
THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Pastor David Hedlin

**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.*

March 2010

Vol. XX, Issue 3

The Real Deal

You undoubtedly have seen the labels or heard the commercials for products that contain "no artificial ingredients", "genuine leather", or one of my favorites "authentic cubic zirconium". (How many people out there are making fake cubic zirconium, I wonder, since those are already fake diamonds?) The purpose is to help you know you are buying something that is really what you want; it's the real deal.

The reason the assurances matter is because some of what we think we're getting isn't "real." Store clerks hold up money to the light or use their magic pens on it. Even art dealers and experts can be fooled for decades by a painting that others have judged to be authentic. Knock-off jeans sell because they look so much like the originals.

When it comes to living, there are also many forgeries. I'm not just considering people who pretend to be something they are not. I'm writing about the myriad ways we are told we can find "happiness." Some of you probably have tried just about all of them. Did you try popularity in school? How about partying your way through college or young adulthood? Did you give spending money a try? Was a car or clothes or plastic surgery within your means? Any one of them may have looked real at the time. Any one of them might have felt good and authentic. Too bad they got exposed as empty when all was said and done.

In the church year we are in the season of Lent. In a few weeks it will be Easter. If you skip over Lent, especially Holy Week, Easter could turn out to be fake for you. It could turn out just to be sunshine and jelly beans and chocolate. It could even turn out to be "happy Jesus", but it won't be the real deal. The real deal is how life is, and how God is in the midst of that reality. Real life is mixed – good days and bad; moments of great joy and moments of deep sadness; behavior that is winsome and actions that are destructive and

hurtful. The real God made known to us in Jesus walked that life in Galilee before he got to Jerusalem. The authentic God got a full taste of it the last week of his life. And when the forces that work against God within and beyond us thought they had won, the genuine God of self-giving love brought life out of death. That is the real deal for which there is no imitation possible, only an invitation from God to give yourself in gratitude to a life of profound inner peace, joy and service.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers ... John Koblosky, Louise Schuler, Ron Krauch, Tara Torkelson, the family of Dan Andvuvewski, Della Tollefson, Allison Pfeffer, Madison Freeman & family, the family of Dorothy Crowley, Leslee Naslund, Donald Schuller, the family of Jeri Davis, Eric Bartels, Gary Stout, the Hauert family, Lee Swank, Jordy Johns, Ted H., Mike Studenroth, Ken Gatewood, Lacey Whalen, Jeff Manske, Barbara Hauser, Tina, Don Mayer, Brian Wieringa, Judy, Max Mejan, Helen Ambrose, Michelle Englert, Rose, Esther Coulter, Betty Brewer, Ann Rubin, the family of Donna Hark, the family of Patrick Holley, Lisa, Greg, Bruce Havener, John Voglein, Christine, Leslie, the Quehl family, Tricia Lahucik & family, the Wern family, Hannah Bulian, the family of Rich Babich, Lynne, David, Erin, Cathy Stege, Gloria Lawrence, Adam Rush, Barbara Brtva, Sherri Eek, Jennifer Lachat, Erica Inman, Sarah Robinson, Jim Sawallisch, Patti Merk, Larry Burnson, Bill Rudy, Georgianna Bafundo, Cathy Boer.

Our Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Vic Pignatiello "Sr.", father of Vic Pignatiello;

the family of Margaret Krone, mother of Ellen Allen;

the family of Rose Lewis, mother of Ron;

the family of Robert Walker, father of Wendy.

Congratulations to...

Debbie Eggert and Jim Costello on their marriage, January 30.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

John Joseph Donegan was baptized on Feb. 14

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:

Bill Weber, Brianna McKenna – lesson readers
Ian Sytsma, Ben Walczak, Jacob Schnepfer – acolyte
Jenna Kirkeeng, Kendall Mikrut - nursery

From:

Santa Cruz – for all the gifts and support at Christmas
Lamb's Fold, Illinois House of Hope & the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago – for the donation from our Thanksgiving & Christmas offerings
Northern Illinois Synod – for the 2009 mission support
Heartland Blood Centers – for another successful blood drive
Lauren LeMahieu – piano recital
Lee Krieger – well wishes and prayers during recovery

Email Your Newsletter?

