

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*

1900 E. Lincoln Hwy, P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451

815-485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org - web page: www.peacenewlenox.org

May 2019

Vol. XXIV, Issue 5

Creamy or Chunky?

Before the advent of (chocolate) Nutella and other versions like it, there were only two choices for peanut butter: smooth (creamy) or chunky. Eliminating Nutella from the mix, which isn't really peanut butter at all, which of the traditional ones is your favorite? It probably comes down to texture and how that feels in your mouth (or how easily it spreads.) There are all kinds of foods that could be classified by texture and accepted or rejected for that very reason. (You may not be surprised to hear I prefer ice cream to sushi.)

Texture-evaluations are not limited to food, of course. Fabrics/clothing purchases are sometimes made based on it. If you're a kid who has a blanket to suck on, you want something smooth. Some people like silks and satins (smooth), and some want the feel of jeans (chunky.)

Probably many of us would like the texture of our lives only to be smooth and creamy. We would like for life to come to us in manageable doses with positive outcomes all the time. But it doesn't work that way – sometimes way too often. Occasionally, we might like the small chunks and challenges that come our way because they bring variety and interest. But when it is one thing after another, or the one thing is huge, wouldn't most of us prefer "creamy"? I don't know anyone who *wants to* deal with addictions or cancer or divorce or mental illness or failure, for example.

One of the surprises of the Easter season in the church, is the reminder that God *volunteers* to enter the mixed world we inhabit. Beyond simply entering it, we see in Jesus a God who is not afraid to take on the chunky spots. Rejections, misunderstandings, loneliness, being attacked, having to deal with stubbornness – you name it and Jesus probably faced it. Even the worst chunk of them all, death, was experienced firsthand...and overcome.

Our relationship with God is not going to limit life to one wonderful texture. But our relationship can assure us that whatever momentary challenges come our way, they don't define our whole life. God can transform the worst textures into something "redeemed," and seeks to infuse meaning into all the creamy and chunky textures.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Ryan, Wally Paprocki, Brad, Julie, Dean Horsley, Joshua, Jill Goeglein, Grant Frick, Amber Goeglein, Jim Swyndro, Madlyn Howard, Anthony Inman, Nathan Mackey, Clayton, Fred, Robin, D.J., Kent, the family of Dominic Boer, Karen Padgen, Dirce Santos, Amanda Edwards, Dave Davenport, Tyler, Chris, Kristin, Dennis Flynn, Laurie Lee, Dave Boer, Bill Horsley, Deb, Julie, Mark M., Amanda, the family of Murdo Smith, the family of Dave Cripino, Pam, Joe Schultz, Suzanne & Andrew, Christy Chenoweth, Deb Howell, Birgee, Rick, Penny, Justin & Norma, Lula, Melissa, Josh, Jake, Judy's father, Liam, Cie, Claudia Cole, Joe Canniff, the family of Darcee Santos, Dan, Liz Werberling, John J., Claudia Green, Pam, Rosemary Tierney, Mary W., Lorie, Phil Boskey

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Georgette Maass, mother of Barb Otto

the family of Janis Sobun, mother of Keri Hagen & Joe Sobun

the family of Betty Woerner, mother of John Woerner

Congratulations

Kelsey Narish and Krutin Amin on their marriage on Jan. 29;

Mark & Allie Hammond, parents, and Jim & Ranette Travnik, grandparents, on the birth of Rowan Travnik Hammond on Mar. 5;

Blake & Karen Bassett, parents, and Jim & Debbie Bassett, grandparents, on the birth of Phillip James Bassett on Mar. 14;

Rick & Rachel Mitchell, parents, and Rick & Judy Mitchell, grandparents, on the birth of Lily Vita Mitchell on Mar. 25;

Josh & Lisa Hilbert, parents, and Larry & Diana Brewer, grandparents, on the birth of Delilah Eve Hilbert on Apr. 17.

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:

Chris Jarchow – lay liturgist
Darrell Holmquist – Adult Education Hour
presentation on Lincoln Highway
Priscilla Huffman, Renee Gatewood, Linda Goesel,
Chuck Vick, Diane & Ed Cochran, Diane Weber and
Olivia Koenig – Stewardship callers

From:

Joan Cull – for the prayer shawl
Pediatric Oncology Center – for the toys
Classical Conversations Homeschoolers Group – for
the use of our classrooms

Our Missionary

Louisa Ishida is from Villa Park, graduated from
Valparaiso University, and is serving in Swaziland in
Southern Africa. Her blog address is
<https://eswatiniexperience.wordpress.com/>
Her physical address is:
PostNet Suite 30
Private Bag X6
Cascades
3203
South Africa

Addresses for Service Personnel

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

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.

