

September 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:

- Carol Armour
- Debbie Palm
- Jenny Decker
- Barry Garr
- Frank Rossi
- Karson K.
- Amber Salutric
- Barry Garr
- Jason and Ashley
- Roberta Trakan
- Kyle
- Jenna
- Justin & Kaleigh

EVERYBODY READ

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

September's passage is:

Read your favorite verse or look up your Confirmation verse

A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

We got to hear some great stories in August! In case you missed it, we just finished our sermon series on Children's books. There are so many great ones, so I thought I'd recap the ones we read and share a few others that we considered including. The first week we learned from a dump truck that, "A lot depends on a helping hand from a few good friends." (*Little Blue Truck* by Alice Shertle)

Then we heard about how people forgot that they were a message of love. They argued about who God was and they neglected creation and through the oceans, breezes, and stars, God tried to tell them how important it is for them to care for each other and the world God made. "And after a long, lonesome and scary time, the people listened, and began to hear. And to see God in one another and in the beauty of all the Earth. And Old Turtle Smiled. And so did God." (*Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood)

A whole carton of eggs taught us about living in the imperfections of community. "The other eggs aren't perfect, and I don't have to be either." (*The Good Egg* by Jory John)

A kiddo whose day didn't go as planned showed us that magical things can happen when we least expect it. "I felt a sense that there was something special close by. That I was surrounded." (*On a Magical Do-Nothing Day* by Beatrice Alemagna)

Other books that made our short list:

Ruby Finds A Worry by Tom Percival, *The Starkeeper* by Faith Pray, *Now* by Antoinette Portis, *Shine* by Patrick McDonnell, *That's Not My Name* by Anoosha Syed, *A Birthday for Frances* by Russell Hoban

How about you? What are the stories, shows, or songs that the Spirit is working through to bring comfort, offer encouragement, or grow your faith? What a gift that the Spirit is at work in many and varied ways!

Peace,
Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of July 31, 2026

July Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$40,581	\$92,442	\$612,831

July Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$47,123	\$99,068	\$612,831

Blood Pressure Screening

August 30, 2026
9:45am - 10:45am

Once a quarter a free blood pressure check is available to all. No need to register, just drop in. A trained nurse will be there to administer the test.

Vaccine Clinic

October 18, 2026
9:30am-10:45am

Vaccines will include flu, COVID, Pneumonia, Shingles, RSV, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and Hepatitis B. Those who want vaccines will be asked to fill out a consent form (*available at church*) and bring their insurance card.



Thank You

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

- All our Sunday School volunteers who are dedicating themselves to a safe, fun year
- Pamela Putrich, Ken George, and Leslie Walton for their music planning and leadership
- Marylynn Tyler for updating and restocking our first aid kits
- The property committee and their crew that cleared out rooms for carpet cleaning and are working to fix and prevent water intrusion from storms





A Letter From Your Deacon



Dear Members and Friends of Peace,

It's September and that means it's time for Sunday School. Get ready! With Sunday School comes children, joyful noise and less cookies left on the snack table. This year we are trying a new curriculum for Sunday School. Our teachers are excited about it and so are we.

Our new curriculum is called Faithweaver Now: Weaving faith into today's families. This program is both nondenominational and interdenominational. There are several reasons that our faith development committee chose it and we are excited to share those with you.

First Faithweaver Now is age specific and interactive. The teacher guides are wonderful with more ideas for each class than we ever could possibly need. The curriculum is both hard copy and digital format, which means that it comes with a full color work book for each student. Perhaps our favorite part about the curriculum is that each student will have a worksheet to take home with a "family fun" section to engage families in faith together, and Bible stories to read each day of the week. The curriculum comes with resources for all ages birth to adults and a music CD for every class. We are returning to the basics, and we will be learning some of the fundamental biblical stories.

The very first lesson will be Genesis 1: 1-2:3 and we will explore how God created the world and especially how God created us, beautiful and unique. Faithweaver Now is designed to cover the whole Bible in three years. We will not get to do all the lessons but we will be exploring many of these beloved pieces of scripture. May God's presence swirl around our children, youth and adults this year as they learn and grow. May God's love be made known and God's mercy be tangible to all who come in the doors of Peace.

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari Simon

Worship

Contemporary Worship

Join us November 14th 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!

Blessing of the Animals – Sat., Sept. 26 at 6pm

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



Special Music

Have you ever been moved by the special music here at Peace? Whether you've felt encouraged, seen, or comforted, music has a way of reaching us and speaking to our spirits. A lot of people work hard to make our music meaningful, so we are happy to announce that Jonathan DeMik will be helping to bring this special music to our worship services. He has volunteered to coordinate musicians, schedule, and even arrange music for instrumental solos or ensembles. If you are interested in offering or learning more about special music, please reach out to Jonathan at peacelutheran.nl.specialmusic@gmail.com. Thank you to all our musicians for all their work!