How would you like to get your monthly newsletter via email instead of by mail? Call the office to let us know.

Remember those Serving

We have five people connected to our congregation in harms way in the Middle East. Mail can be sent to four of them at:

SPC Kettell, Brian
C BTRY 3/17 FA
5-2 ID SBCT
APO AE 09355

Jonathan Travis Burns
PRG 6-11
APO – AE 09354

Ruple, Steven R
HHC 2CAB
UNIT 15457 BOX 1313
APO AP 96271

Brent O Wendtland
BCO 2-22 3rd Plt.
Kandahara, AB
APO AE 09355

Looking Ahead ...

Mar. 12/13 – Asset Building Celebration

Mar. 27 – Blood Drive

Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday

***Apr. 1 – Maundy Thursday Worship
Meal in the Upper Room***

Apr. 2 – Good Friday Crosswalks & Worship

Apr. 3 & 4 – Easter Worship

Apr. 11 – Special Congregational Meeting

Apr. 18 – New Member Orientations

Apr. 24 – All-Church Potluck & Stewardship

***Apr. 25 – Reception of New Members &
New Members Luncheon***

***May 1 – Greater Chicago Food Depository
Baptism Orientation***

May 6 – Full Committees

May 16 – Confirmation Sunday

Aug. 1 – "Shrek" Theater Outing

Contemporary Worship Service – Second Sunday of Each Month

This might be a good time to check out our contemporary worship. With guitars and a harmonica, drums, tambourine and more, it might be a fun alternative. Please join us on **Mar. 14, at 6:00 p.m.**

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Mar. 21**. 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.

* Bereavement Support Groups

-*Evening Ongoing Adult Support Group* – Meets the third Thursday of the month, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, *No fee*

-*Afternoon Getting Through Grief* – Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Inn at Willow Falls, Joliet, IL, *No fee*

-*Hugs and Snuggles Grief Support* – Meets the first Tuesday of the month, for adults who have experienced a miscarriage, SIDS, still birth, child or adolescent loss, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Joliet Area Community Hospice, *No fee*.

-*Moving Forward Widows and Widowers Group* who have been bereaved for 6 months or more and are looking forward to being able to socialize and network with people again, Meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Joliet Area Community Hospice, *No fee*

* Recycling cell phones & inkjet cartridges:

Thank you for your participation in our recycling program. We take all used cell phones & all inkjet cartridges that are not “refills.” Help the environment, get rid of some clutter, and the proceeds go to the ELCA’s World Hunger efforts. Do not give us the cell phone chargers, cases, earpieces, etc.—just the cell phones.

* 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 that 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.

***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.

***THE CHALLENGE “Boys To Men To Fishers of Men”** - May 22, 2010 at Providence High School in New Lenox. We encourage all men to attend, fathers, high school and college. Begin at 8:00a.m.with powerful keynote speakers, 18 equipping breakout seminars, tailgate lunch, and an opportunity to praise and worship Jesus with 1000 other men. For more information or to register visit us at www.FishersofmenOnline.org.

* Do you know someone who has been deprived of their ability to walk due to illness or disease? **Wheels of Love** helps seniors who live with respiratory disorders, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, who have a mobility limitation or difficulty in propelling a standard wheelchair, to receive a power chair or scooter paid for by Medicare. For eligibility information on Wheels of Love please call (866) 631-3028.

* The **House of Hope - Illinois** is now open at their new location, 22849 S. Cedar Road in Manhattan, Illinois. The next program, “Life Hurts, God Heals” is a 13 week small group healing journey for teens/20s beginning February 5, 7-9 p.m. For more information, please call (815) 485-2322 or go to their website at www.illinoishouseofhope.org.

