

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

February 2018

Vol. XXVIII, Issue 2

Easy Open! (Lift Tab and Open)

It's what it says on the cereal box. You may have found the words on a variety of plastic buckets with a seal. All kinds of cans have "easy open" lids/tabs with these same instructions: Lift tab and open. When it goes just as instructed, the whole process is great. But I'm sure I'm not the only one who has had the plastic tab break off, the cereal box top tear (and the bag inside be impossible to open), and the tab on the can be contrary. Those experiences can frustrate us because mostly they were not of our making.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, are the times when the door says "pull" and we keep trying to push. The gas gauge is on the red and we keep driving. Our bodies are exhausted, but we keep pushing to do one more thing. Now when something falls apart, the frustration is not just from the outside, but because of our own behavior.

We know this much: either way, something is not right.

The season of Lent begins Feb. 14 – happy Valentine's Day! The season is primed to help us deal with lives that frequently are not easy open, no matter what the cause; that acknowledges all the sources of our frustration, internal and external. With a stark reminder of our mortality (dust to dust, ashes to ashes) at the beginning of the season, we are offered a point of view that doesn't run from real life. Instead, it seeks to transcend it, and even to transform (transfigure) it at the end.

There is the good news of the season. God is in that transformation business all the time! God can take lives that are anything but easy-to-open, and open them. God can take brokenness and find a way to make it work anyhow. God can take our stubborn refusal to read the evidence right in front of us and help us see how self-defeating that is. And at the end God even finds ways to bring new life out of death.

I am grateful that God can use this season of Lent to open our lives and to help us pay attention to what God wants for us. It turns out that life doesn't have to be easy-anything in order to receive life-giving love from God.

Prayers Requested

Cathy Rumbaugh, Rich Gamen, George Becker, Tiffani Ntanos, the Piper family, Michael Bianchi, Melissa, Josh, Bob P., Mike Morres, Sandy Robertson, Jeff Howell, Richard Thorau, Jim Fitzpatrick, Robin Scanlan, Mary Ann, Patsy, Vivian, Stacey D., Dori Klock, Vernon Sanborn, Jodee Saenz, Hildegard, Donna L., Tyler, Colin R., Darlene C., Jim Pander, Bobby Reynolds, the family of Ed Staszak, the family of Reg Friedrich, Chris Fehrenkamp, Lori Tierney and family, Liz, Chris Martin, the family of Greg Losiniecki, George Huffman, Lori Trosen, Jeff Lindeman, Ann Griffin, Gavin, the family of Leigh Kelly, Gary Stout, the family of Vicki Jackson, Sue Rushing, Bob Haney, Mike & Judy Williams, Monica Gilmartin, Diane Weber, Robert Fleckenstien, Paige Fitzpatrick, Amy Olsen, Gloria Krause, the family of Gloria Bales

Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Doris Fosnaugh;

the family of Tony McGuire, husband of Lynn McGuire;

the family of Carolyn Blair, mother of Lora Dittman;

the family of Renee Wiedman;

the family of Ken Bockwoldt, father of Mark Bockwoldt and Pastor Stan Bockwoldt.

Congratulations

Mike & Sarah Scott, parents and Bob & Sue Briskey, grandparents, on the birth of Reagan Ann Scott on Jan. 10.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Thank You Very Much!

The list that follows is for those who have done something for the first time. (If we miss someone, please let us know!) We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen, even though their names don't keep getting mentioned here.

To:

Kayla Chiappetti, Jake Vanderkin – greeters
Jacob Cole – communion server
Charlie Scheerer – refreshments
Danny Gervase – offering counter
Kathy Sons – bulletin assembly
Marc Larson, Anthony Ciannella, John O'Brien –
acolytes
Danielle Schabes, Robert Kazlauskas – ushers
Leah Prince – lay liturgist
To everyone who helped or brought food for the New
Member luncheon
Monica Medows – giving statement assembly

From:

Lora Dittman & family – for all the cards & prayers
and for everyone who helped with & provided food for
the funeral luncheon for my mom, Carolyn Blair
Darlene Terrell – for the prayer shawl
Pastor Forni & Santa Cruz Church – for the
Christmas gifts!

