

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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From Pastor Gary Erickson

Mark 4:30-32

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Mustard seeds remind us that big results can come from humble beginnings. Redoing the exterior of the church began humbly with an inspection of the siding. Big results are on their way.

At the end of June, the congregation voted to enter into a contract for replacing the siding on the church and repairing two sections of Dryvit stucco. The repairs are necessary to keep the building watertight and beautiful.

As of this writing the Dryvit repairs are complete. The larger, and more expensive project is replacing the siding on the church. That project will begin in September.

The total cost of the project is +/- \$100,000.00 dollars. It is a big project that will have big results. Extending the life and usefulness of the building at 1900 East Lincoln Hwy. means many more years of worship, Christian education, and fellowship from this wonderful space.

So, how will it be paid for? Generous donations up through July 20 have resulted in \$26,000.00 + being given to the project. Additionally, another \$20,000.00 has been endowed to Peace to be matched by congregational gifts to the siding fund.

The matching endowment is a gift from Ron Bergmark. The endowment works in this way – all donations from the congregation received after July 21 will become worth twice as much all the way to \$20,000.00. A gift of \$5.00 becomes \$10.00, \$100.00 becomes \$200.00, etc.

But wait! There's more! The siding project is not only about raising funds, but also about our congregation's legacy. The siding project endows an important landmark for present and future generations of Christ's followers.

The new siding has a 50-year life expectancy! With the congregation's legacy in mind, we are introducing a program known as "buy a board."

All givers from the beginning of the project until the siding is installed will have an opportunity to sign your name, write a statement of faith, or leave a word of thanksgiving on the back side of some of the siding. Imagine, 50 years from now, if the siding needs to be replaced, your name, your words, your thanksgivings will come to light when the signed boards are replaced.

"Buy a board" contributions can be any size and all gifts given after July 21 will count toward the \$20,000.00 match. It's exciting to think that "buy a board" gifts will be strengthened through the matching gift.

Thank you for your generosity – today's gifts mean tomorrow's faithful have a solid place to worship, learn, and grow.

With gratitude,

Pastor Gary Erickson

Prayers Requested

The family of Mike Slimko, Bubba, Lisa, Paul Haag, Lois Reil, Loren Drews, Debbie Brouwer, Rick Davis, Cheryl Davis, the family of Ruth Price, John Parker, Frank P, Chris C, Margaret Skurka

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Emily Su Chin Li was baptized on July 16

Archie Gianna Conway was baptized on July 16

Thank You Very Much!

We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen!

To:

Hannah Brandau, Donna Breen, Caitlyn Brown, Jodie Brugler, Sophia Campos, Deacon Shari, Karen Dircks, Anita Drake, Cheryl Gamen, Claudia Green, Erin Hadley, Lila Hadley, Deb Howell, Val Johnson, Taylor Kessling, Audrey Kingery, Abbey Lindeman, Jess Lindeman, Brenna Lovell, Jennifer Paape, Sydnee Paape, Zander Paape, Janet Park, Pastor Gary, Georgia Piech Pander, Amelia Rogers, Lauren Rogers, Amber Salutric, Ava Schwoebel, Christina Spreadbury, Tonya Stellwagen, Cadence Trotter, Marylynn Tyler – Vacation Bible School planners & volunteers who made our Vacation Bible School such a great success!

From:

ELCA World Hunger – for the donation

Worship Details

Saturday worship 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00am. 8:30am service is live streamed.

* Masks are optional but are encouraged for all who are at all concerned.

* We are now passing the offering plate if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.

* If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

To sign up for anything, to ask a question, or to share a thought, we suggest using the church's email: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Part Time Custodian Needed

Peace is in need of a part time custodian. We have a full job description that outlines the duties and vision for the job that we would happily share with anyone who is interested. The job likely will require about 15-20 hours per week. For more information, contact the church at 815-485-5327 or peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Your Offerings Matter & Are Appreciated!

You can donate online or mail in your offering to Peace Church, PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451
No matter how: thanks for your offerings – they are making a difference at Peace, in our community, in our country and around the world!

Electronic Giving

If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. You can also give on-line at any time through 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.

2023 Flower Chart

2023 dates are available to donate flowers for the altar. Any week we have people who wish to donate them we will order them. You may call or email the church office. The cost per arrangement is \$20.

