

April 2026

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 to God in Christ.*



A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- The O'Neal Family
- Donna Grant
- Carly
- Pam Vanick
- Sarah Lofgren
- David Star
- Charles
- Kathy
- Deb Howell

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO:

The Family of
Chris Fehrenkamp

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people
read a common Bible
passage is part of our
Book of Faith effort.

March passage is:
John 13:1

Holy Week is here. This week takes us into the greatest story of love and sacrifice that ever was. Palm/Passion Sunday will first tell us about when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, a major seat of political, religious, and military power in the Roman Empire, on a donkey, a symbol of service, instead of a war horse. Then, at the end of worship, we will hear the Passion story.

That wasn't always the case in many churches. Many churches celebrated Palm Sunday and left the Passion narrative for the other days in Holy Week. But the church people that get to make big decisions noticed that many people weren't going to Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services (no judgement if this is true for you), and so they decided to include the Passion on Palm Sunday so more people would hear the full story. Because really, if you think about it, if you didn't come to Good Friday, you would never hear the story of the crucifixion. And that's an important story.

Maundy Thursday covers the lead up to the crucifixion. Jesus' final moments with his disciples, his last words to his friends, and the washing of their feet. Good Friday of course asks us to consider how the Savior of the world was murdered by the crowds, the authorities, and the sin that still turns our own hearts away from God and one another. They are powerful services.

So I invite you to join us as much as you can this Holy Week. Even if that means tuning in to the livestream services. It will make the joy of Easter that much more meaningful.

With you on the journey to the cross and beyond,
Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of February 28, 2026

Feb. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$57,278	\$473,728	\$602,158

Feb. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$57,904	\$474,623	\$602,158



2026 Annual Stewardship Appeal

Our appeal kicks off on April 11! This year's theme is "Wrapped in God's Love." Know that each of you is a child of God, precious in God's eyes and loved beyond compare. God's love wraps around us all and gives us strength, peace, hope, and protection. Please support Peace Church in bringing God's love into our hearts and out to one another.



Thank You

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

- All the soup, salad, bread, and dessert providers for our midweek supper and those who blessed us with a message at our midweek worship services
- The amazing volunteers who helped with Antioch
- Worship committee and altar guild for their hardwork during this Lenten/Easter season
- Funeral Luncheon volunteers
- Christian Spreadbury for making delicious pizza with our Junior Youth Group
- Pastor Mack Patrick from the synod for visiting us and sharing the Good News

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
8:30 & 11:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM-6:30PM
SERVICE-8:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
7:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
DARK TO LIGHT SERVICE- 5:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 WORSHIP
AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM
BREAKFAST AT 9:45 AM



A Letter From Your Deacon



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

I'm so glad spring is around the corner and is already peeking its head up and saying ready or not. I am READY spring!!!! Maybe some of you are like me and you get a little bit of the winter blues. My mood drops in the winter months. I remember that it affected my mom the same way and she said it was because she worried about people living out in the cold. I too think about that in the winter. I miss the color of spring and fall. I miss the laughter of children during the summer. Winter is a time that causes struggles and seasonal depression for a lot of people.

The month of April is a time of celebration, especially this year. The spring colors and sounds return. The weather is warm enough to start letting your feet and arms breathe, no more socks and heavy jackets. Growing up in the south, the first day that you could take your shoes off and let your feet touch the grass was such a happy day.

This year the first Sunday of April is Easter. What a gift. As we are celebrating the return of spring we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is one of my favorite times here at Peace. The building is busy and everyone is happy. We forget about expectations and to do list and we just celebrate together. Families are here and the Easter breakfast food taste and smells so good.

May Spring be a time of joy for you. May it be a time of reconnecting with family. May spring give you a chance to let your bodies, your hearts, and minds breathe. May you delight in creation and in the risen Lord!

Worship

Do You Love to Sing?

Come join in the fun of making a joyful noise! Peace Choir and the Ladies Ensemble are looking for new singers. No experience or auditions are required. Have questions? Contact the office, and they will have us reach out to you.

Handbells

Join us Tuesday's at 7:30pm.

Service of Lament and Hope - April 15th, 6:15pm

Join us for scripture readings, prayer stations, and song. It is a time to bring before God our grief, pain, or anger in our own individual lives and in the world and to experience the quiet, resilient hope in which our souls find rest.

Offerings & Opportunities

2026 Flower Sign-Up

The flower chart for 2026 is filling up. If you would like to sign up for flowers, take a look. We have a new way to track flower information, so please grab a slip and envelope off of the bulletin board if you sign up or if you have not yet paid for your flowers or given the office the dedication information.

