

August 2026

The Good News of Peace

Our Vision Statement: Sharing Peace Faithfully

*Our Mission: To bring people into contact with the gospel,
and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ.*



PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- Cass Ott
- The Fouts Family
- Mark Wilcox
- Aaron Sands
- Lexi
- Carol Armour
- Jeremy & Josh
- Nancy Stephenson
- Sharon Zar
- Edna and Ray Anglin
- Jana

EVERYBODY READ

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

August's passage is:
Matthew 6:25-27

A Letter From Your Pastor

Pastor Amy Michelson

It is back to school season. Among other things, this season has me thinking about teachers - all the amazing teachers that we have here at Peace, the teachers that have impacted me growing up, and what a gift it is to have a great teacher. (Teachers, please know that we are grateful to you for all the ways you care for our kids! We'll be praying for you this school year.)

Then, I started thinking about Jesus, who is our ultimate teacher. The word disciple means someone who learns from a leader and follows their teachings. As disciples, we learn from Jesus, our teacher and follow God's teachings. We are all students of God. We are also all teachers. Whether it's at home, in our jobs, or volunteering, we all have opportunities to teach. So, what might we learn from Jesus about being a teacher?

As a teacher, Jesus used a lot of stories that were relatable to his audience. Stories that connected faith to their ordinary, everyday lives. It's important for us to relate to the people we encounter and those we are hoping to teach. To do that we have to know them and hear about what's important to them.

Jesus also asked a lot of questions. He often answered questions with another question so that people had the opportunity to think for themselves and engage in discussion instead of just being an audience at a lecture.

Jesus was a servant leader. He didn't just talk the talk. He walked the walk. He lived out his own message in his life. He was patient too. Over and over, the disciples struggled to understand, but Jesus never gave up on them.

Finally, Jesus talked to and taught all different kinds of people from different social classes, races, and ages, people who seemed to have great faith and people who seemed to have little faith, people who were doubting, and people who were outcast. Jesus taught all kinds of people because all kinds of people deserve to have opportunities to learn.

What a gift to have such a wonderful teacher to learn from and follow!

-Pastor Amy



Financial Update as of June 30, 2026

June. Income	YTD Income	Annual Budget
\$51,862	\$51,862	\$612,831

June. Expense	YTD Expense	Annual Budget
\$51,945	\$51,945	\$612,831

I want to say thank you so much to the congregation of Peace Lutheran church for supporting me through mine and my brother's lemonade stand. Thank you for being so generous in your donations, and for coming to support me and everyone who benefits from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation and their services. With your help, my stand raised over \$1,000 for kids with cancer. I am so grateful for all that you have done to support my family as we have been faced with cancer twice over the past couple years, and thank you for helping me to give back to other kids with cancer.



Thank you so much, Claire DeMik



Thank You

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

- All our VBS volunteers, kids, and families
- Al Davenport and trivia night participants
- The carwash volunteers and those who donated for the National Youth Gathering

A Letter From NATHANIEL KNUTSON

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your continued support as I continue my seminary journey and my formation as a pastor. You have supported me throughout my entire discernment journey, and it is hard to believe that I am now entering my final year of seminary. I am beyond grateful for your support throughout the years and the many ways that you have helped to shape my pastoral identity.

As many of you know I have been serving as a Synod Authorized Minister in Knoxville Illinois while I complete my seminary education. I thought that I would update you all on some of the wonderful ministry that we have been doing here. Here in Knoxville we have a little food pantry outside of our doors and we fill it 4 times a day. We have participated in our community VBS and completed several service projects on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We also are a deeply connected congregation and have walked with several members through their grief. Because of your support through the seminary scholarship, I have been able to focus on this wonderful ministry alongside my seminary studies! This has been such a blessing and has helped me to further form my pastoral identity! Even as I am away from you all, you continue to help shape and support me in my discernment journey and I am beyond grateful!

As I continue to participate in the wonderful ministry happening in Knoxville and enter my final year of seminary I continue to hold you all in prayer. You all are doing so much wonderful ministry in New Lenox and I pray that you continue to share Christ's love with everyone you encounter. Thank you again for your generous support!

God's Peace

Nathaniel Knutson

Sabbatical Update

As Peace's Sabbatical Committee, we wanted to introduce ourselves and provide more information on what a sabbatical is and how we plan on implementing it.

A sabbatical is a time set aside for rest and renewal, especially for professions prone to burn-out. In the case of a clerical sabbatical, it is a time for reconnecting with God, renewing the relationship that is so essential to Christian living and leading God's people. Out of wisdom and care for its Rostered Ministers, Peace approved a Sabbatical plan and added it to our bylaws over 15 years ago!

