

— September 2025 —

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.*



PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- Barb Graaf
- Greg Lindbloom,
- George Rumbaugh
- Jeri Sandt
- Pete Stoller
- The Walker Family
- Cathy Arenz
- Dan D
- Bill Weber
- Donna Grant
- Adam Krozs
- Dennis & Kerrie Flynn
- Kimberly Gonzales (Cancer)
- Frank Rossi (Cancer)
- Bud Pare
- The Gomez Family
- David Star (heart surgery)
- Daryl
- Krista
- Stevie Rae
- Cheryl Krieger
- Susan Lowe (Healing)

EVERYBODY READ

Our desire to have people
read a common Bible
passage is part of our
Book of Faith effort.
September's passage is:
Exodus 3:5

A Letter From Your Pastor

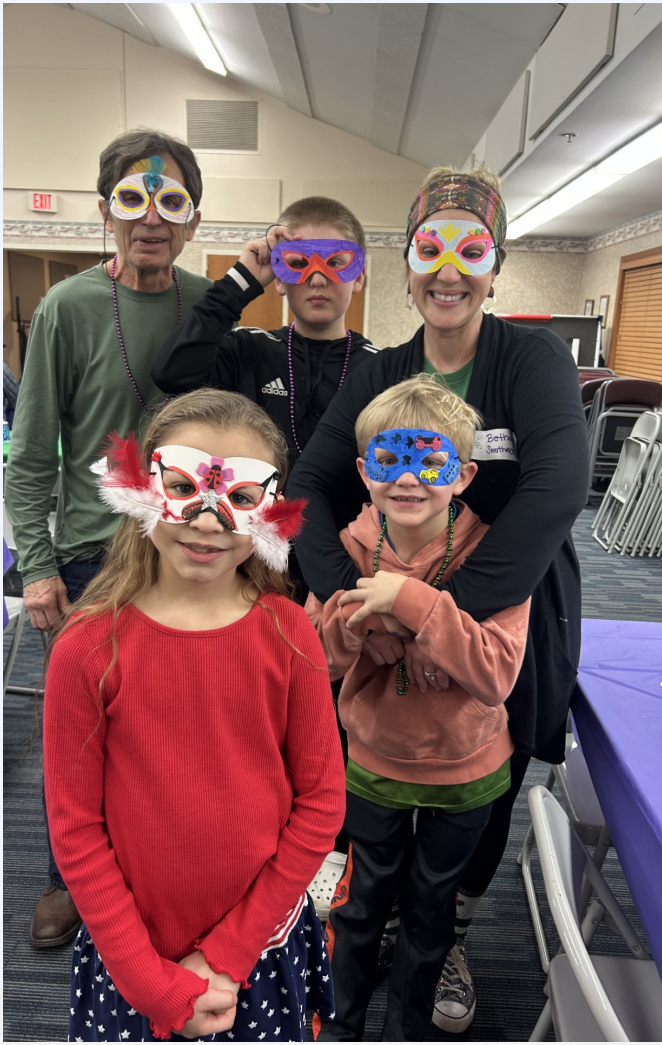
Pastor Amy Michelson

I recently met with a group of dedicated music folks – Matt, Ken and Pamela – our ensemble directors, our worship chairs, and Deacon Shari – to plan the festival days (Reformation, Christmas, Easter, etc) for this program year (Sept '25–May '26). Can you imagine!? We were talking about Easter already (Easter Sunday is early this year, by the way, April 5th). For those of us in full back to school mode, this is not what we want to think about I imagine – Easter in April of next year?! We're just trying to get through the coming week. But it made me think about how quickly time passes, and that made me think about one of my favorite Bible stories.

In Exodus, Moses, having fled his Egyptian family and home, leaving the comfort and safety of Pharaoh's palace behind, is tending sheep in the wilderness for his father-in-law when he sees a burning bush. The bush is on fire in the middle of the wilderness and it's not being consumed, so Moses decides to take a look. Now my guess is he had plenty of things to do. I imagine he didn't have a ton of extra time in his day, yet he took the time to notice this thing that was happening around him and to pause and take a closer look. By doing so he found himself in God's presence. Removing his shoes out of respect for the holy ground on which he stood, he had an unforgettable encounter with the divine.

There is such a push and pull in our lives to learn from the past, stay present, but make your plans for the future! So, this is our reminder to notice the things around us. Take a closer look at where God's presence is in our lives. Notice the holy ground on which we stand, take off our shoes (if it's not weird), and encounter the divine.

