

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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Do You Like Surprises?

“Surprise!” That word can be all about a fun event, like a surprise party where you’re truly excited, or it can be the summary word for something you didn’t want. Some of you have been given news you were not expecting, like “Good news! I’m pregnant!” or “Oh no! I’m pregnant!” More than one person has walked out of a doctor’s office with relief and others with shock. Some of you like to be surprised by the ending of a book or movie, or by an unexpected adventure; others can only relax when they know what’s coming. The news out of Washington and around the world is full of “breaking news” and that too can make our heads spin and ask, “What next?!”

While there are many moments when a surprise can enliven us and make us glad, there beats in most of us (at least in me!) a desire to control things and know what to expect. We want the food at a restaurant to be predictably good. We want the person in the car next to us to stay in his or her lane. We can tolerate snowfalls, but feel better when we know they’re coming and how many inches to expect. If we could, we’d regulate our surprises to come in manageable doses.

Life usually doesn’t work that way. We get pieces of good news and bad news in uneven batches, coming in from events and people and circumstances that are very much out of our control. One of the reasons I like this period before Easter (Lent), especially including Holy Week, is that it deals with life the way it really is. Jesus no sooner gets the disciples to proclaim he is the Messiah (a real surprise considering how often they are clueless as to who he really is), and then he tells them he’s going to be rejected and killed (back to the head scratching – that’s not what they expected of the Messiah.) In our own lives, we no sooner finally get on top of some situation, and either some piece of it falls apart, or something entirely new puts us back on high alert.

The season of Lent can be a mirror of reality. There is good news to be found in the midst of all the surprises

of life. God has a surprise of God’s own: nothing can separate us from the love of God – not snow storms, or cancer or decisions by drivers next to us. Promotions and gifts and successes can’t do it either. Good news or bad news that surprises us can enliven or debilitate, but, God’s “Surprise!” is the last word. I like that surprise!

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

The family of Dorothy Trotter, Jean Britton, Bob Robertson, Alan Booton, Seth Trzcinski, the family of John Hilligoss, Donna Nicolai-Schultz, the family of Jean Marsay, the family of Ed Jankowski, Grace Niemie, Bob Cox, the family of Vicky Jackson, the family of CPD Commander Paul Bauer, Jodee Saenz, Kathy Davenport, Rick Rerych, Glenn DeMumerum, Andrew, Helen Bohr, Chakara Gunn, Matt K. Beverly Decker, Barb Decker, the family of Timothy Consola, Amy Knight, Denise Jones, Daniel Obuchina, Brock Johnson, Lynn Witt, Siri Moss, Patsy Studenrock, the family of Mark Johnson, Rita Seehofer, Margaret Lindbloom, Margie & Dan Vandermeeden, Carl, Jerri, Geri Sandt, Ken, Genny

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Harold Krueger, stepfather of Tammy Linder.

Congratulations

Andrew & Samantha Godfrey, parents and Carl & Eva Trippett, grandparents, on the birth of Patrick Andrew Godfrey on Jan. 27;

Jeanette Mau, great grandmother, on the birth of Quinn Ward on Feb. 10.

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:

Danielle Schabes – refreshments
Ryan Rajaballey, Danny Gervase – acolytes
Kassidy Withers, Skylar Smith – nursery
Jaiden Lawless, Joey Lundgren, Carleigh Fountain – ushers

Emily Dotzenrod, Claudia Green, Scott Howell, Todd Klock, Michele Lenz, Reneé Osbrink, Mark Ott, Kevin Rumbaugh, Erik Torkelson, Nathaniel Knutson, Emily Pfeffer, Keara Powers – nominees for Congregation Council

From:

Will County Center for Community Concerns – for the donation of clothes to the Clothes 4 Work Closet

Orland Township – for our kindness

LOMC, LSSI, ELCA & FISH – for the donations
Priscilla & George Huffman - George and I want to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry's members for the lovely and handsome shawls they made and prayed over for us! And George would also like to thank all the members of Peace for all the kind thoughts, prayers, get well wishes in cards, emails, phone calls, and Facebook comments. It's been a trying time for us and all the support has been wonderful! George still has some hurdles to conquer, but he is healing well and is glad to be back at church. God bless our wonderful Congregation.

Address for Our Sponsored Missionary

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

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

Recycling Items

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

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Caleb Daniel Niemczyk was baptized on Feb. 25.

Baptism Orientation – May 12

May 12, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for information and support? You are not alone.

There is an Alzheimer's Association Support Group meeting at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! If you would like more information, please contact Karin Knutson at karinknutson@hotmail.com.

