sunday, June 7, at noon. We'll eat and share ideas for ministry and try to be finished in 1.5 hours or less. 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!). Childcare is available if you let us know ahead of time.

Outdoor Worship – Sun., June 7

On Sun., June 7, at 6:00 p.m., we will have our annual outdoor worship service (if it's raining or cold, we'll be in Fellowship Hall, complete with social distancing.) It will be a shortened service but otherwise have all the regular pieces, including special music! We usually follow the worship with a potluck, but in light of current conditions, it seems smart to skip that this year.

Special Congregational Meeting – Sun., June 21

A special congregational meeting has been called for June 21 at 9:30 a.m. to approve the budget. The meeting usually lasts about 5-10 minutes but is a necessary legal event & a time to celebrate another year of ministry ready to go! We're calling it a working budget since there is so much uncertainty!

Strawberries, Cake, & Ice Cream – Sun., June 21

You'll want to come (or stay) on June 21 between services for our thirteenth annual strawberries-cake-other toppings & ice cream social. Please let us know if you'll be coming (and/or if you'd provide a cake) by emailing the church office. The previous twelve years were delicious successes! (And it will be a fun way for us to honor Father's Day too.)

Questions Kids Ask About God Update

The QKA committee has been hard at work tracking down leads for our new Spanish edition. The coronavirus has put a stop to actual opportunities to get to events. Meanwhile, the questions keep coming here at Peace! Here is one we received recently with Pastor Dave's answer: How long did God make the animals? *We couldn't tell you an exact starting date, but God is not done making animals! There are new kinds of animals coming into being (mostly in the oceans), and there are new animals of every existing kind (like you!)*

Join Us for Bible Study!

Each Wednesday more people have been joining our Bible Study through the wonders of Zoom! Joining the effort should be easy. If haven't let us know before, please email the church,

<u>peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org</u> so we can send you the meeting ID and password. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We are working our way through the Psalms, and any version of the Bible you have will work. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to join this class!

Faith & Life Experience

(We are going to feature stories about people from Peace from time to time. Enjoy this one from Chuck Wolske)

What has challenged your faith in the past? Maybe it's been a sickness, job loss, relationship that hasn't worked, etc. A few of mine have been polio and smallpox vaccines as a child, Cuban missile crisis, draft for Viet Nam, energy crisis in 1973, job loss and a number of other crisis in my lifetime. Fortunately, my Lutheran upbringing and Christian

parents have helped me along the way. It's not easy dealing with adversity. We are finding that out during the current corona virus pandemic. But God and our faith will assist us in this challenge and getting through all of this.

I am a survivor of several faith challenging issues. It has made me stronger and more appreciative of my life and the things I take for granted.

What has challenged your faith? I am sure you have gone through many different challenging times. I remember my confirmation verse: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

You and I are survivors. Our faith has led us through it.

Chuck Wolske

Artwork for Christmas Bulletin Covers

We know there are a lot of talented artists in our congregation! We have seen some of your work over the years, and now we'd like to see if we can use some of that talent for our Christmas bulletin covers. Here are the general requirements: 1) one half of a page landscape layout (no more than 8" tall x 5" wide); 2) line drawings only in black and white with the lines heavy enough to show up when copied; 3) some part of the Christmas (religious) theme. We probably would add scripture and/or our Peace logo or other information to the cover. (If you have suggestions for what or where to locate that on the page, include separately from your drawing.) We would like to have your drawings by August 1so we can see what choices we may have moving forward.

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.

Blood Drive – Sat., June 13

Our next Versiti (Heartland) blood drive will be Sat., June 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. You can sign up online or email the church office.

Let's Recognize Graduates! - June 13 & 14

All you graduates of high school, college and beyond, you might have gotten cheated out of a ceremony and a lot of senior/last year fun. But we want to do something to celebrate you and your accomplishment! On the weekend of June 13 & 14 (assuming we're back to in person worship), we're going to have special recognition and prayers for all of our graduates. Please let us know through our <u>peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org</u> email of your name, from where you are graduating, and if an advanced degree, what that degree is. Not only that, but we would like to create a special piece within our Facebook page. Please send us a graduation picture, whether one of those you had done at a studio or one you take yourself. For that, email the picture to Vicar Mike (<u>mike.j.markwell@gmail.com</u>.)

Remember the Census!

With everything else that's going on, we are reminded we are citizens also of our country. Taking the time to fill out the census online takes about 10 minutes. If you get a form in the mail, it has instructions. If not, just go to www.my2020census.gov or call (844) 344-2020.

Send in Those Photos

If you would like to contribute appropriate pictures of yourself/family during this time, pictures from a church event, or something else meaningful you can do so by uploading them to the following online album and over the next several weeks Ken George will insert them into the worship videos. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

https://photos.app.goo.gl/NjkaWqAhX99Zhvcs9. (A reminder, legally we have to tell you it is publicly available if someone has the link, so don't

put children's names with it anywhere.)

Worship Plans for June

It is too early to know whether we will be able to resume in-person worship in June. With Council's help and direction, we are putting together some Plans A & B & C. We will use email and the website & the next newsletter to update everyone when we know more.

Informal Sunday School Get Together! – May 3

Sunday, May 3, at 9:45 we will meet on zoom for an informal get-together for Sunday School. We will have a Bible story, activity, song and time to see each other! Watch your email for zoom information!!!! If you don't get an email about it, let us know before Sunday.