
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.*

August 2010

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What If You Don't Want the Door to Close?

Many of us have heard the saying about "if one door closes, God always opens a window." It can be a very comforting saying. But what happens when the closing of the door totally is not what you wanted? What are you supposed to do when you didn't want to lose your job – in fact you loved your job or were near retirement? What are you supposed to think when you envisioned growing old with someone and he or she leaves you for another person, or dies? What if you planned your whole life on getting into a particular field or having a certain kind of life, but you don't qualify for some reason or your dreams are always frustrated? In those kinds of circumstances, we don't want a window; we want the door.

What many people do when that happens is they keep looking at the closed door, and looking some more and looking some more. They keep thinking about what they must have done wrong to cause the door to close. Or they try to blame somebody else for closing the door. Or they drink too much or take drugs. Or they go beyond being appropriately sad and down about it and become stuck in depression.

Then along come well-meaning people who simply say not to worry, that God is going to open a window. But some of the people who have experienced the closing of the door can't believe that. If anything, they just get mad at God. "God must have closed the door," they think. God must have it in for them! God becomes the focal point for their anger and sense of betrayal and all those other feelings. There sure is no window for them in those circumstances.

So, has a door closed for you? If it has, no one can take away the feelings you have or compensate for the losses that accompany it. The fact that a window might open some day doesn't help at the moment. And even though we all know we can't/shouldn't spend the rest of our lives looking back at the closed door, it takes a lot of energy not to look there.

That is why the resurrection of Jesus still has such power for me 2000 years later. It doesn't try to minimize the closing of the doors. Jesus himself wept for the city of Jerusalem before he entered it; he agonized with his disciples even as he transformed Passover; he prayed intensely in the garden; he

fully felt Peter's denial & Judas' betrayal. And then, finally on the cross, instead of turning to the closed doors, he let go: Into your hands, Father, I commit my whole being.

What Jesus did contains a possibility also for us. When the door shuts, there isn't much you can do to change it. There is something you can do, however, not to just keep looking at it. Let go. Go ahead and deal with the pain and the loss, as Jesus did. And then see what you can do to commend yourself into God's care and keeping. The One who brought from the dead our Lord, Jesus Christ, can and will be present. That One indeed will be able to open a window, and another door, and a whole new life (even beyond death itself). So much more than a cliché about closed doors and open windows, God transforms us again and again from death to life.

Pastor Dave Hedlin

Prayers Requested

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers ... Melody Walker, Meggen Strickland, Nick Umek, Mary Grachan and family, Coleton Jones, Connor Jones, Trish, Peggy, Roy Stohlquist, Sue, Judy Prokopeak, Marge McGee, Bill Reidy, Mr. Rucks, Sharon Rausch, Georgianna Bafundo, Warren Rhind, Mary Graves, Bob S., Dan Jones, Rich Connely, Marc, Jordan VanderVorste, Carrie Fouts and The Fouts Family, Susan Scalzitti, Eric Craigmile and the Boy Scout Troops attending the Boy Scout Jamboree, Teresa Gesiakowski, the Parker Cain family, Corynn Cassidy, Floyd Fosnaugh, Pastor Art Stratemeyer, Doug and Becky Braa, Mike Dampf, Linda Alderson, Dave, Thuan & Duy Family, Lisa.

Our Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Walter Koblosky, father of John;

the family of Ralph Meister, brother of Rich;

the family of Loretta Pander, mother of Jim.

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:

Doug, Josh & Jake Dittman – moving table to Daybreak

Janelle Tague & Diane Stohlquist – paint decorating in kitchen

Allie Wesel, Kailey Kahl – acolytes

All the leaders, volunteers, & kids who made our Vacation Bible School such a great success

All the people who attended, brought food, or helped organize our Outdoor Worship, Cookout & Peace Pole dedication

John & Amy Ambrose (coordinators), Janet Weber, Sandy Ringstrom, Lillian Krieger, Ed Hovi, Claudia Green, Karissa Fleming, Cindy Chubb (participants) – Art Fair

From:

Kathryn Wolske – scholarship award

Daybreak Shelter – conference table donation

Lutheran Campus Ministry – for the donation

Joliet Area Hospice – for the quilts

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 three people connected to our congregation in harms way in the Middle East. Mail can be sent to two of them at:

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

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.

Congratulations to...

