

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

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

815-485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org - web page: www.peacenewlenox.org

March 2024

Vol. 29 Issue 3

From Kathryn Roulo, Church Council President

Dear Peace Family & Friends in Christ,

What a difference a year makes! To think that this time last year we hadn't even begun our call process and now, here we are with our new called pastor joining us in just 2 weeks is so exciting! The way our congregation has come together and grown over the past year is remarkable and something I am truly proud to be a part of.

As Pastor Amy and her family joins us, there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to make personal connections with them and to help them feel welcomed not only to our Peace family but to our surrounding communities as well. We ask that everyone adopts using name tags again at weekend worship services to help Pastor Amy and her family get to know each of us better.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting and monumental day for Peace & Pastor Amy coming up! We will have Pastor Amy's Installation Day on Sunday March 17th at 10:00 am. Pastor Jen Beamsley from the NI Synod will be joining us for this special day to complete Pastor Amy's installation and to be with us as we celebrate our new called pastor. There will be a luncheon immediately after the installation service so please plan to be a part of that and to share in this celebration!

Speaking of celebration, as I look back on 2023, we have so many accomplishments to celebrate! This past year was the first time in Peace's history that our annual budget was created solely by the executive council members, we re-sided our entire building *and* raised more than 90% of the funds to do it, and our youth took ownership of their youth group calendar to plan meaningful and fun activities that will draw them closer to God and one another. Those are just to name a *few*!

We have had the privilege of receiving a variety of great music from our talented congregation! From Matt's wonderful piano skills, to the adult choir and Ladies ensemble's new music selections throughout the year, to the bell choir during Christmas, to the joy and fun the children's choir brings to service. We have been so blessed by all the musical talent we have here at Peace!

Our Sunday School and youth group have been doing great things with our biggest youth event of the year just ahead; Antioch Retreat! Our Sunday School and youth

The future of Peace looks very bright and I am honored and excited to share in all the things God has planned ahead for us! As we enter into a new season for Peace, I'd like to instill on your hearts Jeremiah 29:11 "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*"

God's Peace & Blessings,

Kathryn Roulo

Prayers Requested

Paul Peterson, the family of Linda Jordan, the family of Anne Chastain, Sharon Fullriede, Arlene Dittman, Brian Ring, Howard Vanick, Lauren & Stacey, Rose

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Alan Booton, father of Amy Ambrose

the family of Susan Wagner, mother of Liz McDivitt

the family of Shawn Murray, son of Juanita Murray

the family of Karen Krneta, mother of Nicole Krneta Rogers

the family of Robert Mathews, father of Scott Mathews

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Owen Michael Wolf was baptized on Feb. 18

Thank You Very Much!

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

To:

Charlie Brugler, Don Lafferty, Syndy Lindbloom, Jamie McClellan, Mark Muehlnickel, Andrew Smothers, Marylynn Tyler & Morgan Barlow – nominees for Congregation Council

Dave Johnson, Diane Weber, Syndy Lindbloom, Todd Klock, Janelle Tague & Cathy Rumbaugh – 2024 Nominating Committee

Mike Miller, Kathy Sons & Eric Wesel – 2024 election tellers

Syndy Lindbloom & Paula Miller – Saturday Thank You Celebration for Pastor Gary & Pat

Renee Gatewood – Sunday Thank You Celebration for Pastor Gary & Pat

From:

LSSI – for the donation

ELCA World Hunger – for the donation

Souper Super Bowl Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated for Souper Super Bowl of Caring.

Because of your support, \$492 will be sent to ELCA World Hunger to help those in need. Thank you!

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.

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!

Daylight Savings Time

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Worship Details

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

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

Because of You

Due to ongoing war and devastating violence, nearly 3 million women, children and families were forced to flee South Sudan with just the clothes on their backs. They had little food to eat or clean water to drink as they desperately sought safety and peace. More than 65,000 of those refugees, including Jacqueline Abitu and her family, found a safe haven at Palabek Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. Thousands of people live close together in haphazard mud hut-style houses on small plots of land. Your loving donations provided high quality seeds, training techniques for farming dry land as well as farming equipment and tools. Residents at the camp now have the knowledge, skills and supplies to grow nutritious foods that yield robust harvests — providing enough for parents to feed their children, share some with neighbors, and still have produce left over to sell for income. Thanks to caring people, like you, thousands of refugees were provided with a sustainable source of income and pride. And children like Jacqueline can jump for joy with hope for a happy and healthy future.