Address for Our Sponsored Missionary

If you would like to send Danielle Steinwart a note
sometime this year, here is her address:

Danielle Steinwart
High House,
St. Swithun's School
Alresford Rd
Winchester SO21 1HA, United Kingdom

Addresses for Service Personnel

Mail for four of our members serving overseas in the
military can be sent to:

MA 3Connor Wayne Baker	Sgt Pafford, Devin
PSC 455 Box 173	2714 S. Virginia Dr.
FPO AP 96540-1070	Apt. #36
	Yuma AZ 85364

Daniel Treasure, EMFN, EE DIV	Jacob Treasure
USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115)	3749 Radcliffe Rd.
Unit 100415 Box 1505	Abilene, TX 79602
FPO AP 96694	

Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Do you care for someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's
disease or a related dementia? Are you looking for
information and support? You are not alone.
There is an Alzheimer's Association Support Group
meeting at Peace the second Tuesday of each month at
7:00 p.m. All are welcome! If you would like more
information, please contact Karin Knutson at
karinknutson@hotmail.com.

Addiction and Family Support Group

An Addiction & Family Support Group meets here at
Peace each Tuesday night from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Are you or a loved one struggling with heroin or opiate
dependence? Addiction is a family disease, because
everyone in the family suffers if someone is addicted to
or abusing drugs. The good news is people can and do
recover and lead happy and productive lives. Please join
us! This support group meeting is for those struggling,
those who love someone struggling, or those who just
want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and
prescription pain medications in our community. For
more information, contact Tom Moore at 815-354-3195.

Special Music

If you would like to provide special music (vocal or
instrumental) during the worship services, please contact
Kelly Muehlnickel at (815) 463-8836 or email her at
bluestonebay@comcast.net.

Remember Our P.O. Box

Use P.O. Box 205 for mail addressed to Peace.

Asset Building Toy Drive

As a part of the Asset Building effort that our
congregation supports, we will be taking part in a toy
drive to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest
Foundation. Their mission is to provide toddlers to 18
year olds who are going through cancer treatments with
a small gift such as new toys, books, crafts, dollar store
items, unopened kids meal toys, accessories and gift
certificates. All items must be new. Please – NO
stuffed animals. You may deliver your items to the
church office or send them with your child to Sunday
School by March 1. Any questions please contact Pastor
Dave. Thanks for all your support of young people!

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS **Feb. 25**. If you get your newsletter late, please pick one up here, or if you want it mailed first class or via e-mail, let us know.

* **The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic** is now accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Appointments are available onsite or over the phone, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To schedule a free screening appointment, please call (815) 726-3377, ext. 228. For patient eligibility information: <http://willgrundymedicalclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Eligibility.pdf>.

* **Crutches and walkers available** – The church has received crutches and walkers from members. Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.

* **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** – Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give the individual the names and telephone numbers of people who could be contacted and if possible, have the person meet these people. Give them the suicide prevention hotline. **Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Let's remember to keep in mind to spread the word that no one is alone in a time of need. Suicide destroys everyone who cares! Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives. Crisis Line – (815) 469-6166, text line – 741741, and online – www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

* **Bereavement Support Groups**

- *GriefShare* – Currently not meeting -please watch the newsletter for future dates.

- *Evening Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, (with the exception of the month of March), December - June 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

- *Afternoon Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *donation appreciated*.

For other services offered, including individual counseling, parent support and general grief support, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call (815) 740-4104.

* **LSSI's Joshua Arms Website** - Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping and other daily living services. The new website is an easy to use tool for potential residents and family members to learn about Joshua Arms, including eligibility and floor plans.

* **Thrivent members** – For those of you who have Thrivent dollars to donate, don't forget Peace is one of those choices.

* **Cleaning for a Reason** – Provides free housecleaning once a month for 4 months for women currently undergoing chemotherapy. For more information or to sign up please go to:

www.cleaningforareason.org/cancer_patients_acct.html
You will need a doctor's note confirming treatment to sign up and Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in your zip code area arrange for service. This organization serves the entire US and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

* **The Savvy Caregiver** – A program designed to equip family members and others for the caregiving role for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another related dementia. These free classes take place at the Senior Services of Will County on Mar. 7,14,21 & 28. Please contact Trinnette 847-324-0360 for class time and to register.