Small Toys Needed

Jodie Brugler is creating a prize box for the children at
the school where she works. If you have any small toys
laying around your house and would like to donate them,
please look for the box marked small toys in the narthex.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Kacy John Philip Talaga was baptized on Apr. 27.

Offering Envelopes

The new offering envelopes (that begin in June) will be
available starting May 4/5. Please look for them on the
table in the narthex.

Follow Us on Social Media

Snapchat: plutheranchurch
Instagram: peacelutheranchurch1062
Twitter: peacechurch1062
Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church
Deacon Shari will be updating Facebook each month and
the youth will be keeping up with the other three.

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.

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).

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **May 26**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

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

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

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

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Currently not meeting - please watch the newsletter for future dates.
- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.
- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.
For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

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

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

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

Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

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

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

Donations for MorningStar Treasure Chest

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

Business Attire Collection

The Will County Center for Community Concerns helps people who are unemployed find jobs, including training them for interviews and for how to dress for success. Many of the people do not have adequate clothing. We can help! We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! We'll collect these items **through May 12**.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mon., May 6 & 20

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

Men's Dartball – Tues., May 14

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

Peace Buddies – Sun., May 19

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. New Buddies are always welcome! Our next meeting is Sun., May 19. You do not have to be a part of our church to join us. We usually meet on the third Sunday of the month from **noon – 2:00 p.m.** Questions, see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546.

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. Please watch the bulletin and newsletter for our upcoming events. Questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786.

Strong Seniors Exercise Group

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week; Mondays 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Questions, call Anita Drake (815) 299-4417.

Prayer Shawl – Wed., May 15 & 29

Come and prepare shawls for people who need to be wrapped in God's love. We meet every other Wed. at 6:00 p.m. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl 815-462-3089. If you know someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl, look for the request box on the narthex counter.

Out to Eat Group – Sat., June 15

The next destination for the Out to Eat Group will be at Fajitas (19118 88th Avenue, Mokena) on Sat., June 15, meeting there at 6:30 p.m. Check out their menu, and please let us know if you're planning to attend. All are welcome!!! [A reminder for those of you getting this newsletter before May 4: Out to Eat is going to the Peppermill Restaurant (19137 Wolf Rd, Mokena) on Sat., May 4, meeting there at 6:30.]

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

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

Ping Pong Club – Sun., May 19

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

Trailblazers – Tues., May 21

Our next meeting will be our usual luncheon on Tues., May 21 at noon here at church. The food will be pizza plus what you bring. The program will be portions of the talent show & a game! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Invite a friend!

Peace Page Turners – Sun., June 23

The next meeting will be June 23 at 9:45 a.m. We will discuss *Hidden Figures*: the American dream and the untold story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race by Margot Lee Shetterly. There are copies of the book in Kathy Davenport's mailbox. If you borrow one, please let her know which copy you took. All are welcome. Questions, contact Kathy at 815-545-2806.

Adult Class Topics...

Come to our Sunday ***weekly adult class***. It usually meets in the back of the sanctuary, starting about 9:55. Here are the scheduled topics for the coming month.

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

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

May 12 - *Q & A - What Things Do You Have Trouble Understanding/Believing about God?*

May 19 - *"Four" Words to Inner Peace* (The number of words we might use will vary and we'll concentrate on inner peace/contentment, not happiness.)

May 26 - *How to Cope with Politics - What We Can Learn from Jesus*

June 2 - *First Things First - God* (From ancient times to today, why it is so easy to forget)

June 9 - *Why Are We Lutherans & Why Do We Do/Think Certain Ways?*

Summer Sunday & Other Class Ideas

Before we know it, the regular Sunday School year will be over (May 19), and summer adult class sessions will be up and running. Each year Pastor Dave solicits ideas for classes you would like to have. He usually does these between services on Sunday, but is open to other times as well. Please use the sign-up in the bulletin or call the church office. The first one will be June 3.

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: Matthew 15:21-28.