Because of You

Rows and rows of tents house most of the residents of Kirikhan, Turkey. But the conditions are dire. There aren't enough showers or bathrooms in this temporary tent community. There isn't even enough electricity to run the stove.

Your gifts to Lutheran World Relief provide lifesaving food, safe dry shelter, clean water, working latrines, critically needed medical care, school kits and more. Your act of kindness means so much to families, like Azra's, who lost everything. Amidst all the loss, they still have their faith. And the comfort of knowing that neighbors like you are willing to reach out and help.

Hearing Assistance Available

We are happy to offer wireless receivers to assist anyone with a hearing impairment. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one.

Community Resources

- * **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic**
free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify 815-726-3377, ext. 228.
- * **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**
call/text 988 or online chat at www.988lifeline.org
- * **Joliet Area Hospice Support Groups**
www.joliethospice.org or 815-740-4104
- * **Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available**
please contact the church office
- * **Guardian Angel Community Services**
Sexual assault & rape crisis services
24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984
- * **LSSI's Joshua Arms**
independent & supportive living units for seniors
www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms or 815-727-6401
- * **NAMI - National Alliance for Mental Illness**
815-409-7917
info@namiwillgrundy.org or www.namiwillgrundy.org

Looking Ahead

Aug. 6 – NYG Q & A with Deacon Shari
Aug. 8 – Trailblazer's 12pm
Men's Dartball 7:30pm
Aug. 12 – Blood Drive 9am-1pm
Lay Liturgist Training 1pm
Baptism Orientation 3:30pm
Aug. 13 – National Youth Gathering Meeting 9:45am
Blood Pressure Checks 9:45-10:45am
SS Teacher/Helper Orientation 12pm
Aug. 15 – Tavern Talk 6:30-8:30pm
Aug. 20 – Church Budget Q & A 9:45am
Aug. 22 – Tuesdays at Peace Book Club 10am
Aug. 27 – Peace Page Turners 9:45am
Aug. 27 – Peace 360 (7-12 graders) and Adults Event
Planning Meeting 9:45am
Aug. 29 – Church Council 7pm
Aug. 31 – Adult Fellowship Wurst Fest
Sept. 5 – Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes 7pm
Sept. 6 – Adult Choir Rehearsal Resumes 7pm
Sept. 9 – Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal Resumes 3pm
Sept. 10 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am
7th-12th gr. Messtival! 12pm
Sept. 14 – Confirmation Orientation 7pm
Sept. 22-24 – Women's Retreat at Tower Hill

Groups

Quilting – Mon., Aug. 14 & 28

Ruth Circle Quilting meets every other Monday from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Come whenever you would like.

Trailblazers – Tues., Aug. 8

We invite anyone who is anything but “over the hill” to come together on Tues., Aug. 8 at 12noon. Bring \$5; the food will be provided.

Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.

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

Men's Dartball - Tues., Aug. 8

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30pm - 9pm in Fellowship Hall. No prior experience needed or helpful. Please join us!

Golf Group

Wednesdays at 8:50am, usually at Woodruff Golf Course in Joliet. Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Please contact the office if you would like to sign up for emails.

Peace Page Turners - Sun., Aug. 27

The next meeting of the book club is Aug. 27 at 9:45am. We will discuss *Grandma Gatewood's walk: the inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery. Copies of the book are available to be checked out at church. Everyone is welcome!

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club – Tues., Aug. 22

The Tuesdays at Peace book club will be meeting Tues., Aug. 22 at 10am. We will be discussing *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain. All are welcome!

Adult Fellowship – Frankfort Lions Club Wurst Fest – Thurs., Aug. 31

Join us for an evening of food, drink, and music to celebrate Frankfort's German Heritage at The Garden at Kansas & Oak Streets in downtown Frankfort. Live German music along with German food and beer will be available for purchase along with raffles to win some cool items. Tickets are \$20 and admits two adults into the event. Purchase tickets at the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce 815-683-8283 or frankfortlions@gmail.com.

Addiction and Family Support Group

The Addiction & Family Support Group meets at Peace on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm. This support group meeting is for those struggling and those who love them. Questions, contact the church office.

