

February 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.*



PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- Jessica Howell
- Mary Cox
- Sue Lafferty
- Madelyn
- Lynn Peterson
- Kathryn Givens
- Dee Vasel
- Val Compson
- John Vasel
- Jack Farbak
- Jennifer Grahovac
- Debra Fahey
- Frank Rossi
- Ray Anglin
- Joan
- Gail Hanks
- Juan J. Gloria
- Brittany Burns
- Karen Salutric

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. January's passage is: John 9:37

A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

Lent begins on February 18th this year when we hear again that we are dust and to dust we shall return. The following five Wednesdays we will gather at 6pm in the sanctuary for midweek worship. This year's theme is Conversations with Jesus. Each week we will dive deeper into the gospel reading from the previous weekend, all of which feature conversations that Jesus has with his friends, followers, and adversaries. We will pray together, sing together, hear reflections from congregation members, and consider how these ancient conversations continue to inform our own lives of discipleship. I hope you can join us.

And I hope you might take this Lenten season as an opportunity to consider your own conversations with the divine. Maybe you're not having conversations with the divine. That's something to consider too. If you're someone who likes a starting point, here are some questions you can use to reflect: What draws your attention away from God? What questions might you bring to Jesus? What is a deep need you have that only God can meet? How do you respond when God tries to teach you something by confronting you with your own prejudice? What sustains your faith in times of sorrow?

Praying that your Lenten practices and journey are meaningful,

Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of December 31, 2025

Dec. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$73,743	\$359,741	\$602,158

Dec. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$47,851	\$339,999	\$602,158

**Income for Dec includes \$17,455 received for mortgage paydown.*

Welcome To The Lords Family

- Miles John Issert was baptized on Nov 30
- Brynn Elise Fornaris was baptized on Jan 24

Our Sympathy Goes To

The Family of Bill Weber



Thank You

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

- The musicians and worship volunteers who made our Christmas Eve services so meaningful
- Those who coordinated and volunteered for our MLK service day
- Our Church Council members whose terms are ending and all our nominees
- Generous donors who have given toward paying down our mortgage before our rate resets
- Peace Youth Group for serving our community & neighbors at Morning Star Mission & South Loop Community Table



A Letter From Your Deacon

By Deacon Shari



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

It is time to get ready for Antioch!!!! What is Antioch? Antioch is our annual junior high and high school retreat and will be March 13th-15th this year. We meet here at church for a weekend in March to learn, have fun, and make new friends. We also lead the Saturday night worship service which will be March 14th this year. Our theme for 2026 is I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y.

Who are you in Christ? Does being God's child make you different? Come and find out. We are expecting and planning to have a large group of youth. Due to this we need adult volunteers. We will need adults willing to come and hangout with youth until about 11pm on both Friday evening and Saturday evening. We will need adults to volunteer to shop for, set up, and clean up lunch on Saturday, and help clean up breakfast both Saturday and Sunday. If you are feeling adventurous and would like to spend the night at church, I could use a few good men and women willing to be here with the youth and don't worry we sleep at our lock-ins! We will be going off campus to Feed My starving Children in Aurora, so we will need drivers from Saturday morning till afternoon.

Don't have an I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. crisis because you missed this awesome event! Youth sign up! We are going to have a blast. If you have never been to Antioch, ask one of the youths that has, to tell you about it. It is everyone's favorite youth activity we do all year! Parents, this is one of those events that builds our youth group and helps our youth group become a family. Please strongly encourage your youth to attend. If there is a conflict for a portion of the event that is totally ok. Youth are welcome to attend as much as they can. Also, this event is great to invite friends too. We talk about faith, but we also have a lot of fun!

Come hang out with all the cool kids! If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me! Hope to see you there!

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari Simon

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.

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.

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.

Ash Wednesday Worship – Wed., Feb. 18

The worldwide observance of Lent begins this year on Feb. 18 with Ash Wednesday. This solemn occasion reminds us of our mortality, as well as our need for forgiveness. We will have worship at 11am and 7pm with the option for the imposition of ashes will be available at both services.

Mortgage Paydown

Thank you to all who have given to paydown our mortgage before the rate resets! There is still time if you would like to contribute to our efforts to keep our future payment at or below our current monthly payment. You can give online or place a check or cash in the offering plate, just be sure to label it for mortgage paydown. Thank you for your generosity!

VBS Planning Meeting- Wed., Feb. 11 at 6:00pm

On February 11th from 6pm-7pm we will be meeting to begin planning VBS for the summer of 2026. If you are interested in helping to plan VBS, please come and share your ideas! At this first meeting we will be choosing our dates and the theme, so it is an important and exciting meeting. Please let us know if you plan to attend with this link. [RSVP](#)

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/>



Looking Ahead

Feb 1- Annual Congregational Meeting

Feb 1- Youth South Loop Service Project

Feb 7 & 8- Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb 17- Shrove Dinner

Feb 18- Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 25 - Midweek Lenten Services & Soup (Also March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th)

Feb 28- Spaghetti Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser

March 13- March 15- Youth Antioch

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10am. 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.

1st Communion Class - Sat., Jan 31 at 2pm

Join us to learn about the amazing gifts God gives to us in communion! Traditionally at Peace, 5th grade has been the age for First Communion, but all are welcome at Christ's table, so if you have a kid who desires to take communion and you as a family want to learn more, feel free to reach out to Pastor Amy. This particular class is open to all school-aged kids. Please sign up online [HERE](#) or use the sign up slip or email the church office.