Tony & Jill (Amelia & Beatrice) Zugaj, parents and George & Cathy Rumbaugh, grandparents, on the birth of Catherine Marie on July 1;

Donald Lazarz and Kristina Carlson on their marriage, July 10;

Steven & Vicki (Aiden & William) Breslan-Golub on the birth of Nathan Alexander on July 15.

Welcome to the Lord's Family

Grace Adelle Rives was baptized on July 3;

Gabriella Francesca Rose Panatera was baptized on July 11;

Gianna Lynn Bonomo was baptized on July 18;

Jacob Christopher Campos was baptized on July 18.

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.

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.

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of the Book of Faith effort we've been having. 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. The passage for August is Luke 13:10-17.

Remember Our P.O. Box

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

Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Aug. 22.**

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 Adult Support Group* – Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at 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*

-*One on One Counseling* is available for **anyone** who has had a recent loss. The loss can be due to the death of a child, parent; sibling; grandparent; relative; friend; or pet. Fees are: Individual - \$20 per session, Family (2 or more) - \$30 per session.

* **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 **House of Hope - Illinois** is now open at their new location, 22849 S. Cedar Road in Manhattan, Illinois. For more information, please call (815) 485-2322 or go to their website at www.illinoishouseofhope.org.

* You are invited to subscribe to the monthly publication for women of the ELCA, **Lutheran Woman Today**. You can learn more about this publication by visiting their website at www.lutheranwomantoday.org.

* Check out www.thelittlelutheran.org for the **ELCA’s** newest publication. **The Little Lutheran** was developed for children age 6 and younger to help them learn about God’s love for them and the world in which they live.

*Frankfort United Methodist Church has put together a networking-job search support group. 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, Vernon.Sanborn@comcast.net or Doug Newman, dnewman15@yahoo.com.

* **HOPE** (Helping Our Parishioners toward Employment) Employment Support Ministry hosts monthly meetings in the St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall, located below the Church, at the SW corner of the parking lot at 9300 West 167th St., Orland Hills, IL. For more information and dates and times, contact Steve at (708) 712-2837 or SteveSitzberger@hotmail.com.

* The **HOPE** Employment Support Ministry will meet Tuesday, August 3rd, at 7:00pm, in the parish hall of Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 167th and 94th Ave., in Orland Hills. Featured this month will be Cheryl Hillman, Talent and Acquisition Manager for Panduit Corporation. The HOPE Employment Support Ministry is open to everyone. All of our services are free of charge. Employers, please share your staffing needs with us. Send your staffing needs to tom.mcmahon@mcmahonjobs.com, and they will be distributed to those who attend our monthly meetings. Need a resume tuned up? Send your resume to ajunkans@aol.com and then come to the next meeting to receive feedback and discuss suggestions. The HOPE Employment Support Ministry has expanded. We also meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at Our Lady Of The Woods Catholic Church, 10731 W. 131st, in Orland Park, from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. For additional information, please call Skip Stringham at 630-743-1486, or Mary Lou Sipple at 708-738-5905. Need more information? Visit the HOPE Employment Support Ministry page on www.linkedin.com; call Steve Sitzberger at (708) 712-2837 or email him at stevesitzberger@hotmail.com.

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

The asset for the month of August is:

“Positive family communication”

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when the young person and his/her parent(s) communicate positively, and the young person is willing to seek parent(s)' advice and counsel.

Out to Eat Group – Aug. 21

We have the date and time already set -- Aug. 21 at 6:15 p.m. Now, we want you! This event is going to be different from our usual ones. We've been invited to Ray & Pam Garritano's home for a dinner in the barn! (Yes, we said, "barn"!) What's so special is that this is like no other barn you've been in (cleaned up and very appealing.) We'll get to eat up in the hay loft with some very appealing decorations. The Garritanos will take care of getting the meat and beverages. We ask you to bring a dish to share (salad, "casserole"-type dish, veggies, or dessert) and \$3 for the meat. Use the bulletin at church or call the office to sign up. If you have questions, call the Garritanos: 815-719-1126. Maps/directions are available at church. Their address is 9401 W. Stuenkel Rd., Frankfort.

Peace Buddies Group

Peace Buddies is a special needs youth group for high school age and older. We take a break from our regular meetings during the summer and resume those in September. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Dave or call Syndy Lindbloom at (708) 479-7338.