Addiction and Family Support Group

An Addiction & Family Support Group meets here at Peace each Tuesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Are you or a loved one struggling with heroin or opiate dependence? Addiction is a family disease, because everyone in the family suffers if someone is addicted to or abusing drugs. The good news is people can and do recover and lead happy and productive lives. Please join us! This support group meeting is for those struggling, those who love someone struggling, or those who just want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and prescription pain medications in our community. For more information, contact Tom Moore at 815-354-3195.

Addresses for Service Personnel

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

MA 3Connor Wayne Baker	Sgt Pafford, Devin
PSC 455 Box 173	2714 S. Virginia Dr.
FPO AP 96540-1070	Apt. #36
	Yuma AZ 85364

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

Remember Our P.O. Box

Use P.O. Box 205 for mail addressed to Peace.

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Mar. 25**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call (815) 726-3377, ext. 228. For patient eligibility information: <http://willgrundymedicalclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Eligibility.pdf>.

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

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

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer Group – March 21

Denise Jones hosts a monthly gathering for prayer. The prayers include our church, our young people, those on the prayer list from the bulletin, and any other concerns or celebrations. The group will resume on March 21 at 11:45 a.m. at her home (17013 Geneva Ave., Lockport). Please call her (815) 838-0388 or the church office (815) 485-5327 so she can prepare appropriately.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mar. 12 & 26

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Mar. 7 & 21

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

Men's Dartball – Mar. 13

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

Trailblazers – Mar. 20

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Mar. 20, at noon here at the church. The menu will chicken parmesan and you bring something you'd enjoy sharing with the group. Be sure to invite a friend! Any questions, please contact the church office.

Peace Buddies – Mar. 4 & 18

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

Ping Pong Club Invites You – Mar. 18

The new ping pong club at church is underway and having a great time! They have decided to meet regularly on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. We have two tables, so there can be a lot of action. The level of play is competitive, and the camaraderie is outstanding. So, if you're in the mood to join them, show up on Mar. 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Peace Page Turners – Mar. 25

Peace Page Turners next will be discussing *Word by Word: the secret life of Dictionaries* by Kory Stamper. Join us for the discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We meet at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome. Questions, contact Kathy Davenport (815) 545-2806

Adult Fellowship Bunco – Mar. 10

You are invited to participate in the fun that comes with playing Bunco, and the white elephant prizes that follow. The date is Saturday, Mar. 10, at about 6:10. 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. Please use the sign-up slip. If you need childcare, let us know by Mar. 3 (\$3 per child).

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next events. We look forward to seeing you all soon! Any questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

March 11 - Joy of Thai Restaurant at 11103 W. 179th Orland Park on Sunday, at 1:00 p.m.

April 8 - Pots & Paints, 11226 Lincoln Hwy., Mokena, at 1:00 p.m. The pottery is already made and ready to decorate. Their selection starts at less than \$10 and includes mugs, flower pots, plates, etc. Once complete they will "fire" the pieces for pick up at a later date. Please use the sign-up slip for both of these events. Future events may include: Time at the Portaluca Center for Prayer, a tour of the Pedway in Chicago (an underground pathway system in the east loop), or an outing to the Center in Palos Park—keep your eyes open for updates!

Faith Discussion Group – March 8

Our small group meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss various topics, usually centered around a book, and are designed to deepen our faith and build relationships within the group. We welcome anyone to join- men and women of all ages-you do not have to attend all of the meetings! Our next is on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Janet Stoller's home. If interested, please email her at jlstoller2000@yahoo.com. P.S. we have great snacks!

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.

Mar. 11 - *What Does It Take to Be Inspirational?*

Mar. 18 - *Though I Walk through the Valley* (facing death, dying, defeat)

Mar. 25 - *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked* (a closer look at Holy Week & how that applies to our own lives)

April 1 - Easter Breakfast (no class)

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

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. March's passage is *Isaiah 53:1-6*.

Evening Bible Study – Mar. 20

Our next meeting date will be March 20 at 7:15 p.m. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to benefit. Luke 9:43 is where we will pick it up.

Results of Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 18 was another opportunity to celebrate the ministries of people doing God's work. We are very grateful for all those who were nominated to serve on the Council (see the thank you list). Those elected for a two-year term were Claudia Green, Todd Klock, Mark Ott, Kevin Rumbaugh, Erik Torkelson. Elected to serve as our youth representative was Emily Pfeffer. Our Nominating Committee for 2019 will consist of Glenn Vanderwall, Syndy Lindbloom, Jan Bentley, Chuck Vick, Dennis Wesel, George Rumbaugh.