Midweek Lenten Worship February 25 - March 25

God has created and blessed us. In Jesus, God has joined us in the experience of embodied life as an expression of God's own love and joy. Through exploration of our own physical senses, we are invited to know God in new ways. Please join us on the Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week at 6pm for worship and at 6:30pm for soup, sandwich & conversation. Bring your own sandwich, soup will be provided.

Fellowship

Community Outreach Event Fat/Shrove

Tuesday Pancake Dinner - Tue., Feb. 17

For our next community outreach event, please join us for Fat/Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Tues., Feb. 17, from 6-8 pm. The tradition goes back almost 1000 years and involves eating a hearty meal before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. A meal with fat and sugar is what is called for. We are inviting both members of Peace as well as the community. We will have a fun activity for the young folks as well. There is no cost for the event, but reservations are required. We are asking for volunteers to help set up, serve and help with the kids' activity. Please contact the church office or use the sign up [HERE](#) by Feb. 9 if you will be attending or would like to volunteer.

Midweek Lenten Soup Provider

After our midweek Lenten worship service, we will be having soup & fellowship at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for 4 people each week to provide soup for the group. If you would like to volunteer, please use the sign up and the office will contact you with more information.

That's Amore for more A's-- Sat., Feb. 28 at 6:15pm

On February 28th we will have our 2nd annual scholarship spaghetti dinner, "That's Amore for More A's". This event is a fundraiser for our scholarship program. Tickets must be purchased for this event, and they will be on sale before and after services the weekends of February 7th and 8th, February 14th and 15th, and February 21st and 22nd. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Adult tickets are \$10 each, and child tickets (ages 12 and under) are \$8 each. This year we will also be having a silent auction during the dinner which will run from 6pm till 7:30pm. Scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors to support them in their future endeavors. Thank you for all of your support.

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 Feb 12th.

Peace Page Turners-Sun., Feb 22 at 9:45am

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be Feb 22, 2026. We will discuss "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stow.

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club-Tues., Feb 17 at 10:00am

We will be meeting next on Feb. 17 to discuss "The Women" by Krista Hannah.

Men's Breakfast – Sat., Feb. 21 at 10am

Men ages 16 and older are invited to this fellowship opportunity that meets at Peace on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10am. 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., Feb 9 & 23 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., Feb 17 at 12pm

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

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

Join us on February 15th at North & Maple Restaurant in New Lenox.

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.

Youth Group Serving Dinner at South Loop Community Table-Sun., Feb 1 at 3:00

On February 1st the youth group will meet at church at 3:00pm and go to South Loop Community Table. We will be serving dinner and playing games with those who come to the Community Table. Please let us know if your youth can attend, so we know how many drivers we will need. Adults, please let us know if you would like to drive. This event will count as service hours for Confirmation and for high school. Sign up online or in the bulletin.

Youth Group Fancy Dinner-Sun., Feb 22 at 5pm

On February 22nd the youth group will be going to a Fancy Dinner out at North and Maple here in New Lenox. We will meet at North and Maple at 5:00pm and youth will be done at 6:30pm. Please sign up by February 8th so we can make reservations. Let's enjoy a wonderful meal and fun conversation.

Antioch 2026 I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. March 13th -15th

March 13th -15th we will have our annual youth retreat, Antioch! This year's theme will be I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. We will explore who God made us to be and how wonderful that is. This event is open to youth in 7th grade- 12th grade. We will spend the night at the church Friday and Saturday night, lead worship Saturday evening and serve at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday morning. The weekend will end with a family luncheon on Sunday where the youth can share all they have learned and the fun things they have done together. We hope you can attend.



Upcoming Youth Events

- South Loop Service Project - Sun. Feb 1
- Youth Group Fancy Dinner - Sun. Feb 22
- Antioch - Sat. March 13 thru March 15

Peace Church Scholarship

Peace Church will make available the annual scholarship for high school seniors who are planning to attend 4- or 2-year college programs or technical/trade schools. Recipients will be chosen based on several factors, which are detailed in the application form. These forms are available on the counter in the narthex and must be submitted no later than Feb. 8, 2025.

Interviews will be conducted on Sun., March 2 starting at 12:30pm.

Jr. Youth Group Going Bowling

On February 22nd at 1pm we will meet at Laraway Lanes and bowl together. It is \$18 a person for 2 games and shoe rental. We hope all of our 3rd - 6th grade youth can come! We will have a snack provided and Deacon Shari will be bowling too!



Helping Others

Souper Bowl of Caring - Feb. 7 & 8

It's Super Bowl time! Join the team that tackles hunger! On Sun., Feb. 8, families and friends gather together to watch the Big Game, while an estimated 50 million Americans are food insecure. Imagine the impact we can make if everyone who watched the game gave one dollar or a can of food to help our neighbors in need. Show the world what it means to be a champion off the field. Join our church's effort in the Souper Bowl of Caring by donating the cost of a meal or snack. Please look for the display in the narthex on Sat., Feb. 7 & Sun., Feb. 8.

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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Phone: (815) 485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

website: www.peacenewlenox.org