* The next **Northern Illinois Lutheran Marriage Encounter** weekend will be April 16–18, 2010, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 800 National Pkwy., Schaumburg, Illinois. For more information visit their website at www.NorthernIllinoisLME.org.

*The Bible Site, www.thebiblesite.org is a website that you can click on once a day for free to donate a bible to a persecuted Christian.

*Frankfort United Methodist Church has put together a networking-job search support group that meets Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. They meet to discuss resumes, networking techniques, job search strategies, and to provide support. If you would like more in information please contact Vern Sanborn, Vern.Sanborn@comcast.net or Doug Newman, dnewman15@yahoo.com.

***Building Assets
In our Youth and Community***

The asset for the month of March is:

“Time at home”

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they are out with friends “with nothing to do” two or fewer nights per week

Peace Buddies Group – Mar. 7 & 21

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. It meets from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month. We will meet on Mar. 7 and Feb. 21. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Dave or call Syndy Lindbloom at (708) 479-7338.

Mission Trip Meeting – Mar. 7

There will be a meeting for everyone who is signed up to go on the Mt. Pulaski Mission Trip, March 7 after the 8:30 a.m. service. We will be filling out paperwork for the trip and the meeting should only take about 30 minutes.

If you have any questions please contact Gina Losacco (815) 485-3571.

Ruth Circle Quilters – Mar. 8 & 22

We meet 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! Refreshments will be provided by Kay Johnson on Mar. 8 and by Syndy Lindbloom on Mar. 22. If you have questions, call Diane Stohlquist at (815) 485-8281 or Syndy Lindbloom at (708) 479-7338.

A Call for All Old Blankets...

The quilters of Ruth Circle are asking everyone to check their closets for any old blankets or mattress pads. We use them to create our quilts! We appreciate your support. Any questions, call Diane Stohlquist at (815) 485-8218.

Trailblazers – Mar. 9

Wear your green and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at our next luncheon on Tuesday, Mar. 9 at noon. Carolyn Blair and Norma Allison will be our hostesses. If you have any questions, please see Janet Weber or contact Myrna Taeger at (815) 462-9407.

Men’s Dartball – Mar. 9

Dartball meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. (The snacks alone are worth the trip). No prior experience is needed (or helpful). Males of all ages please join us!

Young Adult Group – Mar. 13

Peace Lutheran young adults (up to 39 years of age) meet on the second Saturday of each month. Please join us here at church on Saturday, Mar. 13, at 6:00 p.m. Please let Pastor Stan know if you will be attending.

Book Club – Mar. 14

The next meeting of the book club will be March 14 at 9:45 a.m., during the Sunday School Hour. The book is The Help by Kathryn Stockett. It is about three very different women during the civil rights movement in Mississippi in 1962. All are welcome. There is no formal membership - join us anytime the book interests you. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Davenport at (815) 485-3874.

C.D.’s & Podcast Available

Would you like a C.D. copy of a worship service? Our new sound system/equipment allows us to do that. Look for the sign-up on the name tag table. Also, 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.

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 Bluestonebay@comcast.net.

Beauty Items Requested

The Good Shepherd group is seeking donations of NEW beauty items (make-up, make up brushes, eye shadow, lotion, hair bands, cologne, lipstick, hair care products, combs and brushes), bathing items (sponges, bubble bath, shower gel), and travel size toiletries for homeless and abused persons. Items can be left in the church office.

Scrapbooking Group – Mar. 19

Do you love to scrapbook, but find you don't have the time? Bring your supplies and join us on Friday, Mar. 19, at 7:00 p.m. We meet the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please call either April Blair (815) 462-5324 or Debbie Powers (815) 806-0656 if you have any questions.

U.F.O. Night (Unfinished Objects) – Mar. 19

The quilters will be meeting monthly with the scrapbookers for a night of fun and crafting. You don't have to be a quilter, just bring any craft project you want to work on and have fun. Please join us on Friday, Mar. 19, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Syndy Lindbloom (815) 479-7338.