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing resource? You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we will pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month. August's passage is Mark 4:30-32.

Announcements

Siding Project Donations

Thank you to all who have contributed to the siding project! Please see Pastor Gary's newsletter article for more details and look for the donations thermometer in the narthex that will mark our progress to our goal.

Call Process Update

After the initial interviews of our three candidates, one candidate was released, one candidate withdrew, and the Call Committee will be interviewing the remaining candidate and also seeking additional names of possible candidates next week. Please keep our congregation and the Call Committee in your prayers as we take the next steps in the call process.

Coffee and Conversation – Mondays

Every Monday morning from 10-11am, Deacon Shari will be holding office hours at Gost Coffee on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Please come grab a cup of joe and share in conversation.

National Youth Gathering Q & A with Deacon Shari – Sun., Aug. 6

If you would like to attend NYG but have questions, come join Deacon Shari on Sun., Aug. 6 at 9:45am to get them all answered!

Blood Drive – Sat., Aug. 12

Thank you to everyone who donated in June! Our next blood drive is Sat., Aug. 12, from 9:00am -1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5597808 to make an appointment.

Baptism Orientation – Sat., Aug. 12

The next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months will be on Saturday, Aug. 12, at 3:30pm. Please email the church office if you will be attending.

Blood Pressure Checks – Sun., Aug. 13

Do you know that high blood pressure (hypertension) is called the "Silent Killer", because many people don't know that they have it? Hypertension can cause heart disease, heart attacks, strokes, aortic aneurysms, and even kidney disease! Don't let this happen to you. Get your blood pressure checked! We'll make it easy for you - we will once again be offering free blood pressure checks between worship services on the second Sunday of each month. Your pressure will be checked by medical professionals and all results will be strictly confidential.

Sunday School Teacher & Helper Orientation – Sun., Aug. 13

Our Sunday School staff gathers before the start of Sunday School to help get to know each other, help new teachers and staff get acquainted with our Sunday School ministry, get our supplies and curriculum, and generally have a good time! This year's orientations will be Sun., Aug. 13 at 12pm in Fellowship Hall. We would love if our substitute teachers can join us, too!

Tavern Talk – Tues., Aug. 15

On the third Tuesday of the month, we will have an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Deacon Shari will gather at Hickory Creek Brewery on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Come grab a drink of choice and a slice of pizza. Pizza on us, drinks on you. It is also open mic night at the Brewery so feel free to strut your stuff if you would like! We will be there from 6:30-8:30pm, come as you are able!

Church Budget Q & A – Sun., Aug. 20

On Sun., Aug. 20 at 9:45am the Executive Committee will be holding an informational question and answer session about the 2023/2024 church budget. Please bring all of your questions and join us in the sanctuary for information about our new budget.

Bell Choir Resumes – Tues, Sept 5

Bell Choir rehearsals resume on Tues., Sept. 5 at 7pm. Please join us! For more information contact the church office.

Adult Choir Welcomes New Voices – First Rehearsal is Wed., Sept. 6

Has a little voice been telling you to make a joyful noise unto the Lord? Are you singing in the car? Annoying friends and family with karaoke? Then the Adult Choir would LOVE to welcome you! Men and women. No auditions, no experience! We start up again on Wed., Sept. 6 at 7pm. If you would like information, please contact the office.

Ladies Ensemble Invites You to Join! – First Rehearsal is Sat., Sept. 9

Calling all Ladies!!! The Ladies Ensemble is a fun group of Peace women who love to sing and fellowship. Our first practice is Sat., Sept. 9 at 3pm. We only practice once a month and if you love to sing, please consider joining this joyous group! Call the church office for more information.

Calling All Musicians

The Adult Choir is looking for flutists, guitarists and drummers to accompany them at worship occasionally. If you would like to help out with this ministry, please call or email the church office.

Cross Generational Women's Retreat – Fri., Sept. 22 - Sun., Sept. 24

We invite women ages 21 and older to join Deacon Shari at the Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, MI. The cost will be \$100, this includes lodging for 3 days and 2 nights and meals. If you would like to participate, but the cost involved is keeping you from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. Please talk with Deacon Shari. Please use the sign-up slip.

Register for 2023/2024 Sunday School

We look forward to a great year starting on Rally Day, Sept. 10. We rely on the registration forms to give us updates and to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School. Please fill out a registration form, [register online](#), or call the church office.