Hymn Picking – Apr. 25

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place on Wednesday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m. Your input is always welcome! Please let us know that you're planning to come so we can get you a pre-list ahead of time.

Looking Ahead...

Mar. 2-4 – *Antioch Retreat*

Mar. 3/4 – *Girl Scout Weekend*

Mar. 10 – *Adult Fellowship Bunco 6:10*

Mar. 10/11 – *Bring a Cross Day*

Mar. 11 – *Blood Pressure Screenings – 9:30 - 11:00*

Mar. 25 – *Palm Sunday*

Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.

Mar. 29 – *Meal in the Upper Room 6:30*

Maundy Thursday Worship 8:00

Mar. 30 – *Good Friday Crosswalks –*

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

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

Good Friday Worship 7:30

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

Mar. 31 – *Easter Eve Worship 5:00*

Apr. 1 – *Easter Sunday worship 8:30 & 11:00*

Easter Breakfast 9:45 (no Sunday School)

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

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

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

Women's Group Pots and Paints 1:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Apr. 22 – *Reception of New Members 11:00*

New Member Luncheon 12 noon

Apr. 25 – *Hymn Picking 6:00 p.m.*

May 1 – *Caring Ministry Team 6:30 p.m.*

All Come Committee Night 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

VBS theme and dates announced

Next planning meeting – Apr. 3

Our amazing Vacation Bible School planning crew met and has created another outstanding opportunity for kids (and volunteers) to grow closer to God. Our theme will be *Finding God's Treasures*. The dates will be July 31 - Aug. 3. The next planning meeting will be Apr. 3 at 9:00 a.m. If you'd like to help in any way this year (including more planning!), please let us know in the office. Registration forms will be in a rack on the counter in the narthex.

Bring A Cross Day – Mar. 10 & 11

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. There are many crosses in our church building and we think you have some crosses that have significance for you, too. We invite you to bring that special cross to church with you on March 10 or 11 as a part of our worship experience. We will put a table at the front of the church and invite you to place your cross there for that service (and take it home with you afterwards.) We will include a prayer during worship and then both at the end of worship and after worship, we will invite people to come forward to the table and people can learn some of the stories of those crosses.

Lenten Opportunities – Add Something

It's not too late! Once again, our church invites you to take something on for your Lenten observance. This year the opportunities are to pick up one of the devotional options listed below, attend the Sunday morning adult class on the topic each week at 9:55, to do an act of caring for someone anonymously, to use one of the God's Global Barnyard coin boxes and help people around the world, take one of the special classes offered, or think of something of your own choosing!

Lenten Reflections (with Soup)

Feed both your spirit and your body! Join us at 12:15 p.m. on Sundays during lent, through 3/25 (Palm Sunday). Lent is a time many have the desire to deepen their faith, to learn more about the ministry of Jesus, his sacrifice, our role in it all - and what it means to us in our daily world now. We will share a simple meal, followed by devotion, prayer and reflection. It will be a time of quiet study and contemplation. Bring your questions, doubts, observations-whatever you wish us to lift up. Use the sign up so we can gauge interest-and have enough soup! Any questions contact Jan Stoller at 815-530-2786. You do not need to attend all sessions - come when you can.

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Mar. 11

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people (events) that are important to them by donating an Easter lily plant to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the entrance area of the church and the deadline to order is March 11. The cost of the plants is \$12. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (815) 485-5327.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

March 29

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

March 30

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

March 31

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

April 1

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

Meal in the Upper Room – Mar. 29

You are invited to the Maundy Thursday celebration of the "Meal in the Upper Room" on Mar. 29, at 6:30 p.m. This holiday is a celebration of the Jewish people's emancipation from slavery during the pharaoh's rule in Egypt. Led by Moses, we are reminded of the hardship that the Jews endured before achieving freedom. We are inspired by God's word and special music. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Bentley (815-485-3273) or Deb Howell (815-838-8478). Because of the special nature of this event, many volunteers are needed. Please call the church office if you are willing to help or if you would like to attend. The deadline to sign up is Mar. 25. Childcare is available. There is a maximum of 150 people for this meal, so be sure to sign up.