***Register for Next Fall's
Sunday School***

We look forward to another great year starting this Fall. We rely on the registration forms to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School this year and put our team of volunteers in place. Please fill out a registration form (they are located on a table in the narthex), or call the church office.

Trailblazers – Aug. 10

Our next luncheon will be on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at noon. If you have any questions, please contact Bev Kuzdas (815) 485-4150.

Scrapbooking Group – Aug. 20

Do you love to scrapbook, but find you don't have the time? Bring your supplies and join us on Friday, Aug. 20, 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) – Aug. 20

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, Aug. 20, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Syndy Lindbloom (815) 479-7338.

***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 **Aug. 8, at 6:00 p.m.**

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.

***Pastor Dave's Evening Bible Study –
Aug. 17***

Each month on the third Tuesday we have a Bible study on a certain topic. The next meeting will be on Aug. 17 at 7:15 p.m. The topic will be: What If It Is Works Righteousness After All? (Stories such as the separating the sheep & goats seem to counter the "grace" emphasis.)

***Interested in Learning to
Play the Bells?***

Scott Howell has volunteered to work with a bell-players-in-training group. Maybe you have some musical interest in learning. Let's put the two together and have some fun. Call the church office or use the sign-up slip in the bulletin.

Looking Ahead ...

Aug. 3 – Full Committees Meet

Aug. 8 – Concert at NL Commons

Aug. 10 – Trailblazers

Aug. 14 – Blood Drive

Baptism Orientation 3:30

Marriage Renewal Service 5:00

Aug. 20 – Scrapbooking/UFO Night

Aug. 21 – Out To Eat Group

Aug. 26 – White Sox Outing

Aug. 31 – Church Council

Sept. 7 – Committee Chairs

Sept. 8 – Confirmation Orientation

Children’s Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Adult Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Sept. 9 – Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Sept. 10-12 - Sharefest

Sept. 12 – Sunday School Rally Day

All Church Bike Ride

Sept. 13 – Ruth Circle – Quilters

Sept. 14 – Men’s Dartball

Sept. 19 – Bibles Given to 3rd Graders and older

Annual Picnic

Sept. 26 – Cropwalk

Oct. 24 – Reception of New Members

Kids in Worship This Summer

Children learn about priorities from their parents. If you consistently make worship attendance optional for the whole family, what message do you give?

Library & Faith

Summer time also includes some down time for some people. Why not grow in your faith by reading a religious book? If you have children, why not let them see a Veggie Tales or other positive movies? Our library has a lot of good options!!! Some of the books are easy reading, and some of them will be deep ... you decide.

Dinners for Eight

Do you enjoy gathering with a small group for dinner or dessert? This Fall, we are starting our second round of "Dinner for 8", a small group dinner setting in individuals' homes. Each group of eight will decide what to eat and how often to meet over the course of a year. All ages are welcome. For those with children, child care options are decided within each group. If interested, please call Angie and Todd Klock (815) 463-1848, the church office, or use the sign-up in the bulletin.

MorningStar & Daybreak Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering at MorningStar or Daybreak please contact the church office to be placed on the list. We have been working on getting an action plan in place. Before we announce details, more fine-tuning is in order.

The Lutheran

The feature article of the August issue of *The Lutheran* is: "The Bible in the new context of American popular culture (primarily music, movies, TV). The church can learn something about how the Bible itself is perceived in the wider culture." Also check out "Currents" for a Lutheran view on the current topics or latest trends.

Summer Education Classes ...

Several of you offered suggestions for summer classes. There were more ideas than available weeks. So, we'll keep track of those extra ideas for the school year or next summer! The following opportunities all begin at 9:45. While the classes have an adult point of view in mind, children are welcome to attend (or hang out on their own with a video.)

Aug. 8: Were the U.S. Founding Fathers Card Carrying Christians? (Talk about an opinion from every side!)

Aug. 22: Are We Predestined (Green pastures or scorching heat anyone?)

Book Club – Sept. 19

The next meeting of the book club will be Sept. 19 during the Sunday School hour. We will discuss Still Alice by Lisa Genova – a novel about a 50 year old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Davenport.

Marriage Renewal Service – Aug. 14

On Saturday, Aug. 14 during the 5:00 service, we will have an opportunity for those who would like to publicly renew their marriage vows in a group setting. Afterward everyone will be invited to stay for a reception of cake and punch. Let us know if you would like to take part in the renewal portion of the worship.