* **L.O.M.C. Memorial Day Work Weekend May 25-28, 2018** – Help get the camp ready for another great year of summer camp. For questions, contact Ken Dilbeck at ken@lomc.org or 815-978-5843. If housing is needed, contact Audrey Adams at registrations@lomc.org or 815-732-2220.

Prayer Group – March 21

Denise Jones hosts a monthly gathering for prayer. The prayers include our church, our young people, those on the prayer list from the bulletin, and any other concerns or celebrations. The group will resume on March 21 at 11:45 a.m. at her home (17013 Geneva Ave., Lockport). Please call her (815) 838-0388 or the church office (815) 485-5327 so she can prepare appropriately.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Feb. 12 & 26

Quilting meets every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. **No experience necessary.** You just have to know how to have fun to join. And if that's not enticing enough, we always have snacks! Questions, call Karen Dircks (815) 462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom (708) 479-7338

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Feb. 7 & 21

Come and prepare shawls for people who need to be wrapped in God's love. We meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. every other week. Bring yarn, hooks/needles and patterns or we can provide these for you. Questions, contact Cheryl Gamen at (815) 462-3089. To date we have created 122 prayer shawls and given away 94!

Men's Dartball – Feb. 13

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. No prior experience is needed (or helpful). Please join us! We finish up at 9:00 so you've got time for your bedtime ice cream, too. (Who's idea is that???)

Trailblazers – Feb. 20

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at noon here at the church. The menu will be two kinds of lasagna (vegetarian and gluten free) and you bring something you'd enjoy sharing with the group. Be sure to invite a friend! Any questions, please contact the church office.

Peace Buddies – Feb. 18

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. New Buddies are always welcome! You do not have to be a part of our church to join us. If you know someone, please invite them to come. We usually meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. The meeting time is **noon – 2:00 p.m.** Questions, see Pastor Dave or call Emilie Harvey at (815) 529-7546. **Note, we will not meet Feb. 4 and on Feb. 18, we will take part in the all church bowling event (see that announcement). Arrive at 12:45 p.m. to get ready to bowl at 1:00 p.m. at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox. We should be done by 3:00 p.m. Both drop off and pick up for this event is at the bowling alley.**

Peace Page Turners – Feb. 25

Peace Page Turners next will be discussing *Mrs. Kennedy & Me* by Clint Hill. Join us for the discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We meet at 9:45 a.m. and all are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Davenport (815) 545-2806

Adult Fellowship Game Night & Chili – Feb. 17

Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 6:10 for game & chili night. The Adult Fellowship Group hosts the event, but all are welcome. We'll provide the chili, you are asked to bring the toppings or the base item you'd like to go with it (potato? bread? cheese? sour cream?, etc.) Please use the sign-up to give us a clue how many to expect and what you will be bringing. If you need childcare, please let us know that too by Feb. 11 (\$3 per child). (By the way, **save March 10 for Bunco!**)

Peace Women's Group

The Peace Women's Group is open to all women 18 and up. We invite all interested to join us for our next events. We look forward to seeing you all soon! Any questions, contact Jan Stoller (815) 530-2786. Start the New Year with something new!

Our plans for February were revised as the event space cancelled the Feb. 3 concert. We will be going to *Ladies Night Unmasked* on Feb. 10, at 6:00 p.m. at Prairie State College. Tickets for this event have already been purchased.

March date - TBD, but a taste of Thailand is in our future! Joy of Thai Restaurant in Mokena is our next destination on the food train! Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

Out to Eat Group – Feb. 10

The Out-to-Eat group invites you to join in an evening of food and conversation at the Double Yolk, 11400 E. Lincoln Hwy, Mokena, on Sat., Feb. 10, meeting there at 6:15. Please use the sign-up slip or call the church office so we can let them know how many spots to reserve.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting – Feb. 20

It's that time of year to start planning for Vacation Bible School. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in making plans for what promises to be another great session of VBS!

