

July 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:

- Kim Gonzales
- Lois Spizzirri
- Vicky
- Lou and Karen Rivet

EVERYBODY READ

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

**July's passage is:
Luke 10:27**

There's always something, isn't there? Whether it's with a home, a vehicle, a member of your family, a friend, work... there's always something and often there are some things. It can all be very overwhelming.

I don't have the answers. I wish I did. I haven't come across any quick tips to make it all feel more manageable. I just have some prayerful thoughts that I believe are the work of the Spirit in my life in the midst of all the things...

In Hebrews 10 we hear, "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." When we feel overwhelmed, we can be tempted to withdraw, keep our heads down, push through, and not make or take time to gather with others. Let's not neglect our time together. Gather with those who can encourage you to love yourself, others, and to remember that you are loved.

We talk a lot about love here at Peace because scripture talks a lot about love. In John 13 Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." I think there are a lot of reasons love is so important.

During service week, I was struck by how much joy I felt. We can be tempted to focus on our own things, especially when we're overwhelmed. Yet serving and loving others is a wonderful way to feel joy in the midst of struggle.

Stepping outside, surrounding ourselves with God's good creation can do wonders. Psalm 96 says, "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy..." God's creation rejoices and proclaims the glory of God. We can see, smell, touch, and hear it!

Finally, when you feel like there are just so many things, know that you are not alone.

How is the Spirit at work leading and guiding you through all the things?
God's peace and love, Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of May 31, 2026

May. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$45,782	\$622,280	\$602,158

May. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$46,378	\$613,243	\$602,158

Fighting Childhood Cancer, One Cup at a Time.

Claire and her family are holding a lemonade stand fundraiser to help kids with cancer during the Community Dinner!

Saturday
June 27, 2026
6 PM - 8 PM

Peace Lutheran Church
1900 E Lincoln Highway New Lenox, IL



Visit our event or donate to our fundraiser at
Alexslemonade.org/2026/sibling-survivor-stand



Thank You

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

-Thank you to Mulch It for providing all the mulch and soil and to Debbie Standard and Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse for providing all the vegetable plants for our Peace Garden. These generous donations have allowed us to buy more raised beds, so we can grow more veggies and feed more people through local food pantries.

-Our service week volunteers and organizations

-Our Thrivent Action Grant applicants whose time and effort cover expenses for many programs including the Community Picnic, VBS, and Service Week

-Our Synod Assembly representatives

Peace Service Week





A Letter From Your Deacon



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

Last month we had our first fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering that will take place on June 28th-July 2nd of 2027. You may be asking yourself what the National Youth Gathering is and why we are supporting our youth going to it? Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith and be part of something bigger than yourself. This event can be life changing for our youth and is an important part of the youth ministry we do here at Peace.

For many years we did not fundraise for this event, and we took the money from our budget and paid for each youth and adult fully. As our youth group has grown and prices for travel and food have increased this is no longer the best option for our congregation. Each participant gives a deposit and for the 2027 gathering we will be fundraising the rest. For this event we budget \$1500 per participant. This covers registration for the gathering, all food, transportation, matching T-shirts for every day (so our group can be found in VERY large crowds), lodging and a cushion for any emergencies that might come up. Any funds leftover will remain in the gathering set aside account for the group that will go in 2029.

We invite you to participate in these fundraisers and we will keep the congregation informed as we plan them. We will be doing fundraising inside the congregation but also in the community in ways such as sponsored dinner nights at local restaurants, car washes, etc. We thank you in advance for all your support and we will be sharing all about our experience when we return. Our commitment meeting is on June 28th so we will know exactly how many youth and adult leaders will be going and our group will make sure to share with the congregation. This congregation has always made our youth a priority and this is one of the many ways we do that and we are blessed to be able to make this opportunity a reality!

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari Simon

Worship

Contemporary Worship

Join us the 2nd Saturday of the month (July 11th, & August 8th) at 5pm for a more contemporary worship style. Looking forward to worshipping with you!

Outdoor Worship

Weather permitting, join us outside the last Saturday of the month at 5pm, May-September. Bring your own chair and dress for the weather!

Healing Service – July. 11 & 12

Join us for a healing service the weekend of July 11th & 12th at all three worship services. It will take place toward the end of worship and should only last 10-15 minutes. You are welcome to come forward with a specific prayer request, for a general prayer and blessing, or you can just sit in the pews and take in words of healing and hope in scripture and prayer

VBS Kids Sing for worship

On July 26th our VBS participants will sing their theme song at the 11:00 am worship service. We invite families and friends as well as all of our members to come and hear about being Caught in God's love!

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.

VBS Creation Station- Sun., July 19th at 12:15pm

Please join us for our annual VBS Creation Station at 12:15pm. We will be meeting to make the decorations for VBS and will have pizza for lunch! Our theme this year is "Caught in God's Love." If you would like to serve as a volunteer during the week of VBS please let Deacon Shari know.

Sunday School Teacher Needed for the 2026-2027 program year

Our Sunday School volunteers are coming together, and we have almost all our spots filled! Thank you so much for your dedication to our young people. We are in need of a teacher for the Preschool 3-year-old class. This is a really fun class to work with and involves much less planning than the other grade levels. If this sounds like a fun opportunity to you, please reach out to Jess Lindeman or Deacon Shari for more 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.