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings - Sun., May 12

Our next monthly screening date is Sun., May 12, between the two services. Your pressure is measured by health care professionals and kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to help, please contact Marylynn Tyler at (815) 423-6407.

Looking Ahead...

May 8 - *Hymn Picking 6:00 p.m.*

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

May 11/12 - *Mother's Day & Quilt Display*

May 15 - *Budget Meeting 11:00 a.m.*

May 19 - *Last Day of Sunday School*

Confirmation Sunday 11:00 a.m. (1st option)

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

Cub's Game 1:20 p.m.

5th & 6th gr. Messy Games Event 12:00 p.m.

May 28 - *Church Council 7:30 p.m.*

June 1/2 - *Recognition of Graduates*

June 9 - *Sunday School Feast with Friends 9:45 a.m.*

***National Youth Gathering interest meeting
12 noon***

Outdoor Worship & Potluck 6:00 p.m.

June 15 - *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

June 16 - *Special Congregational Meeting 9:35*

Ice Cream Social 9:45 a.m.

July 29 - *Vacation Bible School Set-up*

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

Genealogy Group - Sat., June 29

The next gathering for anyone interested in learning more about how to do genealogical searches will be Sat., June 29, at 10:00. We'll have a working session where you can bring your own work-to-date and help each other get going further. Even if you haven't started yet, you can benefit by coming. Please join us.

National Youth Gathering Interest Meeting - Sun., June 9

We would like to get together on Sun., June 9 at 12p.m. with all who are or may be interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota in July of 2021. ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis. June 29 - Sat., July 3, 2021. Students going into 8th gr. through those going into 12th gr. in the fall of 2021 are eligible. Any adults interested in helping chaperone, please come to this meeting also.

Blood Drive - Sat., June 15

Thank you to everyone who donated in April. We registered 27 people, collected 20 units of blood and had 7 deferrals. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Sat., June 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
The month of May is full of exciting things for our youth. With the approaching summer, daily stresses and responsibilities are wrapping up and the time of the year where we celebrate our youth and their accomplishments is beginning. We as a congregation have a lot to celebrate!

Did you know that we have a large group of teens graduating from high school this year? We do! As a congregation we will be honoring all on Graduation Weekend (June 1 & 2), as well as celebrating this accomplishment by awarding several scholarships. During the month of May each high school has a senior award night and Peace will be present at 4 different scholarship nights. How exciting to be able to support our teens in this way. We as Lutherans believe in the importance of education and service to others. Our high school seniors are going out into the world to make a difference and point to Jesus in all they do. In this month we will also celebrate our 8th graders as they affirm their faith and are confirmed. This is an exciting moment in a young person's faith life. At our baptism our faith is affirmed for us, but in our confirmation, we affirm our faith for ourselves. These youth have worked hard for two years and have asked big questions. They have discerned what it means to be a believer is Jesus and they are promising to continue this discernment for their whole lives. Join us in giving thanks to God for the gift of faith and in celebrating these amazing youth.

As the school year ends there will be so many opportunities to acknowledge the gifts and talents of our youth. Many will participate in end of the year band/chorus/orchestra concerts. Think about attending one! Others will have tournaments and competitions in a variety of different sports. Go and cheer them on! We even have youth that will be participating in plays and musicals. Treat yourself to a night of entertainment all while supporting our youth at the same time!

May is such a fun month! The weather is warmer, and the earth is alive and blooming. People are out and about. There are opportunities to share in fellowship with one another. What a joyous time it is! Let us give thanks to God!

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

Called by Grace Stewardship Appeal

Commitment Weekend is May 4 & 5. Each year we ask you to pray and consider what God is leading you to do in terms of your financial response. We are grateful for all the gifts we have received in the past, and for the ministries they have enabled in our church, community and world-wide.

If you haven't read about this year's appeal, you can go online or pick up materials at church.

What steps should we take?

- 1) Go to our website and look for the 2019 stewardship tab, or pick up materials here at church.
<http://www.peacenewlenox.org/stewardship-2019/>
- 2) Pray, reflect, and consider how you will respond to God's love and all that Peace means to you.
- 3) Consider how that response will be translated into your financial giving level for the next fiscal year, starting June 1. As a church, we agreed to take on an intern in August, and encourage all of us to respond with joyful anticipation!
- 4) Share your giving intentions, either online or through a Giving Intentions Card.