Everybody Read

You may have heard of a common book to read by a school or city. We're going to invite you to read not a whole book, but a selected passage from the Bible. Each month we'll pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then for those who are willing, write down a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. (We'll include that space on our sign up sheet.) The March passage is Mark 14:32-42.

Out to Eat Group – Mar. 13

The next Out to Eat Group dining experience will be at Paisano's Restaurant (located on Rt. 30 in the shopping complex near Ace Hardware in New Lenox) on Saturday, March 13, at 6:15 p.m. Please call the church office to let us know if you will be joining us.

Results of Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 21 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. Those elected for a two year term were Jan Bentley, Darrell Holmquist, Scott Howell, Dave Narish and Diane Weber. Elected to serve as our Youth Representative was Allison Johnson. Our Nominating Committee for 2011 will consist of Denise Jones, Margaret Lazarz, Dave Narish, Ken Pearson, Sandy Ringstrom and Dylan Sperstad.

Special Congregational Meeting – Apr. 11

A Special Congregational Meeting has been called for April 11 at 9:55 a.m. The purpose for the meeting is to give the necessary legal approvals for the State of Illinois to purchase additional right of way for the widening of Rt. 30. We will have several legal documents that will include the sale of the land, plus additional settlements for costs incurred in changes we will need to make (principally relocating our sign and one parking island), plus authorization for officers and/or Pastor Hedlin to sign the documents. (In advance of the meeting on April 11 opportunities will be given to see the plans and ask questions. Stay tuned for that information. We are currently asking the village and the state a series of questions.)

Blood Drive – Mar. 27

Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive on March 27, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You may make an appointment by signing up on the clip board on the table in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Summer Camp Brochures

We now have the summer 2010 camp brochures for LOMC, Lutherdale (in Wisconsin), and Camp Manitoqua available in the narthex.

God's Green Team Wants Your Help

As part of God's Green Team our Sunday School classes are sponsoring a recycling project each month. They are decorating boxes that will be in the entry area for collection of the items for the month. During January the 6th graders collected 75 pounds of batteries! Thank you for your support. If you would like to plan for upcoming months the schedule is as follows:

March - 3rd graders - Hand Held Games (New Lenox Collection),

April - 2nd graders - Cameras (New Lenox Collection).

Discount Prescription Cards

American Consultants Rx, Inc. is donating free discount prescription cards for assistance in receiving up to a 40% discount on name brand drugs and up to a 60% discount on generic prescriptions. One card can be used for the whole family. They are hoping to reach those who are uninsured, underinsured, or on Medicare. There is no expiration date, unlimited usage and no forms to complete. The cards are good at over 50,000 chain pharmacies. Please let us know in the church office if you could benefit from this prescription card.

Pastor Dave's Evening Bible Study – Mar. 16

Each month on the third Tuesday we have a Bible study on a certain topic. We will next meet on March 16, from 7:15-8:30 p.m. The topic that evening will be: "Body, Mind, Spirit."

Lenten Class – Jesus: Who was He Really?

Join Pastor Dave for the remaining classes of the Lenten series focusing on the Jesus of the Gospels. Each class stands alone so if you missed the first one, that will be okay. The remaining dates are Mar. 6 & Mar. 20. The classes take place after the 5:00 Saturday worship (about 6:05 p.m.). Call or email the church office (815) 485-5327 if you plan to attend.

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:

Mar. 7 – How Has "Heaven" Changed over Time? (Some of our ideas come from interesting places!)

Mar. 14 – Destructive Behavior- It Will Get You (There are all kinds of destructive behavior from perfectionism to being passive-aggressive.)

Mar. 21 – One of two options: Either a guest speaker, Pam Hunte, who has lived and worked in Afghanistan, or All About Stress (Some of it is good, some of it is bad – it's all real.). Stay tuned!

Mar. 28 – Where is God in My Suffering? (As we approach Holy Week, a timely question.)