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes that started on June 1st are still available to be picked up on the table in the narthex. If you give by electronic deposit, you will not have envelopes.

Seminarian Brandon Fuhr serving with First and Santa Cruz

Please pray for Seminarian Brandon as he serves as a Synod Authorized Minister this summer. Visit First and Santa Cruz for worship on Sundays at 10am! Thank you for serving the church, Brandon. We at Peace are proud of you!

Looking Ahead

VBS- July 21-24

Rally Day and Messtival- September 13th

All Committee Meeting- August 16th



Fellowship

Peace Trivia Contest, Sat., July 18 at 6:15pm

Come and join the fun on Saturday, July 18th at 6:15pm for the Peace trivia contest. We intend to have multiple teams of no more than six players each. Each of you is an expert at something, right?! We encourage you to assemble a team of your own (or signing up individually? No problem! We will place everyone who wants to play on a team.) If you are already on a team, please have a team captain sign you up, listing the number of members and a team name. Al Davenport will correspond with all of the team captains and individuals as the event gets closer. Although walk-ins are welcome, please help us by signing up in advance. Watch future bulletins to sign up! Get those thinking caps on and join a night of fun and laughter.

The Third Annual Peace Community Picnic – Sat., June 27 at 6pm to 8pm

The Third Annual Peace Community Picnic immediately following the 5 p.m. outdoor worship service. We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings, and have activities for kids. There will also be Oberweis Ice Cream and Alex's Lemonade Stand to support kids with cancer. This event, held in conjunction with the Out to Eat Group, is a great opportunity to get together and open our doors to welcome the community. It is open to everyone. We encourage you to invite your families, friends and anyone in the community who might enjoy a summer evening barbecue. Please sign up to attend, assist and donate food.

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 weed and water ... and eventually harvest. 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.



**Thanks to William, our 2025-26 Lincoln-Way
Transitional student who helped us every
Thursday during the school year!**

Faith Development & Education

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.

Sunday School Teacher & Helper Orientation – Sun., Aug. 9 – 9:30am

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. 9 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. We would love if our substitute teachers can join us, too!

Register for 2026/2027 Sunday School

We look forward to a great year starting on Rally Day, Sept. 13 at 9:45; “Caught in God’s Love”! 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 online](#), or call the church office.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10am. We just started back in Genesis so this is a great time to join us! You do not need to know anything about the Bible. Just come with an open heart and mind and with a curiosity to listen and learn from one another and the Spirit.



Vacation Bible School – July 21-24

Join us for Caught in God's Love Vacation Bible School, Tues.-Fri., July 21-24 from 9:30am-12pm. VBS is for ages 4-incoming 5th graders, and our mornings are filled with music, STEM and craft projects, Bible stories, and snack. Please [click this link](#) to register today!

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.

Peace Page Turners–Sun., June 28 at 9:45am

The next meeting of the Peace Page Turners will be June 28 and the book is "A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhurst

Tuesdays at Peace–Tues., July 7 at 10:00am

We will be discussing "This House of Sky" by Ivan Doig.

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.

Golf Group – Thursdays at 8:00am

The golf group will start playing when the temperature hits 50 degrees in the morning. We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. 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.



Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., June 29 & July 13 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., July 14 at 12pm

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

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!

Men's Breakfast – Sat., June 27 at 9am

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.



Youth

Peace Youth Groups

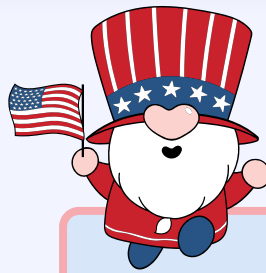
Do you want to hang out with other awesome Peace youth? Do you like to eat good food, play games, and talk about Jesus? Awesome!!!! Peace Youth Groups are for you! Peace Youth is for 7th - 12th graders and Jr. Youth Group is for 3rd - 6th graders. Both groups will continue meeting regularly again in the fall so stay tuned!

Car Wash and Peace Youth Water Games-Sun, June 28 at 12pm

On May 3rd we will be offering a car wash in our parking lot from 12pm till 1:30pm and then have water games for our last monthly youth group of the summer. We will start meeting again in September. Water games will last till 2:30pm and pizza lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Shari.

National Youth Gathering Interest and Commitment Meeting

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering (June 28th - July 2nd, 2027, in Minneapolis, MN) is more than an event – it's a movement where young people and leaders come alive in faith, grow in hope and move with purpose. This is where the church comes to life. Peace will be taking a group of youth (graduating 8th graders-graduating seniors in 2027) and adults and we want you to be a part of this amazing opportunity. We will meet on June 28th, during the Car Wash at 12:30pm. This car wash will be our first fundraiser for the event. While the youth are washing cars and having fun, Deacon Shari will meet with the parents to discuss the event and answer any questions! Please come at 12 to enjoy pizza, have your car washed and help wash, and find out more about this event.



Upcoming Youth Events

- Sun, June 28 -Car Wash and Peace 360 Water Games- 12pm
- Sun, June 28 -National Youth Gathering Interest & Commitment Meeting- 12:30pm



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

Recycling and Green Initiatives-
willcountygreen.com



General Information

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.

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

Phone: (815) 485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

website: www.peacenewlenox.org