

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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July 2025

Vol.30 Issue 7

From Pastor Amy Michelson

Do you ever make mistakes? I know I do. Poor choices? I make those too sometimes. There are at least a million examples of faithful people in scripture and in our lives who make mistakes and poor choices and who God still works through and loves and claims. One of my favorites is Peter. We got to hear his story during the Easter season. The one where he denies Jesus 3 times before the crucifixion and then after the resurrection, Jesus asks Peter 3 times if he loves Jesus and then tells him to tend his sheep.

Peter makes a poor choice (an understandable choice, but still, not a great one), but his choice doesn't change God's mind about God's love for him, God's claiming of Peter, or God's call in Peter's life. I hope and pray that it is the same for us too. Our mistakes and poor choices do not change God's love for us, God's claiming of us, or God's call in our lives. God can handle and heal the guilt and incompetence we may feel after making a mistake or a poor choice.

The way Jesus encounters Peter on the beach after the resurrection makes me think that Jesus didn't want Peter to forget about his poor choice, but Jesus did want to assure Peter that even in our mistakes, even after our poor choices, God still calls us to move through our lives with our calls and our purpose in mind. We are a people who make mistakes and who move forward, by the grace of God.

Pastor Amy Michelson

College Graduates:

College & Beyond

Taryn Bell Couch- Joliet Junior College- Radiologist.

High School

Andy Powers, Liam Golub, Aaron Knutson, Amanda Muehlnickel, Molly Muehlnickel, Amelia Rogers

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

The family of Chuck Dircks & the family of Don Martin

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Nolan Patrick Conro was baptized on June 8

Financial Update as of May 31, 2025

<u>May Income</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
\$46,193	\$597,574	\$617,090
<u>May Expense</u>	<u>YTD Expense</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
\$54,502	\$600,029	\$617,090

Looking Ahead

July 13 – VBS Creation Station 12-2pm

July 21 – Vacation Bible School Set Up 9am

July 22-25 – Vacation Bible School 9:30am-12pm

Aug. 3 – Sunday School Teacher Orientation 9:45am

Sept. 7 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am

Sept. 7 – Messtival 12:15pm

Sept. 10- Confirmation Meeting Orientation 7:00pm

Sept. 20- Women's Retreat at Peace Church

Prayers Requested

Ken Gatewood, Roger Cohn , Rich Dohrn, Diana & Larry Brewer, Cathy Tague (cancer)

Thank You Very Much!

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

To:

Altar Guild for all the Easter Season communion preparations

Synod Assembly Representatives: Amy Bala, Aaron Knutson, Don and Sue Lafferty, and Dawn Murphy

Contemporary Service volunteers and musicians: Pete, Karin, and Aaron Knutson, Jay Michelson, Ken George, and Matt Piet

Office Volunteers

All car washers and those who donated

Those who helped with Lora's celebration

Service and Outreach Committee and all who donated to the Community Dinner

From:

ELCA World Hunger-Thank you for your gift
Lora Dittman- Thank you for the celebration of retirement.

Outdoor Worship Service – Sat, July 26

The 5pm worship service will be held outdoors on the last Saturday of the month through Sept.
Please bring your lawn chairs and join us!

Help Us Fill Our 2025 Flower Chart

Please help us have beautiful flowers on the altar by helping us fill our new 2025 flower chart. Look for the chart by Fellowship Hall or email the church office to sign up for any date you would like. The office will contact you the week before your date to see what you would like listed in the bulletin. Cost of each is \$25.

Giving Statements

Please watch for your mid-year giving statement to come in your email in the next two-three weeks. Please note, we do not send sensitive information in these emails, just an account of your giving so far this year. If you have not received a statement by July 21st, please let us know.

Groups

Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., July 14 & 28 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., July 15 at 12pm

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

Men's Breakfast at Tear Drop – Sat., July 26

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 will be a free will offering – breakfast cost is approximately \$15 each.

Out to Eat Group- July 20 at 12:15 pm

We are meeting at McAlister's Deli in Mokena. Dinner will be followed with ice cream at Andy's or Oberweis! Attendees need to notify the church office by July 16!

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.

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!

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.

Golf Group – Wednesdays

The golf group will play on Wednesdays at 8:30am with lunch afterwards. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Questions, contact the church office.

Viewing Group for The Chosen- Tues. July 1st at 10:00am

Please join us to watch and discuss season 5 of The Chosen. The Chosen is a TV series that follows the life of Jesus and his disciples. It provides engaging conversation about the scriptures as they come to life on the screen. If you would like to watch the first four seasons of the series, you can find it on prime video. We will offer two options for discussion of season 5. The in-person option will be Tuesday mornings at 10am, starting July 1st. The second option is an online Zoom meeting held on Thursday evenings at 7 PM, beginning July 10th. If you have any questions, please see Deacon Shari.

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. Keep an eye out for a sign up soon!

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

Will resume in the fall

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. July's passage is: James 1:5.

Synod Growing Disciples Newsletter

The experience of God's love in one's life is a gift the growing disciple feels compelled to share with others. One way our faith becomes active is when we put into words what God has done for us. Words of witness and acts of genuine hospitality directed toward our neighbors create the opportunity through which the Holy Spirit brings others into a relationship with Christ and with the church. Each month the Northern Illinois Synod has a Growing Disciples newsletter available online. Please use the link below.