Good Friday Vigil – Mar. 30

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

Easter Breakfast – Apr. 1

This year's Easter breakfast on April 1 will begin about 9:45 after the 8:30 a.m. service and will conclude about 10:30 a.m. It will feature eggs and three kinds of meat, pancakes, French toast, fruit, juice, coffee, etc. The cost is a free will offering. Please call the church office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

The other night was a sobering night for me. With all of the news about the most recent school shooting in Florida, I have been wondering how our young people are doing. What are they thinking about? Are they afraid to go to school? Are they outraged? Has this become a normal part of their growing up? I decided to ask them.

We met for Peace 360 and I had about 11 high schoolers show up. We had a pasta bar for dinner and after everyone had their plate full of pasta, I began the discussion with a simple question of how are you doing? With everything we are hearing on the news how are you doing? It was a mixture of fear, frustration, strong opinions on what should and shouldn't be done. My heart broke as I listened to these young people, who an hour later would be playing hide and go seek together, talk about very grown up things. I was amazed by them as we talked about politics without getting political. They weighed in on gun control laws and like their grown - up counter parts did not reach a definitive decision. They asked hard questions of one another and gave thoughtful answers. One youth asked me why can't Christians do something about this, we should be able to do something about this. The group discussed this for a while and came up with some ideas of what we could do:

- 1) Care for people, especially those who seem to have no one
- 2) Be thoughtful about our responses to tragedy, especially on social media
- 3) Pray
- 4) Remind others of God's presence with God's people even in the midst of chaos

Our youth are wise! When I asked them what would help them to feel safe in school, they immediately answered metal detectors (which split me in two, they should be worried about homework assignments not metal detectors) and adults who will listen and act. They have all experienced an adult who did not have the time to listen. I reassured them that my office is always open, and that I am always available to listen. I promised them that if they were worried about something and other adults wouldn't listen, come to me, I will listen.

I invite you to make that promise with me. I invite you to promise to be a gentle listening ear, to hear and act on the concerns of our young people. Perhaps with trust in us will come a sense of safety and the ability to act like youth, whose biggest worry is there midterm grade not dying while at school. Please pray with me for our young people for their fears and for their joys, for their grown - up conversations, and their silly childish fun, for their trust in us and their trust in God. May they know the true, deep, and compassionate love of the God who knows every hair on their head. God's Peace,

March is Church-Wide Bring a Friend Month

The Outreach Committee especially wants to encourage you to bring a friend to worship with you during the month of March. (Of course, anytime is great!) What we're going to have as a bonus are \$5 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts to be given to each guest you bring. Reaching out to others is a genuine gift to all involved.

New Member Orientation in April

We will be receiving new members again in April. The orientations are April 15, at 9:45 and 6:30; the reception of new members will be April 22 during the 11:00 worship followed by a luncheon at noon. Please call the church office to let us know if you'll be involved.

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Mar. 11

High blood pressure can start at any age and can cause catastrophic illness in our bodies if it goes untreated. Our next monthly screening date is Mar. 11, between the two services. Your pressure will be measured by health care professionals and will be kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions, or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to be a part of the team, please contact Marylynn Tyler at 815-423-6407.

Blood Drive – Apr. 21

Thank you to everyone who donated in February. We collected 15 whole blood products, 5 double red cell products, had 1 incomplete & 6 deferrals. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Apr. 21 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

2018 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.

Daylight Savings Time

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

God's Work in Action

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

When I originally ran for New Lenox Trustee, it was mainly due to wanting to be an involved participant, rather than someone who just stood by the sidelines. It has been nearly a year since I was sworn in as Trustee and I have learned that it is much more than that.

The greatest part about being involved in the community where my wife and I have chosen to raise our daughter is having the opportunity to meet others throughout the community and recognize them for their accomplishments. As Trustee, I have the great opportunity to recognize those who serve others.

Whether it be through volunteering to local organizations, Boy or Girl Scouts, local businesses or honoring those who have served our great country, the fellowship I now have with others in this community is an unexpected and wonderful part of being Trustee.

As a family, we continue to form relationships with others throughout the community to strengthen our fellowship together as a family of three and to impact the community around us. That has made us stronger as a family and given us opportunity to serve together, even if it's just Vivien and me cheering on Mommy in a local 5k to benefit the community.

The experiences and fellowship I have had as Trustee are an added benefit of serving our community and I hope we continue to encourage others to participate as well.

Jasen Howard

Do You Have a Passion for the Environment?

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

Discussion Starters for Families

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

Expand Possibility: It can be exciting and stimulating for family members to help each other explore new possibilities together. Use these questions to talk together about how people have opened up possibilities for you—and other horizons you would love to explore together.