Lenten Devotionals

We will have a few Lenten devotionals available on the counter in the narthex. We also have our Christ in our Home devotionals available and the following link is for an online resource with many Lenten devotionals for your use.

<https://katebowler.com/lent/>

Electronic Giving

If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. You can also give online at any time through our website www.peacenewlenox.org, click on the donate tab.

Mortgage Paydown

Thank you to all who gave above and beyond to paydown our mortgage. Our rates has reset to 5.75%. Our monthly payment is over \$1000 lower because of your generosity. Thank you!!

Tax-wise giving though Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

For those age 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA remains one of the most tax-efficient ways to support Peace. A QCD allows you to give directly from your IRA, satisfies your required minimum distribution, and does not increase your taxable income. Many members find this provides a greater benefit than claiming a traditional charitable deduction.

Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who do not itemize will also be able to claim a \$2,000 charitable deduction, creating an additional opportunity to give in a tax-advantaged way.

We are deeply grateful for your faithful generosity. Every gift whether through QCDs or other means strengthens the ministries we share.

Going to the Carwash!-Sun, May 3 at 12pm

On May 3rd from 12pm till 2pm our youth will be washing cars in the church parking lot. Vehicles of all shapes and sizes are welcome. The car wash is free, but donations are appreciated. All donations will be used to take the youth to the National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2027.



Looking Ahead

April 25-Property Work Day

April 26-New Member Orientation & Luncheon

May 13-Mandatory confirmation class with adult for 8th grade

May 17 or May 24- Confirmation ceremony



Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10am. We are currently studying the book of Revelation. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Sunday Adult Education Class

We meet every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome!



Free books!

Yes, you read that right! We are now giving away our “Questions Kids Ask About God” books. They are available in English and Spanish, hardcover, softcover and coloring books. If you know of anyone who would enjoy learning about God in a fun, creative way, help yourself to these books. They will be available on the counter in the narthex. They make great gifts.



New Member Orientation & Luncheon – Sun., Apr. 26

The New Member Orientation & Luncheon will be Sun., Apr. 26, at 12:30pm and we plan to welcome the new members on Sun., May 3 during the 11am service. Please contact the church office to let us know if you would like to join Peace at this time.



Fellowship

VBS Planning Meeting- Wed., Apr. 8 at 6:00pm

On April 8th from 6pm-7pm we will be meeting to continue planning VBS for the summer of 2026. Our theme this year is "Caught in God's Love." If you are interested in helping to plan, please come and share your ideas!



All Committee Night - Wed., April 29

Want to be involved in the ministries happening at Peace? You are invited to come and participate in the committee of your choice. Committees to choose from are Fellowship, Support, Property, Faith Development, Worship, and Service/Outreach. (Note the date change - we typically meet on on the last Wednesday of the month at 6pm.)



Peace Garden Club

DID YOU KNOW...that gardening will make you happier and healthier? Playing in the soil actually boosts your mood and immune system and reduces stress and anxiety! If you don't believe that, then come join the Peace Garden Club! Our initial goal is to raise vegetables for local food pantries, soak up some sun and Vitamin K, and find some fun along the way. We need lots of volunteers on an ongoing basis to mulch, plant, weed and water ... and eventually harvest. We hope to get started this spring. Can you dig it? If so, please Register Online to indicate your interest. You know you will feel better if you do! This project is opened to any students who would like to earn community service hours.



Watch Matt Piet's Concert

In case you missed it, you can enjoy Matt's concert [here](#). Thanks Matt!



Groups

Coffee & 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.

Women's Fellowship and Discussion Group

Women of all ages - join us on the second Thursday of the month (Sept-May) at 7pm for fellowship and conversation. Each time we'll discuss a different topic based on a book, podcast, video, Bible study, etc. Sign up with the insert in the bulletin, email or by calling the church office. Next meeting is April 9th.

Peace Page Turners-Sun., March 29 at 9:45am

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be March 29, 2026. we will discuss "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni

Tuesdays at Peace-Tues., April 7th at 10:00am

We will be discussing "The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau" by Kristin Harmel.

Men's Breakfast – Sat., April 25 at 8am

Men ages 16 and older are invited to this fellowship opportunity that meets at Peace on the fourth Saturday of the month. Cost is a free will offering - breakfast cost is approximately \$15 each.

Mahjong Masters – Thursdays at 1pm

Don't worry, being a master is ABSOLUTELY not required! A group of Mahjong Minded Members have started gathering at Peace on Thursdays at 1:00pm. We would love to have you join us!

Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., April 6 & 20 at 9am

Please join us, all are welcome! Meets every other Monday.

Trailblazers – Tues., April 21 at 12pm

Group 65+ meets the third Tuesday of the month. Cost \$5, lunch will be provided.

Out To Eat Group - Sun., April 12 at 12:15pm

Join us at Dancing Marlin at 20590 S. Lagrange Rd. in Frankfort. Excellent choices for brunch and lunch) RESERVE BY April 4

Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.

Join us for a low impact program for seniors. Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm.



Youth

Peace Youth Group

Do you want to hang out with other awesome Peace youth? Do you like to eat good food, play games, and talk about Jesus? Awesome!!!! Peace Youth Group is for you! Our 7th - 12th grade youth group meets most Sundays from 12pm-2pm to enjoy fellowship, faith and fun. Please check out the bulletin for upcoming events and get connected to our Youth Group Google calendar.

Grease lightning!- Youth Group Dinner & a show-Sat, April 25 at 6pm

Join your friends on April 25th. We will meet at church at 6pm for pizza and then walk over to the high school to see Grease! Some of our youths are in the show, so we will have fun supporting them. Tickets are \$12

Jr Youth Space Golf-Sun, April 12 at 12:30

On April 12th we will be meeting at 12:30pm at Space Golf in Orland Park. Explore 18 holes of exciting adventure mini golf featuring alien planets, giant robots, flying saucers and space creatures that all glow in fluorescent bursts of color! Parents are welcome to golf with us or pick up their youth at 2pm. The cost is \$9 per youth and \$12 per adult.

Summer Service Camp

We are trying something new this year! The week of June 8th through June 12th, we will be doing a different service project each day. We will carpool to the location where we will engage in ministry of service. We will return to church and have lunch together and talk about our experience. This camp is designed for youth, but all are invited to sign up and come. The service projects will include places like, HHH Ranch, Sunny Hill Nursing Home, Will County forest reserve, NAWS, etc.



Upcoming Youth Events

- Sat, April 25 -Grease lightning!- Youth Group Dinner & a Show- 6pm
- Sun, April 12- Jr Youth Space Golf
- Sun, May 3- Youth Car Wash



Helping Others

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Needs List

We are always collecting bottled water, juice, paper products, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, Jell-O, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc. for Santa Cruz's Food Pantry. Look for the baskets by Fellowship Hall.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for individual volunteer opportunities, to earn community service hours, find ways to give back or lend a hand? The Service/Outreach Committee is creating a list of ideas for individual service projects. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex and the newsletter for details. For starters, here are a few suggestions. If you know of other opportunities, please share.

**ShareFest, 21715 Moni Drive, New Lenox, needs volunteers to help out in its food pantry and warehouse during the day, Tuesday-Saturday. Sign up at <https://www.sharefestwillcounty.org/>

**Sunny Hill Nursing Home, 421 Doris Avenue, Joliet, you can scoop ice cream in the Sweet Shop, help with Bingo, and more. All volunteers must complete a form for a background check. Contact Kristen at 815-727-8710.



Community Resources



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

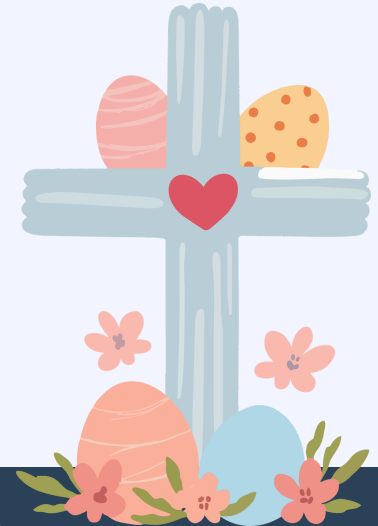
Joliet Area Hospice Support Groups
www.joliethospice.org or 815-740-4104

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
info@namiwillgrundy.org or
www.namiwillgrundy.org



General Information

Inclement Weather Policy

Your safety is important to us, so Peace will cancel our events during the week if Summit Hill School District cancels school or their evening events. We will do our best to post on social media, send emails, and/or remind app notifications when we cancel. If the weather on a weekend is extremely bad making travel particularly dangerous, we may cancel weekend activities or even worship. We will try to make this decision early and post/send notifications as outlined above. If you do not have access to our digital platforms and would like to be notified of a cancellation, please let the office know and we will do our best to reach out to you via a phone call. We hope you stay safe and warm during these wintry months!

Worship Details

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

Email Contacts

Pastor Amy – amichelson@peacenewlenox.org
Deacon Shari – strotter@peacenewlenox.org
Church office: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

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.

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