[Growing Disciples Start with Inviting | Growing Disciples | Northern Illinois Synod](#)

Announcements

Church Office Closed-July 4th

From Deacon Shari Simon

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

This month I will be representing both our congregation and our synod at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, church wide assembly in Phoenix Arizona. The church wide assembly is an event that is held every three years where the business of the larger church is voted on and discussed. This year's assembly will be exciting because we will be voting in a new bishop for the ELCA. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is retiring after 22 years of service to the national church. We will also be voting on a new budget, constitutional changes and other resolutions that have been brought to the assembly. I look forward to bringing home this experience to all of you. This is the first time I will attend, and I have heard that it is a very busy, exhausting, but interesting event. The schedule that I have received is jam packed and we start meetings at 9am and finish in the evening around 9pm each night. I will fly into Phoenix on July 28th and return home on August 2nd. Past assemblies have made decisions about roster changes, social statements, and even who we welcome into our denomination. It is an important meeting and one that I am honored to attend. Be listening for updates on what I learned and I will bring home pictures with me so that you can see what the gathering of the larger church, of which we are one small part of, looks like.

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari

Second Annual Peace Community Picnic – Sat., June 28 from 6-8pm

In conjunction with the Out to Eat Group, Peace will once again welcome the community, church members and guests for a Community Picnic. There will be a cookout and games & a bounce house for the kids.

Contemporary Worship Service – Sat., July 12

Please join us for a Contemporary worship service on July 12 at 5pm. We will also be having another Contemporary service on Aug. 9.

Property Committee Work Day–

Sat., July 12 from 8am-12pm

The focus will be on the landscaping around the church and in the parking lot. We will also be wiping down the pews with a wood enhancing product. Your help would be appreciated for the whole time or just an hour!

Trivia Night – Sat. July 12 at 6pm

Put on your thinking caps and join us on Sat., July 12 at 6pm for a fun night of Trivia! Gather your own team or come on your own and we will put teams together. Bring an appetizer to share. Please use the sign up in the bulletin if you will be joining us.

VBS Creation Station – Sun., July 13 12pm-2pm

Join us to create decorations for VBS & have some pizza

Vacation Bible School – July 22-July 25

Join us at *God's Gigantic Kingdom* Vacation Bible School from Tues., July 22 through Fri., July 25 from 9:30am-12pm. Please use the registration forms on the counter in the narthex, on the back of the Sunday School news to sign up. If you'd like to help in any way this year, please let us know in the office.

VBS Taking a Bite Out of Hunger

Each year our VBS adopts a worthy cause to collect for. This year they will be Taking a Bite Out of Hunger by collecting non-perishable food for Santa Cruz and the New Lenox food pantry. We will also be collecting donations to help support ELCA World Hunger. The Northern Illinois Synod has a matching grant that will match any funds we donate.

Peace Book Club-August 5

Peace Book Club will be on hiatus in July. We are scheduled to meet next on August 5 to discuss "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn.

Peace Page Turner- August 10

We will discuss "Tell me Everything" by Elizabeth Strout. Copies will be available at the June 29 meeting.

All Committee Night – Wed., Aug. 27

Want to be involved in the ministries happening at Peace? You are invited to come on the last Wednesday of the month at 6pm and participate in the committee of your choice. Committees to choose from are Fellowship, Support, Property, Faith Development, Worship, and Service/Outreach. We will not meet in July.

Volunteers Needed for Trailblazers in Sept.

Our Trailblazers are a group of 65+ individuals who meet once a month for lunch & games. We are looking for volunteers to host the luncheon here at church by setting up and providing food. Feel free to pair up with someone and host the luncheon together. The group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and there are an average of 6 people attending. If this is something you would like to do, please contact the church office.

Youth

Backpack Blessing Weekend

On Saturday August 16 and Sunday August 17, we will bless our children and teachers as they head back to school. Please feel free to bring your backpack or briefcase to church and we will bless you and your bag that will carry your learning materials. We hope that the school year will be filled with learning and friendship and that you feel God's presence with you each day.

Messtival Sunday September 7th

Come get Messy with our youth group as we kick off our programmatic year. The Messtival is a fun time of messy games and friendship. We will get to know each other and leave covered in things like cool whip, slime and chocolate syrup. We will meet outside the church at 12noon and have pizza and then play games until 2pm. Parents are advised to bring towels to cover their car seats as the kids will be very messy. This event is for 7th through 12th grade youth, but we can always use adult volunteers. See Deacon Shari if you have any questions.

Rehearsals

Peace Choirs – Summer Break

Peace Church Choir, Ladies Ensemble and Bell Choir are all taking a break for the summer.

Helping Others

School Supplies Collection for Santa Cruz

We will be collecting school supplies for Santa Cruz from July 1-31. Look for the collection bin in the narthex.

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Special Appeal

In lieu of the usual items on the needs list for Santa Cruz food pantry, they are making a special appeal for cereal and any kind of canned goods. If you would like to donate some of these items, please look for the baskets by Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Shawls Available

A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation for yourself or someone in need. Please put your requests in the Prayer Shawl box in the narthex or email the office.

Prayer Shawls are still needed!

Do you crochet or knit? A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. You may create shawls at home and drop them at church and we will get them to the people who need them.

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.

General Information

Worship Details

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

Contemporary Service- 7/7 & 8/9

Outdoor Service-7/26, 08/30, 09/27

Don't forget your chair!

Email Contacts

Pastor Amy – amichelson@peacenewlenox.org

Deacon Shari – strotter@peacenewlenox.org

Church office: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

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 or use the QR code below.



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

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