Adult Class Topics...

Come to our Sunday weekly adult class. It usually meets in the back of the sanctuary, starting about 9:55. Here are the scheduled topics for the coming month.

Feb. 4 - *The Burdens We All Carry* (and how to help others)

Feb. 11 - *Why Do Some Churches Not Let You Take Communion?*

Feb. 18 - *Who Helped Write Your Book of Life?*

Feb. 25 - *The Enemies Within* (the value of Lent and looking at life)

Mar. 4 - *The Bible: Fact or Fiction? Story or History?* (How can you tell?)

Mar. 11 - *What Does It Take to Be Inspirational?*

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we'll pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then those who are willing, write a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. February's passage is *Isaiah 58:1-10*.

Evening Bible Study – Feb. 20

Our next meeting date will be February 20 at 7:15 p.m. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to benefit. Luke 9:1 is where we will pick it up. We do need to have a few more people come regularly for this class to continue. (If you'd like a reminder that week, let us know and we'll do that.)

Caring Ministry Team – Feb. 6

We care about people who have not attended recently. This team wants to find compassionate and respectful ways to reach out and offer ministry to them. Our next meeting is on Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Everybody's Welcome

Committee Night – Feb. 6

Four times a year we have an "everybody come" committee night. We meet at 7:30 p.m. Come and share your ideas.

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 3/4 – *30th Anniversary of Our First Worship Souper/Super Bowl & Boy Scout Weekend 7th & 8th/HS Lock In*

Bring a Friend Weekend

Feb. 6 – *Caring Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

All Come Committee Night 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 – *Baptism Orientation 3:30 p.m.*

Feb. 14 – *Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.*

Feb. 17 – *Adult Fellowship Games & Chili 6:10 p.m.*

Feb. 18 – *Annual Meeting 9:55 a.m.*

All-Church Bowling event 12:45 p.m.

Feb. 20 – *V.B.S. Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.*

Trailblazers noon

Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 24 – *Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Feb. 25 – *Peace Page Turners 9:45 a.m.*

Peace Talent Show & Dinner 3:00 p.m.

Mar. 2-4 – *Antioch Retreat*

Mar. 3/4 – *Girl Scout Weekend*

Mar. 25 – *Palm Sunday*

Apr. 1 – *Easter Sunday*

May 20 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (1st option)*

May 27 – *Confirmation Sunday 11:00 (2nd option)*

Health Care Ministry - Blood Pressure Screenings – Feb. 11

High blood pressure can start at any age and can cause catastrophic illness in our bodies if it goes untreated. Our next monthly screening date is Feb. 11, between the two services. Your pressure will be measured by health care professionals and will be kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions, or have clinical experience in taking blood pressures and would like to be a part of the team, please contact Marylynn Tyler at 815-423-6407.

All-Church Bowling – Feb. 18

Our All-Church Bowling outing will be on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1:00 p.m. at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox (1009 W. Laraway Rd.). Please arrive around 12:45 p.m. to get your shoes, bowling ball and lane ready before we begin at 1:00 p.m. The cost will be \$9 per person for 2 games and shoes. Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office. The event is also the Peace Buddies and 5th & 6th Grade group activities for February.

From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and Friends of Peace,
I'm writing this to you from my desk and next to me is my open calendar. This is important to note because it is open so that I do not forget throughout the day what is happening from one moment to the next. It is still the beginning of the year and already almost every single square is spoken for.

Maybe you are like me. I cram things in to my already busy schedule. I have to be everything for my family, the church, our youth, my pets. The motivation for this mindset is a really positive one. I love these groups of people so much that I want to give them everything I have. My faith in Jesus, our servant leader, pushes me to serve. However, in my desire to do for others I forget one very important thing. I am NOT Jesus.

I am gloriously human and so are you. We as humans cannot maintain a 100% perfection rate. However, what we can maintain is our best. As children we are taught to do our best at school, on the sports field and in every new challenge we try.