Standing with you on holy ground,
Pastor Amy



Sympathy -

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

The Family of Greg Bosich

The Family of Peter Viehweg

Welcome to the Lord's Family -

- Natalie, Thomas & Sloane Peterson baptized August 2
- Isabelle Mendell baptized August 17
- Noah Robert Kman baptized August 24



Financial Update as of July 31, 2025

July Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$58,281	\$111,447	\$602,158

July Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$50,574	\$97,140	\$602,158

Thank You

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

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

All Office Volunteers

All who are teaching and helping with Sunday School

From:

Dorothy Hedlin - Thank you for the bulletins and Celebrates.

A Letter From Your Deacon

By Deacon Shari



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

I have been asked by a couple members recently if I would explain the difference in the education it takes to become a pastor verse becoming a deacon. I thought this newsletter might be a cool opportunity to explain some of the differences.

First let's start with what is the same. Both pastors and deacons must have a four-year undergraduate degree. This degree can be in whatever subject you would like. My undergraduate degree is Religion and Philosophy with a minor in Social Work. Pastor Amy's undergraduate degree is in Communicative Disorders. Both pastors and deacons in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must attend Seminary and must be a part of their synodical candidacy process. (the candidacy process could be its own newsletter so we will save that for another time) You can choose to attend any Seminary. I attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia while Pastor Amy attended The Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

What is different is what happens once we get into Seminary. Deacons are only required to attend two years of seminary, complete their internship while attending classes, and they must have a specialization which they also receive training in. For example, my specialization is Social Work and I attended classes at Temple University in Philadelphia while I was in Seminary. Pastors are required to attend 3 years of seminary and a year long internship inside a congregation. Deacons' internship can be in any Church affiliated program that utilizes their specialization. For example, I did a half year internship with Lutheran Social Services of Philadelphia in their child advocacy program and a year long internship at Jane Addams Place which is a shelter for women and children who are escaping domestic violence that allowed me to include Bible studies for the women and faith activities for the children.

At the end of completion of either a 2-year seminary program and specialization training, or a 3-year seminary program and year long internship both pastors and deacons' graduate. Seminary graduation is like any graduate program graduation. Deacons graduate with a Master of Art and Religion and pastors graduate with a Master of Divinity. Both pastors and deacons are not considered for ordination until they have received their master's and received a letter of call.

I hope you have found this interesting. Like always if there is something that you would like to learn about, please feel free to ask. Who knows, maybe your question will end as my next newsletter article.

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari Simon

Offerings & Opportunities

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.

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.peacenewelenox.org, click on the donate tab.

All Committee Night – Wed., Sept. 24

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.

Halloween Trunk or Treat Event – Sun., Oct. 26 at 1pm

Please join us for a Halloween Trunk or Treat on Sun., Oct. 26 from 1- 2pm. We invite all kids to come out and show off their costume and get some candy. As a way to give back, we will be collecting PB&J for our local food pantry. If you would like to decorate your trunk or a table and pass out candy to our Trick or Treaters from 1-2pm, please sign up online or in the bulletin. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Please watch the bulletin as we get closer for more details about the whole event. Come and have some Halloween fun!

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 on Rally Day, Sept. 7th

Synod Growing Disciples Newsletter

When you hear the word “serve,” what comes to mind? Do you think of someone bringing you food at a restaurant? Or do you think about a person who wiped your brow or brought you soup when you were sick in bed? Christ-centered service is often transformational. It can change both the life of the one who serves as well as the person who is served. Service is a living witness to our faith that provides opportunities for us to invite others to learn more about Jesus. Through service, we encourage those who are struggling to go on and restore hope in their lives. Jesus says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38) 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](#)

Outdoor Worship Service – Sat, Sept. 27

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!

Blessing of the Animals – Sat., Sept. 27 at 6pm

Bring your animal of any kind to receive a special blessing.

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.

Healing Service – Oct. 11 & 12

Join us for a healing service the weekend of Oct. 11 & 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.

New Member Orientation – Sun., Sept. 28

We will be receiving new members again in September. The New Member orientation & luncheon is Sun., Sept. 28, at 12:15pm and the reception of new members will be Sun., Oct. 19 during the 11am service. Please call the church office to let us know if you would like more information or would like to attend.