Peace Cookbook

The Fellowship Committee is working on putting together another Peace Church Cookbook to be ready for this year's holiday season. We are dedicating the cookbook to the memory of Frank Lazarz who was very instrumental in organizing this event last year. We are asking the congregation to submit recipes of your favorite dish(es) whether an appetizer, main course, snack, dessert; any or all would be great. Also, if you would like, a short story may accompany your recipe. Please submit your recipes and stories in typed format, preferably via the church email or to the church office no later than September 1. We plan on having the cookbooks ready for your enjoyment just in time for the holiday season. We will not be selling these cookbooks, but donations made will be accepted and given to local food pantries or shelters on behalf of the memory of Frank and his commitment in helping others. If you have any questions, please contact either Jen Arthur or George Rumbaugh, or call the church office.

Everybody Come Idea Night – Aug. 3

Four times a year we encourage everyone to come for a committee night – to share ideas for ministries, programs, and events that we could try. The welcome mat is out for August 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Blood Drive - Aug. 14

Thanks to all who came to donate blood on Memorial Day weekend. Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive on Saturday, August 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Donors will again receive the ever popular Oberweis gift card! Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Photo ID is required. We'll be happy to watch the kids while you donate. If you would like to make an appointment to donate blood, please look for the sign-up in the narthex or call the church office at (815) 485-5327.

Vacation Bible School was GREAT!

You should hear the feedback we've been getting about this year's VBS! The decorations alone were awesome. But then when those were combined with crafts, speakers, games, food, Bible stories, songs, and people everywhere, you couldn't help but feel that God was all around us. We had over 100 children and more than 60 adults helping at Zoom in on God at Peace. The typical quote was, "We wouldn't miss it!"

Sunday School Alert!!!

Kids, you won't want to miss the start of Sunday School! Rally Day, Sept. 12, 9:45 a.m. marks the beginning of your year as members of "God's Peace Makers". The year will be filled with special events and projects that celebrate and help us see how God can inspire us to have peace in our hearts and promote peace everywhere. A few events to look forward to are, a toy recycling exchange, bring a friend Sunday, performances by the Peace Drama Club and more.

The Rally Day celebration will include a **free t-shirt**, special entertainment and other fun things to do. Please sign up now so we'll have your "PEACE MAKERS" t-shirt ready for you. Call the office right away! (Sunday School is for kids 3 years old and older.)

Join us for a great year of Sunday School where you can make new friends and GROW IN YOUR FAITH! (If you'd like to help out this year in some way, be sure to let us know that too.)

Sunday School

Teacher/Assistant Meeting

Our Sunday School staff is getting together for orientation, materials, and some inspiration! The meeting dates (you choose) are Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m., or Sunday, August 22 at 9:45.

Sunday School Helper Invitation

Wouldn't you like to make a life-long difference in people's lives? Being involved in Sunday School is a sure-fire way. Many of our needs are very short-term (like a one time basis helping with a special Sunday.) Why not take a leap of faith and volunteer! Let us know how you'd like to help: please call Pastor Dave at (815) 485-5327.

Confirmation Orientation - Sept. 8

A meeting for all students in 7th and 8th grades and at least one parent/adult is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. This important night incorporates information about schedules, expectations, youth events, volunteering, and more! If you know someone who is not part of any church but has a student in this age bracket, please invite them to come too.

Parenting Workshop – “Change your child's behavior--fast!”

We will be offering a six week parenting class on Sunday mornings starting October 3. The workshops will be 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Want a child without the attitude? Without the behavior that makes you slink away in the grocery store and pretend you're not the parent? A child with character who isn't a character? If you're tired of defiant attitudes and power struggles with your little ankle-biters or the disrespectful hormone group, attend this parenting workshop and follow the simple principles, and you'll have a new kid by Friday. Guaranteed!

Have a New Kid by Friday is your 5-day action plan--Monday through Friday--that really works! With his signature wit and common sense psychology, internationally recognized family expert Dr. Kevin Leman reveals why your children do what they do and what you can do about it--starting right now.

Anyone can do it. All it takes is you deciding to stand up and take charge. Want a **GREAT** child? Want to be a **GREAT** parent? Then take the 5-day challenge. Someday your child will thank you for it.