- What is one thing you really enjoy, (like music, ideas, food) that someone else in the family introduced you to? Tell the story of how they introduced you to it.
- What do you find to be enjoyable about spending time with people who are different from you family? What can make it hard?
- Who are (or were) significant adults outside the immediate family who have or had a big influence on your life? How did or do they influence you?

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

The asset for the month of March is:

Positive Peer Influence

Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.

March quote of the month:

"Surround yourself only with people who are going to lift you higher"

~ Oprah Winfrey

Youth Announcements High School

NEW TIME FOR PEACE 360

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!

Mar. 4– No Meeting

Mar. 11– Movie night at Church in our PJ's

Mar. 18– Skyzone

Mar. 25– Homelessness and Poverty Discussion

5th & 6th grade Rock climbing– Mar. 11

Please join us on March 11, as we head to the Sportsplex in Orland Park. We are going to go rock climbing!! The Sportsplex is located at 11351 W. 159th St. The price for this event is \$6. We will meet at church at 2:30 and we will be back to church at 4:30. Parents please use the signup in the bulletin. If you are interested in chaperoning\driving, please let the office know.

5th & 6th grade Pots and Paints– Apr. 8

Come on over to church after 11:00 a.m. service and we will order some pizza for lunch and then head over to Pots and Paints in Mokena. You can pick out your own pottery to paint, so the cost will vary. Prices start around \$13 and go up from there. Please let us know if your child would like to participate by using the sign-up sheet in the bulletin. Parents if you wish to chaperone/drive please call the church office.

Confirmation:

7th Grade – Mar. 7 & 21 6:30 p.m. – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

8th Grade – Mar. 14 & 21 6:30 p.m. – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

8th Grade Kids & Adults Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal– May 2

7:00 p.m. – Kids & Adults class

7th & 8th grade Zoo Trip- Apr. 7

Join us on April 7, at 10 a.m. We will meet at the church and go to the Lincoln Park Zoo. The cost is \$5 to help cover the cost of parking. Please use the sign up in the bulletin if your child would like to participate.

2018 Stewardship Appeal

“We Say Yes!” is the title for this year’s financial stewardship appeal. We will be making some visits, some phone calls, some written communications – all with an eye toward helping us look at how God has blessed us and how we are invited to respond. Commitment weekend will be May 5 & 6, and there will be many more pieces to share along the way.

Prayer Shawls

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

Questions Kids Ask

The questions keep coming! This past month we had questions ranging from the down-to-earth (Why did God give bees stingers?) to the deeply theological (How are Jesus and God connected? same? different?) We can be so proud of our kids who take the time to ask their questions (and hopefully hear the answers.)

A New Opportunity to Bless Others – Business Attire

Our Warm Coat campaign has once again brought an overwhelming, wonderful response. Now we have become aware of 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, suits, sport coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! Look for the bin in the narthex. (With/without hangers.)

Golden Opportunities Books - Now \$15

The discounted price for the Golden Opportunity books has been discounted to \$15. They’re filled with savings coupons that last until Oct. 1. (A portion of that goes to youth-related ministries.) Look for the display on the entrance area counter.

Because of You and Your Gifts

ELCA World Hunger, through Lutheran World Service India Trust, has helped the Santhal tribal people of West Bengal, India, learn beekeeping. This additional source of income, which requires no additional land and doesn't compete with their established agriculture, helps families provide for education and health care and improves the living situation overall. Jesus said, "You were hungry and gave me food."

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 and don't forget to borrow a book from the bin.)*

C.D.s & Podcast Available

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

Good Shepherd Group

Good Shepherd group is seeking donations of NEW beauty items (make-up, make-up brushes, eyeshadow, lotion, hair bands, cologne, lipstick, hair care products, combs and brushes), personal items, bathing items (sponges, bubble bath, shower gel), and travel size toiletries for homeless and abused persons.

Small Toys Needed

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

Recycling Items

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

The Hope Fund

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

Special Music

If you would like to provide special music (vocal or instrumental) during the worship services, please contact Kelly Muehnickel at (815) 463-8836 or email her at bluestonebay@comcast.net.

Do You Give Electronically or Want To?

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

New Show Added: Shrek – May 5

If you've seen the movie, you'll want to see the show. This one could not be more convenient: across the street at Lincoln-Way Central High School. The date will be May 5 at 7:00. Tickets are only \$10. We'd love to get a big block of tickets, so we're taking orders for round 1 of tickets by March 18. We'll keep adding tickets as long as they're available, but prime seating will be ours if we get the orders in "now". This family-friendly show has some great theology hidden among the humor, scenes, music, and characters. Use the sign-up or call the church office.