Do you love to sing? Would you like to make a joyful noise with others? Peace Choir wants you!!

Practices begin on September 9th at 7pm. No auditions. No experience. Just love to sing. Just check us out!!! Contact church office for choir contact information."

The Ladies Ensemble welcomes all women to join us for singing and fellowship!

No auditions or experience required. Practice only once per month. Come make a joyful noise!!! We start up again on Saturday, September 12 at 3pm. Call the office for contact information.

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.

All Committee Meeting – Tues., Sept. 22

Want to be involved in the ministries happening at Peace? You are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 6:00pm.

Looking Ahead

Office Closed For Labor Day-September 7th

Rally Day and Messtival- September 13th

Blessing of The Animals-September 26th



Fellowship

Women's Retreat September 19th

We invite all women high school aged and older to join us for a day of learning and fellowship at our annual women's retreat. This year the theme will be "women of faith, past, present and future." Please bring pictures of women of faith important to you and a snack to share. We will meet at Peace from 9am till 2pm. If you would like more information reach out to Deacon Shari or Pastor Amy. Please sign up by Sept. 6th [here](#).

Out To Eat Sat., Sept 12 at 6:15pm

Join us for dinner at North & Maple, 2399 East Joliet Hwy, New Lenox 6:15pm, following 5 o'clock service. Please make sure there is a sign-up for each person and that all sign-ups are completed and turned in by September 8th.

Chili Cook Off Sat., Sept 26 at 6:00pm

Calling all chili lovers! Enter your special chili into a friendly competition! Email your name and the name of your chili to Karen Town at karen.town@icloud.com by Sept. 20. We also need tasters! Join us to sample the delicious entries and vote for your favorite. We will provide beverages and chili. We invite anyone to bring a dessert to share. Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

Trunk or Treat Sun., Oct 25 at 1:00pm

We will be having Trunk or Treat in the parking lot at Peace. We encourage members to decorate their car and hand out candy. **Sign-Up Deadline Date Oct. 10th.**

Joshua Arms Trunk or Treat Mon., Oct 26 at 6:00pm

On Monday the 26th we will be at Joshua Arms senior living apartments in Joliet for a similar event to our Trunk or Treat. Instead of a car, a table and games. We are asking for donations of candy. Sign-Up Deadline Date Oct. 10th.

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.

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.



Groups



We've recently completed some important property projects- fixing bricks on the front columns, re-pitching windowsills, and carpet cleaning!

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., Sept 20 at 9:45am

The next book the Peace Page Turners will discuss will be “The Bookclub for Troublesome Women” by Marie Bostwick.

Tuesdays at Peace–Tues., Sept 15 at 10:00am

Our next read is Ann Patchett's "Bel Canto,"

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 play 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., Sept 7 & 21 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., Sept 15 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., Sept 26 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!

National Youth Gathering June 28- July 2027

Imagine worshipping with 20,000 other people who believe in the same God you do. Now imagine that 15,000 of them are youth the same age as you. The National Youth gathering is an event where this becomes real. We will travel to Minneapolis this year with other Lutheran youth from all over the United States and hear from amazing and honest speakers about how to imagine more love, welcome, grace, Joy, and courage. We will begin meeting as a group every month begin imagining more, planning and preparing. If you are interested in attending please let Deacon Shari know.

Messitval- Sun., Sept 13 at 12:00pm

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 7 through 12 grade youth, but we can always use adult volunteers. See Deacon Shari if you have any questions.

Jr Youth Legos and Eggos- Sun., Sept 20 at 12:15pm

Jr youth group is starting back on September 20th. We will meet in the fellowship hall from 12:15pm till 2:00pm. We will make breakfast for lunch together with the star of the show being Eggo Waffles and then we will build Legos together. Jr Youth Group is specifically for 3rd grade through 6th grade. Invite your friends and let's have some fun. If you have any questions please reach out to Deacon Shari.



Upcoming Youth Events

- Wed, Sept 10 - Confirmation Orientation - 7:00pm
- Sun Sept 13 - Messtival 12:00pm
- Sun Sept 20 - Jr Youth Legos & Eggos 12:15pm
- Sun Sept 27 - NYG Meeting - 9:45am

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.

1st Communion Class

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, however, all are welcome at Christ's table, so if you have a kid who desires to take communion, they are welcome in our class. Please use the sign up slip or email Pastor Amy if you have a kid who is interested. We will then try to find a date that works for everyone. (This particular class is open to all school-aged kids, so if you have a younger child who is interested, please reach out to Pastor Amy.)



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.

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Phone: (815) 485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

website: www.peacenewlenox.org