Everyone is welcome. Let the church office know ...if you are coming by September 26 so we can have enough material. The cost of the workshop is \$10. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Urewicz at (815) 469-2054 or by email at drurewicz@gmail.com.

Baptism Orientation - Aug. 14

The next orientation opportunity for instruction for those who wish to have someone baptized at our church will be on Sat., August 14, at 3:30 p.m.

Summer Concert – Aug. 8

Our Adult Fellowship Group invites the whole church to join us on Sunday, Aug. 8, at the New Lenox Commons. The scheduled performers will be “Heartache Tonight” (an Eagles tribute band). The concert is at 7:00 p.m. and is **free**. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and anything you would like to eat or drink. Head to the center of the grassy area and look for Carol Hedlin (starting at 6:45 p.m.). For those coming after the Contemporary Service (including Pastor Dave), space will be reserved for you to join the others. Sign up by using the bulletin or calling the church office.

Confirmation Prayer Partners

Each year we ask for volunteers to pray regularly for specific confirmands. Most years you would be given the names of 3 or 4 students. We have some ideas for how to make this experience even more meaningful for all involved. If you are willing to participate, please call the church office, or use the sign-up sheet at church.

Women's Scholarship Fund

Our church has a fund to help adult women who would like to return to school. (It was started in memory of Debi Cundari). We are renewing an invitation for people to give to it (above and beyond all regular giving.) If you are so inclined, please place the gift in an envelope and give it to Pastor Dave so we're sure it goes to the right fund.

School Supplies to Help Others

As you shop for school supplies, please consider helping others by picking up some extras. This year the bulk of the supplies will go to help kids through our mission partners at Santa Cruz in Joliet. We give all the supplies away to kids that otherwise couldn't start the year right!

16 or 24 count crayons
70 page spiral notebooks
8 count washable classic color markers
blue/black/red pens
6" Fiskar scissors
140-200 count loose-leaf 3-hole paper
pocket folders
12" ruler

Do You Give Electronically?

For those of you who give electronically and would like to put something in the offering plate, we now have cards you may use. The cards are located on the name tag table in the narthex.

Summer Gift Giving Tree

In conjunction with this year's Stewardship Appeal the Service Committee invites you to “prune” our Summer Gift Giving Tree. It's located in the entrance area. There are colored leaves that correspond with one of four community organizations we are supporting. You may return these items at your earliest convenience by putting them in the corresponding bin on the floor near the tree.

Message from Pastor Stan

Greetings,

I am in the midst of reading *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas. It is, in my opinion, a great biography of the German Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It's an engaging read and one that I recommend to anyone interested in history, theology, or biography.

However I find myself wanting to share with you a quote from Bonhoeffer that Metaxas shares, "in the whole of world history there is always only really one significant hour—the present... [I]f you want to find eternity, you must serve the times."

I find the preceding profound. I think about the times that I have worried and fussed about the future or sat there beating myself up about the past. In the big scheme of things I accomplished nothing. I suspect that I am not alone.

I have come to realize that Bonhoeffer's advice to "serve the times" is a key principle in life and faith. I admit that there have been times in my life when I have been nearly paralyzed by fear of the future or regret of the past. I was stuck in the mire. I wasn't able to function. As a result I am sure that there were opportunities that were lost.

Ultimately fear and regret only serve to hinder our personal growth. What truly matters is that we embrace the time that we are in; that we serve God each and every day. Let the past and the future worry for themselves.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Stan

Pastor Stan's Studies

How does anyone know God exists? How reliable is the bible? How could God allow suffering and evil? Do Science and the bible conflict? What difference does Jesus make? These are tough questions of faith.

Pastor Stan is leading a discussion based study on these "Tough Questions of Faith". We will meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 13 – Oct. 11.

If you have any other "tough questions" that you would like discussed, please share them with Pastor Stan and they will be considered.

Fundraiser for Eric Bartels

The family and friends of Eric Bartels are doing another golf fundraiser for Eric on Sept. 11 at Green Garden Country Club. They are looking for golfers, hole sponsors and raffle items. Watch for more details to come. You can call the church office and we'll put you in contact with the sponsors.