Welcome New Members

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

Johnny & Elizabeth Russler and JJ & Lucy

Budget Meeting – Wed., May 15

This year's opportunity to help put together the budget for 2019-2020 will be May 15 at 11:00 a.m. It is such a blessing to work on this after we have received people's joyful responses to our appeal! (We don't give to a budget. We let a budget help point to where God is leading us.)

Mother's Day Singing – Sun., May 12

We have a tradition for Mother's Day weekend for how we sing the opening hymn. We hope you'll add your voice to the glory of God!

Hymn Picking – Wed., May 8

The next round of picking hymns for the period of June through November will take place on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m. Your input is always welcome! Please let us know that you're planning to come so we can get you a pre-list ahead of time.

What's the Scoop – Sun., May 5

At this new version of what used to be called “Everybody Come” night, we want to include you in brainstorming ideas and getting them going. We will meet Sunday, May 5, 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 & Potluck – Sun., June 9 Hosting Sunny Hill & Santa Cruz

On Sun., June 9, at 6:00 p.m., we will have an outdoor worship service (if it’s raining or cold we’ll be in Fellowship Hall.) It will be a shortened service but otherwise have all the regular pieces, including special music! Following the worship we will also have a time of fellowship with a potluck. We will provide sloppy joes and hotdogs. So, bring side dishes, salads or desserts. We will also be hosting residents from Sunny Hill Nursing Home and Santa Cruz/First Lutheran in Joliet. Use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office if you are able to join us.

Informal Golf Group

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

Operation Care Package

You can almost see the smiles from here! OPERATION CARE PACKAGE will send a package with many thoughtful things inside to our deployed military. If you would like to add another name to the list, all we need is a name, address, birthday month and day, and dates of deployment. A package will be sent to them. If you have a family member, friend, or neighbor to whom we may send a package, please send your information to: jpsywn@att.net.

Special Congregational Meeting – June 16

A special congregational meeting has been called for June 16 at 9:35 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!

Strawberries, Cake, & Ice Cream – June 16

You’ll want to come (or stay) on June 16 between services for our twelfth 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 calling the church office or using the sign-up at church. The previous eleven years were delicious successes! (And it will be a fun way for us to honor Father’s Day too.)

Tickets

Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me -Thurs., June 20 at 7:30 p.m. During the heyday of radio, many shows used studio audiences during presentation or recording. That is still alive and well in Chicago with National Public Radio's performance of this comedic look at current news and culture at the Chase Bank Auditorium at 10 S. Dearborn in Chicago. Ticket price is \$30 and we are thinking about a bus to get us there. We will need your commitment to the show (and bus) no later than **May 5**. *Hamlet* - Sun., June 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier. Tickets will be \$70 on the main floor, and we have 4 left, but should be able to get a few more. These productions are first-rate and make Shakespeare come alive (and understandable.) As Hamlet himself might have said "To go or not to go....that is the question." No doubt about it. GO! Use the sign-up sheet or call the church office.

VBS Tues., July 30 – Fri., Aug. 2

Our amazing Vacation Bible School planning crew met and has created another outstanding opportunity for kids (and volunteers) to grow closer to God. Our theme will be *God's Love is Out of this World*. The dates will be July 30 - Aug. 2. The next planning meeting will be May 22 at 9:00 a.m. If you’d like to help in any way this year (including more planning!), please let us know in the office. Registration forms are available on the counter in the narthex or sign up online. **For one of the crafts, we need empty water bottles (approximately 16 oz. size) with the tops still on them.**

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., May 5 – What's the scoop 12p.m. Then meet at AMC in New Lenox- Endgame at 3:00 \$10 for a ticket.

Sun., May 12 – Games! Hotdogs for dinner

Sun., May 19 – Service Project- Park clean up

Sun., May 26 – Scavenger Hunt

Summer Schedule is as follows:

Sun., June 9 Sun., July 14 Sun., Aug. 4

Sun., June 23 Sun., July 28 Sun., Aug. 18

Teen Bible Study – Wednesdays

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

Wed., May 15 Wed., June 12 & 26

Wed., July 10 & 24 Wed., Aug. 14 & 28

Confirmation Sunday dates

Confirmation Sundays will be held at the 11:00 services on May 19 and May 26. Please let the office know which date your 8th grader would like to be confirmed. You can also use the sign up in the bulletin.