Apr. 4 – Easter Sunday – no classes

Super/Souper Bowl Results

We are so grateful for the generosity of our church toward the Souperbowl of Caring. The ELCA's World Hunger Appeal is being sent a check for \$629.00! Thanks!!!

Girl Scout Weekend – Mar. 6/7

The annual Girl Scout weekend is coming up March 6/7. Girl Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church.

The Lutheran

The feature article of the March issue of ***The Lutheran*** is: "How Lutherans are responding to the tragedy in Haiti." Also check out "Currents" for a Lutheran view on the current topics or latest trends.

Daylight Savings Time

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13, be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

Volleyball Begins Mar. 15

Peace's annual entry in the Christian Youth Center's volleyball league is scheduled to begin on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. (**Please note beginning date change.**) All games are on Monday evenings and the league is mostly for fun. We definitely could use players (high school age and above). The starting times for games vary: 6:30, 7:30 or 8:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin for the game schedule. The Christian Youth Center is located on Rt. 52, one mile west of Briggs St. in Joliet. If you have any questions please contact Lori or Brian Trosen at (708) 997-1050.

Batter UP! Pitchers and Catchers Report! - Mar. 31

If those words are music to your ears, then maybe you would like to become a member of Peace's men's softball team (18 or older). If so, please join us for the Fifth Annual Spring Softball Convention here at church on Wednesday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.! OK, so it's not really a convention - it's just a pizza party with a bunch of guys kibitzing, but it's important to attend nonetheless. This meeting will give us a chance to get together, talk softball, and plan a practice schedule. We play in a pretty competitive men's league at the Christian Youth Center in Joliet and games begin in early May. We are in definite need of a couple new guys for this year's team. Don't be shy-come on out! If you are interested, please contact Jim Tieri at (815) 462-5316 or call the church office. See you there!

Adult Fellowship Dartball & Dessert Cook-off - Whose Dessert Takes the Cake? - Mar. 27

Come and join us for some yummy desserts as we test our culinary baking skills and enjoy a fun night of dartball! This all takes place on Saturday, Mar. 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dessert to share—we'll vote on whose dessert takes the cake! Childcare will be available (\$3.00 per child). If you have questions, contact Eric or Sandi Wesel at (815) 463-9253.

Message from Pastor Stan

Greetings,

One of my favorite parables is the story of the house built on the rock and the house built on the sand. I'm sure that we all know the story...the storms of life arose and the house built upon the sand was destroyed while the house built on rock remained standing.

The message of the parable is clear: you can build the best house around. You can use the best materials, decorate the house lavishly, make the house a showpiece but unless the house has a firm foundation it will ultimately be worthless. It's only a matter of time until the house crumbles unless it is built upon a firm foundation.

The other day I received a note from an old friend from my high school youth group. Don was a couple of years older than I was and he was one of the "cool" kids in school. Don was one of those guys whom everyone liked and he was a leader. Don was also one of those people who treated every person with kindness and respect. I believe that Don's personality set the tone for my church youth group and that is why I became so involved.

In Don's note he wrote, "I think about those youth group days more and more as my children grow. I only hope they have friends and a church [like the one] that I had when I was young. I loved the Youth Group and I can only hope that everyone felt the way you do about our spiritual journey as much younger people. Our spirituality is a key part of the way we grow into adults."

We all need a firm foundation in life. My hope and prayer is that the youth of our congregation will find Peace Lutheran to be the place that helps to build their foundation. That in hindsight they will find that the youth programming at Peace reaches them in the same way that Don and I were reached by our youth program. I also hope and pray that those who are of primal importance in the life of youth (parents, grandparents, guardians, etc.) will realize that the foundations of faith are as important as other foundations in life (education, sports, etc.) and will help to build that foundation through encouraging youth to be a part of what is happening with Peace Lutheran youth.

Until next time,

Pastor Stan

Young Adults – Looking for a Summer Job?