So, what is our best? Christ-love is my best! To show Christ-love in everything we do is the ultimate goal of our lives as Christians. This means when we are with family we don't try to be Christ instead we show Christ love with humility and also the willingness to receive that same love. The same goes for at work, at church, with our children, pets and so on. You as a glorious human cannot do more than your best! Trying to be more than this will feel like the greatest climb of your life up the most impossible mountain.

So, remember when you look at your calendar and the squares are full say to yourself all I can do is my best and Christ love IS my best!

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

Antioch Host Families Wanted

Our youth's annual Antioch retreat (grades 7-12) is blessed by having host families for one over-night stay. Host families provide overnight lodging on Friday, March 2, as well as transportation for their youth to and from the church. It is hoped that host families will host at least two youth (of the same gender). If you are willing to be a host family, or if you have questions, please call the church office or see Deacon Shari.

Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome these people as the newest members of Peace!

Mike & Nancy Bohl
Joanna Ziolkowski

Ash Wednesday Worship – Feb. 14

The worldwide observance of Lent begins this year on Feb. 14 with Ash Wednesday. This solemn occasion reminds us of our mortality, as well as our need for forgiveness. We will have worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The option for the imposition of ashes will be available at both services.

Lenten Devotionals

This year we will have Lenten calendars and bookmarks with suggested daily Bible readings as well as devotionals for young adults and children. Look for them on the table in the narthex.

Lenten Opportunities

Some people in their observance of Lent give something up. It is an option that can work if approached in the right way. We suggest, as an alternative, that you take something on for Lent! Take on Bible reading or meditation or some personal discipline or the Lenten Reflections idea (below). Or how about attending the Sunday morning adult class or use one of the Lenten devotional books or do an act of caring for someone anonymously or use one of the God's Global Barnyard coin boxes and help people around the world?

Lenten Reflections (with Soup)

Feed both your spirit and your body! Join us at 12:15 p.m. on Sundays during lent, starting on 2/18 and continuing through 3/25 (Palm Sunday). Lent is a time many have the desire to deepen their faith, to learn more about the ministry of Jesus, his sacrifice, our role in it all - and what it means to us in our daily world now. We will share a simple meal, followed by devotion, prayer and reflection. It will be a time of quiet study and contemplation. Bring your questions, doubts, observations-whatever you wish us to lift up. Use the sign up so we can gauge interest-and have enough soup! Any questions contact Jan Stoller at 815-530-2786. You do not need to attend all sessions - come when you can.

Ticket Updates & New Show Added

Here is the latest from our Fellowship Committee and the theater outings we have in the works (as of Jan. 31.) The Cher Show - Wednesday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m., \$21.50, at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago. Based on the life of Cherilyn Sarkisian La Piere Bono Allman or as her friends call her: Cher. The kid on a tricycle, vowing to be famous. The teenage phenom who crashes by twenty. The glam TV star who quits at the top. The would-be actress with an Oscar. The legend with a hundred million records sold, but who was still scared to walk on stage. The wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, the woman, looking for love, the ultimate survivor, chasing her dream – they're all here, dressed to kill, with songs galore, telling it like it is. There are 2 tickets remaining.

Hamilton - Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m., \$107, at the CIBC Theatre in Chicago. This award winning show has great energy in the first half, and a meaningful message throughout, especially in the second half. We had 1 ticket left as of Jan. 31. Call to see if you're too late or to be on a waiting list because we can't get more tickets for this round.

Waitress - Sun., July 15, 2:00 p.m., \$23, at the Cadillac Theatre in Chicago. *Waitress* tells the story of Jenna, a waitress and expert pie maker, who dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a fresh start, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. There are original songs created by award winning musicians, too. We have been allotted 10 tickets for this show.

Dirty Dancing - Sunday, June 3, at 2:00 p.m., \$23, at the Cadillac Theatre in Chicago. The classic story on stage is an unprecedented live experience, with great music and dancing. It features the hit songs, "Hungry Eyes," "Hey Baby," "Do You Love Me?" and "The Time of My Life." We have 6 tickets available.

Pretty Woman - Sunday, April 8, at 2:00 p.m., \$23 at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago. A new musical based on one of the iconic movies of our time, this will be the pre-Broadway World Premiere stage production. See it before it gets to New York! We have 2 tickets available.