Movie Night – Sat., May 18

Sunday School youth K-12 grade are invited to come and watch Aladdin and have some pizza on May 18 at 6:00 p.m. Come in your pj's if you want! Sign up online, use the sign up in the bulletin or use the sign up in the narthex.

5/6th Graders Messy Games – Sun., May 26

It's time to get MESSY! Have you ever used your nose or ear as a paint brush? No? Come and learn how! We will meet on Sun., May 26 at 12:00 p.m. Be prepared to stick your toes in Jell-O, paint with pudding and throw spaghetti! Please come in clothes that can get messy! We will eat pizza for lunch so bring a couple dollars to contribute for that. Parents, please use the sign-up form on the website, in the bulletin, or the sign-up sheet on the counter.

Feast with Friends – Sun., June 9

Sunday School youth ages K-12 grade are invited to have a pancake breakfast from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Please use the online sign up on our church website.

Building assets in youth and community

Our asset this month is **Personal Power**: A young person feels he or she has control over "what happens to me". 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:

Express confidence in your children's abilities. Give kids age appropriate choices at all stages of their lives. Teach your children life skills.

In the church or public organization:

Give youth a say in planning activities for the youth program. Within your group explore healthy ways to handle stress.

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

**The asset for the month of May is:
Personal Power**

May quote of the month:

**"Personal power is the ability to take action."
-Anthony Robbins**

College Information Packets

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

Summer Camp

Summer camp is a great way for kids to enjoy God's creation in fellowship with others. Three great options are Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC), Camp Manitoqua, and Lutherdale in Wisconsin. Brochures are now available on the narthex counter. Or you can look, and register, online at www.LOMC.org and www.manitoqua.org and www.lutherdale.org.

My Faith Story

Switching churches 13 years ago as a freshman in high school was a nerve-racking experience; not knowing anyone or the way things ran in service seemed like it was going to be an intimidating experience. However, the first day of coming to Peace Lutheran Church was far from what my fears were. People of all ages kindly greeting my family and I, having conversations with church members as if we had already known each other and seeing the variety of kids, young adults, and adult group activities to become involved in made Peace an infectious family environment to become a part of.

As I look back 13 years ago, it is evident that God brought Peace into my life at just the right time. The supporting and friendly environment has been and continues to be a resource that I relied on to help carry me in faith through high school, college, and now my adult life. Even though I find myself to feel busy and overwhelmed with day-to-day life, it is Peace that reminds me to slow down and to take a moment to see what is truly important and to keep God present in all that I do.

~ Kathryn Wolske

Because of You and Your Gifts

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

Questions Kids Ask Update

The effort to produce a Spanish version of the book and the coloring book continues to move forward. We have a draft copy that people who speak and write Spanish are reviewing.

Meanwhile, the questions keep coming, including this one: *Are there other places we can learn about God (besides church)?* A gazillion places! Anything can be a place to learn more about God as long as we are open to looking/hearing/sensing. To get started, make a list from A to Z and start thinking of a place for each letter (A = airplane, for example.)

Caregiver Tip of the Month

One of many books on our display table includes valuable information and helpful tips. In *The Good Caregiver* book you can find: The Home Safety Checklist and How to Make them Safer which includes: windows and doors, floors, steps, stairs, walkways, appliances, kitchen and bath, storage, electrical outlets, switches and alarms. Other excellent chapters include: Finding a Good Doctor, Caring for Yourself, Money and the Law and Moving Time. Making a decision is not easy, sometimes confusing and difficult, but many resources can help. You don't have to go on resource overload, just getting a few tips here and there can make your life and the life of your loved one a little easier. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex.)

Willing to Help at Worship?

Summer is a busy time and the office is frequently looking for substitutes for the many Worship roles, such as usher, communion server, nursery or acolyte. Please let the office know if you would be willing to help and we will contact you when a need arises.

Recyclable & Craft Donations for Frankfort Kids Work Museum

In order to have a cost-effective craft area for the children who visit the KidsWork Museum in Frankfort, they rely on donations of clean, recyclable materials. **Please make sure your items are clean before dropping them off.** They are in need of egg cartons, toilet paper & paper towel tubes, and yogurt containers. Crafty items like full sheets of felt, buttons, sequins, pipe cleaners and googly eyes would all be appreciated.