LOMC has job openings available this summer for young adults ages 18 & up. Positions available include Camp Counselor, Pool Director, Trail Quartermaster, Transportation Steward, and Health Steward. LOMC provides training, workers' compensation, and supplementary insurance. For more information go to www.lomc.org.

Asset Celebration- Mar. 12 & 13

The annual Asset Building Celebration will take place March 12 & 13. This year's events will be split between Lincoln-Way East's campus on Colorado Ave., in Frankfort and Lincoln-Way Central, across the street from church. There will be a Battle of the Bands on Friday, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m., for the teens in the main gym at Central (school I.D. required), breakfast for people of all ages on Saturday, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at East, a Family Faire on Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at East. Asset Building is worth celebrating!

New Member Orientation in April

We will be receiving new members again in April. The orientations are April 18, at 9:45 and 6:30; the reception of new members will be April 25 during the 11:00 worship followed by a luncheon at noon. Please call the church office to let us know if you'll be involved.

An Excellent Parent Resource

The Search Institute now puts out a practical, excellent weekly email of Everyday Parenting Ideas on their MYParents website. Subscribe by going to www.mvparents.com/signup.php.

Have You Read Any Good Christian Books Lately?

If you have read a book or seen a movie recently that strengthened your faith, send us that information. We'd love to share it with the rest of the congregation.

E-Blast

Are you interested in receiving a weekly "E-Blast" highlighting the week's upcoming events? We will begin the E-Blast program soon. Let us know in the church office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin and we'll send you a weekly update.

Asset Building Celebration Toy Drive

As a part of the annual Asset Building Celebration there will be a toy drive to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation. The toy drive will be held in March with all toys needing to be delivered to Lincoln-Way East on Friday, March 12. If you are unable to deliver your donation on that day, you may bring the toy donation to Peace Church by March 7.

Book Recommendation

The Misunderstood God by Darin Hufford. Subtitled "The Lies Religion Tells about God", this book strips away the harsh interpretation of God that percolates in some of the more fundamentalist iterations of Christianity and causes many to shun and reject Christianity as being too "judgmental" and reveals the real message of the New Testament. That is that "God is love" and that your salvation is through His grace alone.

The author explores 1 Corinthians 13, the "Love Chapter", and relates real life experiences to the truths in that text. In separate chapters he examines whether God is manipulative, jealous, proud, offensive, angry, condemning, disappointed, disinterested, etc.

The author is a founder of the Free Believers Network (<http://freebelievers.com>).

Peace Library

Be sure to stop in the library during the month of March when we will be featuring books for Lent in preparation for Easter. Please feel free to check one out!

Remember Our P.O. Box

The New Lenox Post Office insists that people use P.O. Box 205 for mail addressed to Peace.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

This year's special observances for Holy Week and Easter include ...

April 1

6:30 p.m. – Meal in the Upper Room

8:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2

10:00 a.m. – Cross Walk in New Lenox
(starts at St. Jude's)

2:30 p.m. – Cross Walk in Frankfort
(starts at St. Peter's)

7:30 p.m. – Good Friday Worship Service

April 3

5:00 p.m. – Easter Eve Worship
(transition from dark to light)

April 4

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Communion Festival
Worship

9:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

Meal in the Upper Room – April 1

You are invited to the Maundy Thursday celebration of the "Meal in the Upper Room" on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. This holiday 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 are inspired by God's word and special music. If you are interested in providing special music, please contact Terri Pignatiello at (708) 479-1854. Because of the special nature of this event, many volunteers are needed. Please call the church office if you are willing to help or if you would like to attend. The deadline to sign up is March 28. Childcare is available.

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. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Envelopes and forms to complete are in the entrance area of the church. The order deadline is March 28. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (815) 485-5327.

Easter Breakfast – Apr. 4

This year's Easter breakfast on April 4 will begin about 9:45 after the 8:30 a.m. service and will conclude about 10:45 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 use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office by March 28 if you plan to attend.