JUST ADDED

On Your Feet - Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., \$22.50, at the Cadillac Theatre in Chicago. This great story about Gloria and Emilio Estefan and their journey from Cuba to the USA will also get your toes tapping. The music and choreography is inspiring in its own right. We have 10 tickets available.

The Color Purple - Sunday, July 22, 2:00 p.m., \$23.00 at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago. Don't miss this stunning re-imagining of an epic story about a young

woman's journey to love and triumph in the American South. With a soul-raising score of jazz, gospel, ragtime and blues, *The Color Purple* gives an exhilarating new spirit to this Pulitzer Prize-winning story and Tony Award winning production. We have 10 tickets available.

Love Never Dies - Sold out. If you want to be on the waiting list, let us know.

Shakespeare's Macbeth - Sold out. If you want to be on the waiting list, let us know.

Baptism Orientation – Feb. 10

Feb. 10, at 3:30 p.m., marks the next baptism orientation class for those who wish to have children baptized at Peace in the next few months.

Notice of Annual Meeting – Feb. 18

Our annual meeting will take place on Feb. 18, at 9:55 a.m. in the sanctuary. Highlights will include the election of council members and reflections on our ministries on God's behalf. Please plan to attend.

Blood Drive – Feb. 24

Thank you to everyone who donated in December. We collected 31 units, had 1 incomplete & 1 deferral. Our next Heartland blood drive will be Feb. 24 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 3/4

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$90 million has been raised for local charities across the country.

We will be participating again in the "Souper Bowl" for the hungry. After each service on the weekend of Feb. 3/4, people will have an opportunity to give a donation to fight hunger. We'd suggest the cost of a meal/snacks.

Boy Scout Weekend – Feb. 3/4

The annual Boy Scout weekend is coming up on Feb. 3/4. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Then on March 3/4 all Girl Scouts remember to wear your uniforms to church in celebration of Girl Scout Sunday.

30th Anniversary of Our First Worship – Feb. 3/4

On Feb. 7, 1988, Peace had its first worship service at the Lions Community Center in New Lenox. A lot has happened since then. Most importantly, we have striven to be faithful to our calling to “bring people into contact with the Gospel” and “help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ.” As a part of worship on Feb. 3 & 4, we’ll sing one of the songs we sang at the first worship, and we’ll lift up our thanks to God who has made our ministry possible and who still inspires us to be the people of God in this place!

Annual Talent Show & 30th Anniversary Dinner – Feb. 25

Back by popular demand is the Talent Show and catered dinner! A bonus to the dinner will be a celebration of the 30th anniversary of Peace’s first worship service.

Whether you want to share your talents or come and enjoy the talents of others, mark your calendars for Sunday, February 25. The show begins at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in performing a song or act during the show, please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin, call Mark Muehlnickel at 815-463-8836, or call the church office. The dinner following the show is free, but please bring a salad or dessert to share. It should begin at about 4:30/5:00 p.m. (if you cannot make the show). Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the office if you plan to attend.

Easter Flowers

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people (events) that are important to them by donating an Easter lily plant to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the entrance area of the church and the deadline to order is March 11. We are waiting for the cost of the plants, but it will likely be around \$12. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (815) 485-5327.

Easter Breakfast – Apr. 1

This year’s Easter breakfast on April 1 will begin about 9:45 after the 8:30 a.m. service and will conclude about 10:30 a.m. It will feature eggs and three kinds of meat, pancakes, French toast, fruit, juice, coffee, etc. The cost is a free will offering. Please call the church office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

Discussion Starters for Families

Search Institute has identified five essential actions in Parent-child relationships that help children and teens grow up well. Here is one of the discussion-starter questions that can help you talk with your children and teens about different parts of your relationship. The goal is not to get the right answer, but to share each person’s experiences, feelings, and beliefs so you get to know each other better. Ask these questions when people are not rushed or distracted. Start with just one question. Then try others as long as people are interested and available. Have fun discovering new things about each other and your family and watch the newsletter for more discussion-starter questions.