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

Mar. 1-3 – Antioch Retreat

Mar. 3 – Easter Lily order deadline

Mar. 5 – Tuesdays at Peace Book Club 10am

Mar. 6 – Midweek Lenten Service 6pm

Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:30pm

7th gr. Confirmation 7pm

Mar. 9/10 – Girl Scout Weekend

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am

NYG Meeting 9:45am

Mar. 10 – Peace Page Turners 9:45am

Mar. 12 – Men's Dartball 7:30pm

Mar. 16 – Adult Fellowship Green Bunco 6pm

Mar. 17 – Installation Service for Pastor Amy 10am

No 8:30am & 11am services

No Children's Choir or Education Hour

Installation Celebration Luncheon at Gatto's

11:30am – Sign up required

Mar. 19 – Trailblazers 12pm

Tavern Talk 6:30pm

Mar. 23 – Men's Breakfast 10am

Mar. 24 – Palm Sunday

Mar. 31 – Easter Sunday

Apr. 3 – VBS Planning Meeting 6pm

Apr. 14 – Ministry Fair 9:45am

Apr. 21 – New Member Orientation 9:45am

Apr. 27 – Adult Fellowship Mama Mia Event 7pm

Apr. 28 – Reception of New Members 11am

May 12 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1st option)

May 19 – Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2nd option)

July 30 - Aug. 2 – Vacation Bible School

Groups

Quilting – Mon., Mar. 11 & 25

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

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.

Prayer Shawl Group – Wed., Apr. 17

The Prayer Shawl Group meets next on Wed., Apr. 17 at 6pm and meets every other Wednesday. 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. **We will not be meeting during Lent.**

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club – Tues., Mar. 5

The Tuesdays at Peace book club will be meeting on Mar. 5 at 10am. We will be discussing *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo. All are welcome!

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Mar. 10

Our next meeting will be Sun., Mar. 10 at 9:45am. We will be discussing *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Copies of the book are available to be checked out at church. Everyone is welcome!

Next month on Apr. 28 - *The Sisterhood - the Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Mar. 12

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30pm - 9pm in Fellowship Hall.

Trailblazers – Tues., Mar. 19

We invite anyone 55+ to come together on Tues., Mar. 19 at 12noon for lunch. Bring \$5 and the food will be provided.

Addiction and Family Support Group

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

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10am. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Sunday Adult Education Class

The Sunday Adult Education Class meets at 9:55am. Everyone is welcome!

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. March's passage is 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

Viewing and Discussion of *The Chosen*

The Chosen is the first television series based on the life of Jesus. Deacon Shari is offering two options, in person to watch the episode and then discuss on Tues. 11am-12:30pm and Thurs. at 7:30pm via zoom to discuss the episode you have watched on your own. **Tues., Mar. 5 we will meet at 11am.**

Midweek Lenten Worship - Holy Lament: O God, our help in times of trouble.

Lent is a season of renewal focusing on the death and resurrection of Jesus. During Lent we reflect on our own faith journey through the rich tradition of Christian reflection. Please join us on the Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week at 6pm for worship, 6:30pm for soup, sandwich, and conversation. Bring your own sandwich, soup will be provided.

March 6: Psalm 88

March 13: Psalm 13

March 20: Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17-26

Announcements

Welcome Pastor Amy – Mar. 2 & 3

We welcome Pastor Amy to her first weekend of worship with us on Sat., Mar. 2 & Sun., Mar. 3. To help Pastor Amy get to know us, we are asking everyone to please wear a nametag.

Girl Scout Weekend – Mar. 9 & 10

The annual Girl Scout Weekend is coming up on Mar. 9 & 10. We invite Girl Scouts to wear your uniforms to church.