Looking Ahead

Sept. 27- Blessing of the Animals 6:00pm

Sept. 28- New Member Luncheon 12:15pm

Oct. 26- Trunk or Treat

Oct. 25/26- Peanut Butter & Jelly Weekend



Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., Sept 8 & 22 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., Sept 9 at 12pm

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

Men's Breakfast – Sat., Sept 27 at 10:00am

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-

There is no Out To Eat Group for September. Meetings will resume in October.

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!

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Sept 7 at 9:45am

We will discuss "Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man)" by Jesse Q Sutanto.

Groups

Peace Book Club – Tues., Sept 9 at 10:00am

We have selected "Nettle and Bone" by T. Kingfisher to be our next read!

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.

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.

Women's Retreat – Sept. 20 9am-3pm

Join us for this year's women's retreat on September 20th 9am-3pm at Peace with an optional outing afterwards. We'll discuss Spiritual Practices – from prayer to scripture to art to worship and more! There is no cost for this year's retreat. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring snacks to share. All women are welcome, please sign up by September 7th. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Amy or Deacon Shari.

Progressive Lunch-Oct. 5, 12:30pm-2:30pm

We will be having our first ever Progressive Lunch. This event will be held in the church so there will be no driving around town, just walking from classroom to classroom. There will be a menu of appetizers, main lunch item and desserts. Dietary options will be available. Please sign up by September 27.

Youth

Messtival- Sun., Sept. 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.

Bibles to Be Given to 3rd Grade & Up – Sept. 6 & 7

Our church has great joy in giving each child a Bible of their own. We invite children from third grade on up, who have not received theirs yet, to come forward during worship on Sept. 6th or 7th.

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 every week to enjoy fellowship, faith and fun. Please check out the Newsletter for upcoming events and get connected to our Youth Group Google calendar.

Confirmation Orientation –Wed., Sept. 10 at 7pm

This is a meeting for all students in 7th & 8th grades and at least one parent/adult. This important night incorporates information about schedules, expectations, youth events, volunteering, and more! If you know someone who is not a part of any church but has a student in this age bracket, please invite them to come too.

Register for 2024/2025 Sunday School

We look forward to a great year starting on Rally Day, Sept. 7 at 9:45; “God’s Gigantic Kingdom”! 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 in the narthex, [register online](#), or call the church office.

Junior High Retreat Synod Retreat–Sat., Oct. 4th

7th and 8th grade youth are invited to join other youth from the Northern Illinois area for a day of service, Bible study, worship, food, and of course fun! This year the event will be at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore IL, on October 4th from 8:30am–5:30pm. We will meet at Peace and travel together. As always please invite friends to come! The cost of this event is \$20 per person. As always please talk to Deacon Shari or Pastor Amy if this is cost prohibitive, we have ways to help make sure all youth can attend. If you have any questions about this event please talk to Deacon Shari.



Helping Others

Share Fest Group Service Project- Oct. 4 at 9am

The Service/Outreach Committee has organized a group service project from 9 a.m. to 12pm at ShareFest of Will County, 21715 Moni Drive, New Lenox. We will be packing boxes with food (to be given away at a later date by ShareFest) This is open to all ages. Participants are not required to stay for all three hours. If interested, please use the sign-up sheet in the bulletin, or call the church office.

Peanut Butter Weekend – Oct. 25 & 26

Let's see if we can top last year's record amount of peanut butter & jelly! The New Lenox Township food bank especially needs these staples this time of year. If you would like to donate, please bring your peanut butter & jelly to church on the weekend of Oct. 25/26 and look for the bin in the narthex.

Trunk or Treat for Joshua Arms- Oct. 27 at 6:30pm

We are expanding our Trunk or Treat fun to Joshua Arms, a senior residence, operated by Lutheran Social Services, at 1315 Rowell Avenue, Joliet. Since we will be indoors, we are looking for people of all ages to bring some decorations or a craft, wear costumes and hand out treats to the seniors. They would especially like to see kids in costumes! If you can join us, please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet in the bulletin, or call the church office.

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Needs List

We are always collecting bottled water, juice, paper products, handsoap, 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.

****Will County Recyclepalooza**

Saturday, Sept. 13 at Spencer School Campus, 1711 S. Spencer Road, New Lenox. Volunteers are needed in 2-3-hour shifts from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm to help unload cars with items to be recycled. Sign up at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AADA92BA4F94-57698577-recyclepalooza>.

****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

Worship Details
Saturday worship 5pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11am.
8:30am service is live streamed.
Outdoor Service- 09/27
Don't forget your chair!

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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