Share Power: Parents influence kids, kids influence parents, and siblings influence each other. Families are stronger when they are intentional in the ways they share power with each other. Use these discussion prompts to explore these issues.

- What are ways each member of your family influences others in your family? For example, fashion or music preferences, or how your family spends time and money and core beliefs and values.
- What are easy areas for making decisions in your family? What are areas that are harder? What makes them easier and harder?
- Think of several areas of family life when it is clear who makes the decisions. For example, making the schedule, doing the chores, cooking, etc. Try to imagine how these might be different if a different family member made those decisions! Have fun thinking of the possibilities!

Building Assets in our Youth and Community

The asset for the month of February is:

Social Competencies: Cultural Competency

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they have knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

February quote of the month:

“When I see you through my eyes, I think we are different. When I see through my heart, I know we are the same.”

~ Doe Zantamata

Youth Announcements

High School

Peace 360 Meets Sundays at 6:00 p.m.!

Attention all high school youth! Have you ever wished that there was a place that you could hang with your friends (from church and elsewhere)? We have that place for you... Peace 360! We will meet most weekends on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. If you can't make it every week, that's okay. Whenever you can be here you'll be a welcome addition!

Feb. 4– No Meeting

Feb. 11– SkyZone

Feb. 18– Grace & Justice discussion & pasta bar

Feb. 25– Peace Talent Show, dinner & games

7th & 8th/ HS Antioch Retreat – Mar. 2-4

For the past several years, the 7th - 12th grade youth have gathered together for this weekend-long spiritual retreat. The name Antioch comes from the book of Acts when a group of people studied together and learned what it meant to be a Christian (Act 11). This retreat will be a time of prayer, worship, friendship and fun. This year's retreat will be from 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 2 until approximately 1:00 p.m., Sunday, March 4. The cost of the retreat is \$20 (don't forget about the Hope Fund if needed) and registration is due by Feb. 18. Friends are also welcome. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in participating but not sure you can come for the whole weekend talk to Deacon Shari! You may also use the sign-up slip in the bulletin to let us know you are interested; and the information and registration form can be found on the counter in the narthex.

5th & 6th grade Bowling – Feb. 18

Please join us as we participate in the All-Church Bowling event on Sunday, Feb. 18 at Laraway Lanes (1009 W. Laraway Rd., New Lenox). Meet at the bowling alley at 12:45 p.m. Your parents are welcome to join us or they can pick you up at the bowling alley by 3:00. The cost will be \$9 per person for 2 games and shoes. (Bring extra money if you want a drink or snacks.) Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

Confirmation:

7th Grade – Feb. 21 6:30 p.m. – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

8th Grade – Feb. 28 6:30 p.m. – Pizza before class
7:00 p.m. – Confirmation class

7th & 8th Grade Kids & Adults – Feb. 7
6:30 p.m. – Hot Dogs
7:00 p.m. – Kids & Adults class

7th & 8th Grade – Out to Eat - Feb. 10

Come to dinner with us! We'll meet at Peace on Saturday, February 10, at 3:50 p.m. to walk over to Gatto's. A special menu is being prepared for us that will be served family style. The cost of the meal is \$11. Please bring enough money for the meal and tip. Come, it's a good time! Please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin, sign-up at Confirmation or in Sunday School, or contact the church office at (815) 485-5327 so we know how many people are coming.

Attention High School Juniors & Seniors

Seniors, in the HS youth room there is a bulletin board and box that is for college and scholarship information. Did you know that our own Peace Church has a scholarship! Check out all the information in the College Box. There are a few different folders in the box filled with packets with college tour questions, lists for packing, and helpful hints for essay questions. Juniors, it is never too early to start looking in to all this college stuff! Check it out and start preparing for your future!

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone in need of being wrapped in prayer? Someone who would benefit from knowing that they are being prayed for? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will create a prayer shawl for that person. Please put your requests in the box on the narthex counter. We will contact you when your shawl is ready.

Questions Kids Ask

The questions keep coming! This past month we had questions ranging from the practical (What's with the AWESOME candle-lighting thing?) to the deeply theological (Why is the cross the symbol for God [and not the triangle, for example]?) We can be so proud of our kids who take the time to ask their questions (and hopefully hear the answers.)