Adult Fellowship Green Bunco Night – Sat., Mar. 16

Come join Adult Fellowship as they celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a "Green Bunco Night" on Sat., Mar. 16 at 6pm. Wear something green to bring out the Irish in you! Also, we will have our usual white elephant gift exchange...but with a twist - all gifts should be green! Dig around and find your wackiest "green elephant" gift and snacks or appetizer to share and join us!! Please use the [online sign up](#) if you will be attending.

Installation Service for Pastor Amy – Sun., Mar. 17

On Sunday, March 17 we will be having one service at 10am to install Pastor Amy Michelson as our new senior pastor. This will be an exciting celebration and worship service! There will be a luncheon at Gatto's to follow, please see the announcement. We hope that everyone will attend and pack the house as we celebrate this exciting new adventure.

Pastor Amy's Installation Celebration Luncheon – Sun., Mar. 17

Please join us in celebrating the installation of Pastor Amy with a luncheon at Gatto's Restaurant on Sun., Mar. 17 at 11:30am. Reservations are required by Mar. 10. Because this will be a catered event, we will need the number of people attending by the deadline date. Make an [Online Reservation](#) or sign up in the bulletin. If you would like to make a donation to help defray the cost of this event, please put those in an envelope marked Installation Celebration Luncheon. They can be put in the offering plate or given to the office.

Tavern Talk – Tues., Mar. 19

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. We will be there from 6:30-8:30pm.

Annual Meeting Results

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 18 was another opportunity to celebrate the ministries of people doing God's work. We are very grateful for all those who were nominated to serve on the Council – Charlie Brugler, Don Lafferty, Syndy Lindbloom, Jamie McClellan, Mark Muehlnickel, Andrew Smothers & Marylynn Tyler. Thank you also to our Election Tellers – Mike Miller, Kathy Sons & Eric Wesel. Those elected for a two-year council term were Don Lafferty, Jamie McClellan, Mark Muehlnickel, Andrew Smothers & Marylynn Tyler. Nominated to serve as our youth representative was Morgan Barlow. Our Nominating Committee for 2025 will consist of Dave Johnson, Diane Weber, Syndy Lindbloom, Todd Klock, Janelle Tague & Cathy Rumbaugh.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Thursday, March 28

6pm - Meal in the Upper Room

7:30pm - Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 29

10am - Cross Walk in New Lenox – Starts at St.

Jude's Church

7:30 p.m. - Good Friday Worship

Saturday, March 30

5pm - Easter Eve Worship - Transition from dark to light

Sunday, March 31

8:30 & 11am - Communion Festival Worship

9:45am - Easter Breakfast – Reservations are needed

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Mar. 3

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people or events that are important to them by donating an Easter lily to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the narthex. The deadline to order is Sun., Mar. 3. The cost of each lily is \$17.

Meal in the Upper Room – Thurs., Mar. 28

You are invited to the Maundy Thursday celebration of the Meal in the Upper Room on Thurs., Mar. 28 at 6pm (please note new time). The Passover is a celebration of the Jewish people's emancipation from slavery during the pharaoh's rule in Egypt, led by Moses. We are reminded of the hardship that the Jews endured before achieving freedom. We will be inspired by God's word and special music. Because of the special nature of this event, many volunteers are needed. Please use the [sign-up online](#) or in the bulletin if you are willing to help or if you would like to attend. **Sign up deadline is Mar. 17.**

Easter Breakfast & Baskets – Deadline to [sign up](#) is Mar. 17

Our Easter breakfast will be at 9:45am in fellowship hall. The breakfast will be catered so we are asking for everyone coming to please sign up by Mar. 17, so we have an accurate count. The menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, French toast, Ashford potatoes, danish, fruit, Irish soda bread, Irish bacon, coffee & orange juice. Breakfast cost is on a donation basis. There also will be Easter baskets for the kids 12 & under who have signed up. If you would like to volunteer to help set up at 9am on Sat., Mar. 30, help during the breakfast or clean up afterwards, please use [the sign up](#).