From Deacon Shari Simon

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

This month I will register our delegation for the National Youth Gathering in 2024. The Gathering will be held in New Orleans in July of 2024 and the theme will be "Created to Be". This summer we had an interest meeting. Even if you were not able to attend that meeting you can sign up!

All youth going into 8th grade through graduating seniors are eligible to go to the National Youth Gathering. I am so excited for the opportunity to share not only the National Youth Gathering but also the city of New Orleans with our youth. New Orleans has been the host city several times before and was my favorite city to host the gathering. New Orleans brings music, great food, and genuine people as well as a real opportunity to serve and be the hands and feet of Christ.

The National Youth Gathering is one of those events that everyone should participate in at least once. It is the reason many young people go into ministry, and it is also an event that strengthens a person's faith in a way that no other event can. Imagine being a youth who is the only Christian in their group of friends and then being surrounded by 30,000 other believers that are in your age group. This event creates community, comradery, and bravery for a young person to then go and share their faith with those at home. You, young people, are Created to be Faithful and I'm excited to share this event with you.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact me and I can get that for you! If you are worried about finances for the trip, please know that I have several people who believe in this experience as well and no youth who wants to participate will miss because of money. This is THE BEST event that we do as a congregation, as a Church, and as a youth group. Please consider attending and come to me with any questions.

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Simon

Prayer Shawls Available

Do you know someone who is in need of being wrapped in prayer, to know they are being prayed for? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has prayer shawls available for you or someone you know. A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation. Please put in your requests in the Prayer Shawl box in the narthex and you will be contacted when your shawl is ready for pickup. Please make sure to include your contact information, the recipient's first name and the prayer concern. You may also contact the office directly for a shawl.

Helping Others

School Supply Collection for Santa Cruz

The stores are getting school supplies out earlier and earlier! So, we'll be happy to accept your donations of them that we'll give to Santa Cruz, our mission partner in Joliet. Please put them in the collection bin in the narthex by Aug. 6.

Small Toy Collection

If you have any small toys like McDonald's Happy Meal toys or dollar store toys laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the bin in the hall going to Fellowship Hall. These toys are donated to a school to be used as prizes for under privileged students.

Help Others Fund

Alongside our regular giving that helps all kinds of people in need, we also have a special "help others" fund within our general fund. It is targeted to help people who need food or gas. We continue to be diligent in making sure the money actually goes to people in need.

Needs List for Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

Santa Cruz has a food & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring these anytime and put them in the baskets on the floor heading into Fellowship Hall. They are in need of bottled water & juice, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, jello, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, any type of treats – pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc.

Youth

National Youth Gathering Meeting – Sun., Aug. 13

Youth who are in 8th -12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2023) are eligible to attend the National Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. If you are interested in attending, please join Deacon Shari at church on Sun., Aug. 13, at 9:45am in Fellowship Hall. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is due then. Please remember that if you can't afford that, we have a Hope Fund for exactly these situations!

Peace 360 (7-12 Graders) and Adults Planning Meeting – Sun., Aug. 27

Our 7-12 graders and their adults are invited to meet with Deacon Shari so we can discuss and plan this year's events! Please meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45am and bring your planners/calendars. We will talk about some of the things the youth would like to participate in and pick some dates!

7th-12th Gr. Messtival! - Sun., Sept. 10

Youth 7th grade and older are invited to join us for the messiest of messy events...MESSTIVAL! On Rally Day, Sept. 10 at 12pm we will meet for a pizza lunch and then we will get super messy! Please let us know if you can attend! We suggest that you wear play clothes or something you do not mind getting dirty. Bring a towel and a pair of goggles if you have them. Please use the [Online sign up](#) or use the -up slip in the bulletin. Pick up will be 2pm.

Confirmation Orientation –Wed., Sept. 13

Please join Deacon Shari for Confirmation orientation. This is a meeting for all students in 7th and 8th grades and at least one parent/adult is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 7:00 p.m. This important night incorporates information about schedules, expectations, youth events, volunteering, and more! If you know someone who is not a part of any church but has a student in this age bracket, please invite them to come too. You can register your youth online here, [Confirmation Registration](#).