New Flower Chart

Each week people donate the cost of altar flowers (\$20 per arrangement). There is a chart in the hallway by Fellowship Hall. Sign your name and phone number for the week(s) you want to donate flowers. Someone from the office will email you to find out the reason (if any) for the donation. Envelopes for the cost are by the chart and are mailed the following your week.

A New Opportunity to Bless Others – Business Attire

Our Warm Coat campaign has once again brought an overwhelming, wonderful response. Week after week there are coats in the bin. (We collect those coats through February 4.) Now we have become aware of another need: clothes for people who are seeking employment (interviews and jobs). The Will County Center for Community Concerns helps people who are unemployed find jobs, including training them for interviews and for how to dress for success. Many of the people do not have adequate clothing. We can help! We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes. Look through your closets for suits, sport coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! We'll use the same bin to collect these items (with or without hangers.)

Christmas Generosity Thanks

Once again the people of Peace have opened their hearts to let God's love flow through them and out into the world. We gave gifts to 25 young people at Augustana Center with Open Arms, to approximately 100 people connected to Santa Cruz and their ministries to their neighborhood, and through the ELCA's Good Gifts program (\$1412!!!), we have provided 7 goats, 4 pigs, 6 sets of bees, feeding 3 refuge families for a month, 5 sets of chicks, 1 Bible, 2 school fees, 1 set of farming tools, 2 roosters, and a cow and a share of a cow! How wonderful it is to give!!!

Business/Service Directory Additions and Changes

As a part of our membership directory that we print in March, we have a section for people connected to our church to list their businesses and/or services. If you have been listed in the past and changes need to be made or would like to be added, please give us a note with your name, business/service and a phone number. If anyone else has an address or phone change to add, let us know that too. The deadline is February 18.

2017 Giving Statements are Available

Please pick up your 2017 giving statements in the entrance area. It also serves as the IRS document for those who itemize their taxes.

Because of You and Your Gifts

DeafCan! the human service program of Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester, Pa, serves deaf refugees and immigrants from 15 countries with gifts provided through an ELCA World Hunger domestic hunger grant. Through DeafCan!, people like Mary Grace, an immigrant from the Philippines, can enroll in classes to help them learn to navigate the world as they become more independent and productive. They learn to access resources, such as ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters, assisted listening devices, video cell phones and other technology.

Caregiver Tip of the Month

BE PREPARED. We try our best to be prepared for job interviews, bad weather, vacations, school decisions, and while doing so there are almost always checklists. When we suddenly become a caregiver we are now asking a lot of questions to keep our loved one safe and secure. What is the doctor's phone number? Do I have the password to their account? What insurance do they have? Do I know their social security number? A simple checklist is available on the counter in the Narthex for you to have along with some current resource information. It is just a start to BE PREPARED. (*For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex and don't forget to borrow a book from the bin.*)

Good Shepherd Group

Good Shepherd group is seeking donations of NEW beauty items (make-up, make-up brushes, eyeshadow, lotion, hair bands, cologne, lipstick, hair care products, combs and brushes), personal items, bathing items (sponges, bubble bath, shower gel), and travel size toiletries for homeless and abused persons.

Small Toys Needed

Jodie Brugler is creating a prize box for the children at the school where she works. If you have any small toys (McDonald's Happy Meal toys, dollar store toys, etc.) laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the box marked small toys in the narthex. Thank you!

C.D.s & Podcast Available

Would you like a C.D. copy of a worship service? Look for the sign-up on the narthex counter. If you want to listen to a sermon you missed or want to hear one again, go to the link on our website www.peacenewlenox.org.

The Hope Fund

If your child(ren) would like to participate in a youth event but the cost involved is keeping him/her/them from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. The Hope Fund has been established through the generous donation of a Peace Lutheran Church family. Just talk to Deacon Shari or Pastor Dave – and no one else will know.

Do You Give Electronically or Want To?

For those of you who give electronically and would like to put something in the offering plate, we have cards located on the counter you may use. If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. Also, if you want to give on-line at any time, you can go to 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.