Men's Breakfast – Sat., Mar. 23

Our next men's breakfast at Peace will be on Sat., Mar. 23 at 10am. Breakfast will be catered by Teardrop Café. Come eat, have a cup of coffee or juice, and get to know the other men worshipping here at Peace. Men ages 16 and older are invited to this new and fun opportunity. Please use the sign up in the bulletin or [sign up here](#).

VBS Planning Meeting – Wed., Apr. 3

Our VBS is amazing and involves lots of people helping in many different ways. We invite you to be a part of the planning crew to join in the fun of putting this great event together. The next planning meeting will be Wed., Apr. 3 at 6pm. Please let us know if you would like to help with this ministry in any way.

VBS July 30-Aug. 2

Save the date! Our 2024 Vacation Bible School planning is in the works. Please save the dates of Tues., July 30 – Fri., Aug. 7 and watch the bulletin for more details and to sign up.

Ministry Fair – Sun., Apr. 14

Wondering what opportunities there are to be involved at Peace? Would you like to sing with the choir? Perhaps you have been wanting to join a committee. Look no further! On Sun., Apr. 14 we will be having a Ministry Fair between services, starting at 9:45am. Each ministry will have a table and a treat. Come learn about what being a member at Peace could have in store for you.

New Member Orientation – Sun., Apr. 21

We will be receiving new members again in April. Orientation will be Sun., Apr. 21, at 9:55am and the reception of new members will be Sun., Apr. 28 during the 11am worship. Please call the church office to let us know if you'll be involved.

Adult Fellowship Mama Mia Event – Sat., Apr. 27

Please join the Adult Fellowship to see Lincoln-Way Centrals production of *Mama Mia* on Sat., Apr. 27 at 7pm. Tickets will be \$14. Please call or email the church office if you would like to reserve tickets.

Fill the 2024 Flower Chart!

Please help us fill the flower chart! We have many dates that are open and would like to fill them so we always have flowers on the altar. Look for the flower chart by Fellowship Hall and sign up for any date you would like to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, give special thanks, etc. or in honor of someone. You may call or email the church office to sign up also. The arrangements are \$20.

Rehearsals

Adult Choir Welcomes New Voices

The Adult Choir would LOVE to welcome you! Men and women. No auditions, no experience! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7pm. For more information, please contact the office.

Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal – Sat., Feb. 3

The Ladies Ensemble is a fun group of Peace women who love to sing and fellowship. Our next practice is Sat., Feb. 3 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.

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Bell Choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please join us!

Children's Choir Rehearsal

Children's Choir rehearsals are on Sundays at 9am in Fellowship Hall for anyone 2nd - 8th grade who loves to sing! For more information contact the church office.

Youth

Confirmation Schedule

7th Grade – Mar. 6

8th Grade – Mar. 13

National Youth Gathering Meeting – Sun., Mar. 10

Those youth who are registering for NYG, please join Deacon Shari at church on Sun., Mar. 10, at 9:45am in the education wing. Next meeting is on Sun., Apr. 14.

Confirmation Sunday May 12 or May 19

Please fill out this form [Confirmation Sunday Date Choice and Verse](#). The verses the kids choose should be something that speaks to them, or something that they like. [On this page there are some bible verses](#), that they can choose from, but it doesn't have to be from this page. Also, they do not need to memorize this verse.

Helping Others

Business Clothing Collection - Mar. 1

Peace has generously provided to people who are unemployed find jobs by dressing for success. Look through your closets for suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, etc. Please bring your items to church between Mar. 1 - Apr. 30 and look for the bin in the narthex.

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.

Ruth Circle Quilters Needs

The Ruth Circle Quilters have once again donated 50 quilts to the Manteno Veterans Home to be included in their baskets for those in need. Now they are asking for your help. The Quilters are in need of gently used blankets, mattress pads and fleece throws. These items are used as fillers for the quilts so if they are not perfect, they still may be able to use them. They can not use comforters or very thick mattress pads, because they are too thick for needles to sew. As spring cleaning may be approaching, please keep the quilting group in mind. Please bring your items to the church office or when the Quilters are meeting and they will be put to good use.

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.

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.