Peace Lutheran Fantasy Football

Peace Lutheran Church will have a fantasy football league this coming year. Anyone who is interested in participating is invited to do so. To become part of the fantasy football league simply go to www.foxsports.com (**Note change: we are using foxsports this year rather than cbssports**) – choose the "fantasy sports" tab – either log in or create an account if you don't already have one (its free) – choose the football tab – click "join a league" – our league is a private league named Peach Church – once you choose peace church you will need the password which is "ELCA" – create you team name etc.

If there are any questions feel free to contact Pastor Stan and he will talk you through the process or help you set up your team. The league has 12 total teams – if more than 12 people are interested a second league will be created (and a third, etc. until everyone who wants a team has a team).

Singles Ministry – August 29

The new singles ministry at Peace Lutheran got off to a great start! We will meet again on Sunday, August 29. All the plans have not been ironed out yet, but keep watching the bulletin for further details. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Stan. **There are no age limitations and it matters not the circumstances of your singleness.**

Entertainment Books

Several of you over the years have bought these coupon books. They're filled with savings coupons for many different types of places, from food to entertainment to car washes. This year's editions have arrived and are available at church. The Entertainment Books are \$25 each. (A portion of that cost goes to youth-related ministries.) We hope this helps you get some good bargains! (We will also have the Golden Opportunity Books available soon.)

Sharefest - Sept. 10-12

Sharefest New Lenox is a time for those who need help to receive it and for those who can help to offer it. Sharefest will take place the weekend of Sept. 10-12. Opportunities to help will include:

- collection of food for local food banks
- assisting in repair & cleanup projects
- preparing meals for hungry & service team

Please look for opportunities to sign up to receive help or to provide help in the upcoming bulletins.

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

Recently Graduated Seniors

To our graduated-seniors we want to wish you good luck in whatever you are pursuing. We know this is an adjustment time for you and we want you to know that you can call or email us any time. We are here for you! We would like to send you the regular monthly newsletter either by mail or email so please let us know if you have a change of address &/or email address! Keep in touch!

Operation Peace – Aug. 8

Get ready: we are having a “Progressive Lunch” - but it’s all ICE CREAM! It’s really just an excuse to go to a bunch of popular ice cream shops and enjoy some ice cream with friends. Bring a friend, join old friends and meet some new friends! We will leave church at 12:30 p.m. So if you like ice cream sign-up now!

Peacelink – Aug. 15

We’re going wall climbing! We will head out to Orland Park Sportsplex again! The cost is \$6.00 per person, plus you might want to bring extra in case we stop for a snack. Watch the bulletin (and Facebook) for more details.

Operation Peace – Aug. 29

Hold the date! We are planning a Service Project!

The Hope Fund

If you would like to participate in one of our youth events but the cost involved is keeping you from joining us, we have a fund available to help you. This fund has been established through the generous donation of a Peace Lutheran Church family to enable a member(s) of our congregation to participate in church youth activities. Just let Pastor Stan or Pastor Dave know - and no one else will know.

Don’t forget to check out the rest of the newsletter; there may be more things going on that interest you!

Senior High & 7th/8th Grade Students

Coffee & Conversations

Teens & adults are welcome to drop in anytime between 3-6 p.m. for a chat about faith, church, school or life in general.

Coffee & Conversation is returning to it’s “regular” schedule in August:

Pastor Stan will be at Paradise Smoothies on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month, and at Starbucks all other Tuesdays.

You can still call the church office if you have any questions, check the bulletin, Facebook & Peace Lutheran Church on the web:

(www.peacenewlenox.org: Go to Bulletin and look at This Week and Beyond, or go to the *Youth Ministry* page)

And Remember: you can drop in on Pastor Stan at church, too! He’s typically here 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. **Plus**, he’s available other times by appointment!

7th/8th Grade Students

Sept. 8 - Confirmation Orientation

A meeting for all students in 7th and 8th grades and at least one parent/adult is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. This important night incorporates information about schedules, expectations, youth events, volunteering, and more! If you know someone who is not part of any church but has a student in this age bracket, please invite them to come too.

Looking Ahead:

Sept. 12 - RALLY DAY

Sept. 10-12 - Sharefest

Sept. 12 – All Church Bike Ride

Sept. 19 – Church Picnic

KEYWORD: PEACEYOUTH!!!!

What is this all about? Find out by texting the word “peaceyouth” to 41411

***Vacation Bible School was GREAT!
Thanks to all our wonderful helpers!***