Lenten & Easter Offerings

Each year the money we receive in our Lenten/ Easter special envelopes is given away to others. This year it will be divided between the ELCA'S Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (the agency of our church that serves so many people in need), Resurrection Lutheran Church in Channahon, which is led by Pastor Ben Ingelson, and local ministries that help others (Groundwork, Daybreak, Lamb's Fold, and Morningstar Mission.)

SAVE THE DATE!

**All-Church
Potluck &
Stewardship
Event**

**April 24
6:00 p.m.**

Youth Announcements

Mission Statement

To be a model of Christianity, as an enjoyable way of life for mutual support and development in our relationships with God and one another.

Senior High

Destination Unknown – March 7

The destination is a secret but 1 Peter 4:8-11 will give you a clue. We will meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. Make sure to bring money for a meal as we will stop to eat together as we journey to our destination. Please let us know you are interested by responding through email or Facebook; or by calling the office or using the sign-up sheet in the bulletin.

Crosswalk – March 14

“You want me to do what?” -

Sometimes forgiving is hard. Maybe a friend turned their back on you. Maybe someone you loved betrayed you. We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for weeks, month, and sometimes even years. When we hear that we should forgive we want to scream, “you want me to do what?!”

It isn't always easy to forgive and after a while the hurts can get really heavy. So the only way to feel better seems to be somehow getting back at the people who hurt us, to get revenge. But does revenge every truly satisfy? Maybe instead of revenge, forgiveness is the answer. Let's figure it out together on **Sunday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m.** As always, friends are welcome. Please sign-up to let us know you are interested.

Service Project - March 21

We are going to the Ronald McDonald house again! Watch for more details!

Peace Church Scholarship

For those high school seniors who submitted an application, there will be an interview on Sunday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m.!

Peace Buddies –

Special Needs Youth Group

Peace Buddies is the special needs youth group for high school age and older. We meet on the first and third Sundays, Mar. 7 & 21, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Dave or Syndy Lindbloom (708) 479-7338.

Don't forget: Pastor Stan & Peace Lutheran Church are on Facebook! You can find event information there, too!

Senior High and 7th/8th Grade News

Other Important dates:

March 7, 14, 21 & 28- 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

April 4 – NO Sunday School

Hidden Cove– March 26-27

Come one, come all! We are going to Hidden Cove again! You will be “locked in” the facility from 10 p.m. Friday night until early Saturday morning. That's plenty of time to try the arcade games & mini bowling, play basketball, enjoy some inflatables, ride the bumper cars; and as long as the weather is cooperating there also is: mini golf, the climbing wall and batting cages! We will leave Peace Church at 9:00 p.m., Friday night and return around 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The cost is \$25 and it must be turned in by Sunday, March 21. As always, friends are welcome! **(Adult drivers and chaperones are needed!)**

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 to enable members of our congregation to participate in church youth activities that they might not otherwise be able to participate in. Just let Pastor Stan or Pastor Dave know—and no one else will know.

Coffee & Conversations – Tues. 3 – 6 p.m.

Pastor Stan will be at **Paradise Smoothies**, around the corner from the church (on Schoolhouse), the **2nd Tuesday** of every month! He will **still** be at **Starbucks** (on Rt.30, “in front of” Lowes) the other Tuesday of the month. Teens and adults are welcome to drop in any time between 3:00-6:00 p.m. for a chat about faith, church, school, or life in general. *If you want to chat but this timing doesn't work please contact Pastor Stan to arrange something else.*

Special music before Sunday School

Do you play the piano or any other instrument? We are looking for any of you talented musicians to provide a solo music selection as special music in the sanctuary before our Sunday School opening exercises. Let us know in the church office if you would be interested in sharing your talent with us.

7th & 8th Grade

March 10 – 8th - 6:30 p.m. Pizza; **7:00 p.m.** Confirmation

March 17 – 7th - 6:30 p.m. Pizza; **7:00 p.m.** Confirmation

March 24 – 8th - 6:30 p.m. Pizza; **7:00 p.m.** Confirmation