Few callings are as demanding physically, emotionally and spiritually as the ministry of a congregation. From calls that summon you to the hospital in the middle of the night or away from your family during an event or the day-to-day church ministry. It is a 24-7 calling.

With all Deacon Shari has done to encourage and renew our congregation's relationship with God and her commitment and guidance through the many changes we have experienced over the past several years, we celebrate with her as she takes a sabbatical. Our support will give her much needed time to rest emotionally, grow spiritually, and reconnect with family.

In order to fill Deacon Shari's critical roles while she is away, we will be calling on volunteers and inviting guest preachers. Peace's only financial responsibility for the sabbatical is to pay guest preachers.

The sabbatical committee is honored to help Deacon Shari through this process as she prepares for her absence starting in July of 2027. We will keep you updated as we continue through this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact members of the Sabbatical Committee: Irv Roberts, Jenna Welzen, or Vicky Burns.

-Peace Sabbatical Committee



A Letter From Your Deacon



Dear Members and friends of Peace,

Did you hear the buzzing, laughter, and learning that was happening at Peace last month! We had approximately 40 children here learning about how we are caught in God's love. We also had about 20 volunteers. It was a wonderful week, and we hope you got to hear our theme song on Sunday July 26 at the 11am service. The week was so full, so we wanted to share with you what we did each day.

On Tuesday we arrived excited to check in and we were greeted by a creepy crawly wonderland. Thank you to everyone who came to creation station or helped set up on Monday, the space looked amazing. In crafts we made bug jars. For snack we had a delicious ladybug cookie made from cookie and grapes. In STEM we made a bug on a leash and talked about the sounds bugs make. In games we played ladybug buckets and had a great time practicing our aim. Pastor Amy taught us about the Ladybug Helper, and we learned the story of the Good Samaritan and helping one another when we are having a hard time.

On Wednesday we came in ready to go. We worked hard on learning our theme song and had some fun doing the millipede march with Danny Go. Today Deacon Shari taught us about how Caterpillars can teach us patience and we heard the story of Simeon. Simeon was a prophet who waited a long time for a savior and when he held the baby Jesus, he knew immediately that this baby was the one he had been patiently waiting for. We made caterpillars and bugs trapped in goo. We even ate a yummy candy caterpillar for snack. We got all wrapped up in our cocoons (toilet paper) for games. Day 2 was awesome!

Thursday, day 3 was all about Ants! Tiny, hardworking ants, that taught us all about faith. Pastor Amy taught us the story of the tiny mustard seed that became the greatest of all bushes, and we learned that even though we are small we can have big faith. Thursday we made a stained-glass butterfly, we did a cooperation relay and pretended to be ants, we made a glow in the dark lightning bug jar, and we had popcorn thanks to Old Plank Trail bank.

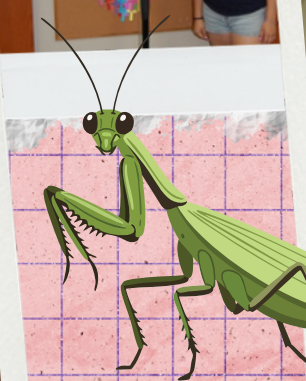
Our last day, Friday was the bee's knees! We learned all about teamwork as Deacon Shari shared with us the story of Nehemiah and his community re-building a wall. We played a pollen relay, ate a spider snack, and played with magnets in both crafts and STEM. We ended the week and the day with hot dogs!

This VBS was Bugtastic! We cannot wait for next year! A HUGE thank you to everyone who made VBS possible!!!!

God's Peace,
Deacon Shari



2026 VBS



Worship

Contemporary Worship

Join us the 2nd Saturday of the month (August 8th) at 5pm for a more contemporary worship style.
Looking forward to worshipping with you!

Outdoor Worship

Weather permitting, join us outside the last Saturday of the month at 5pm, May-September. Bring your own chair and dress for the weather!

Offerings & Opportunities

2026 Flower Sign-Up

The flower chart for 2026 is filling up. If you would like to sign up for flowers, take a look. We have a new way to track flower information, so please grab a slip and envelope off of the bulletin board if you sign up or if you have not yet paid for your flowers or given the office the dedication information.

Updated Information for the Peace Directory

We are getting ready to print our new directory in September and want to make sure we have everyone's correct contact details. The directory will include cell phone numbers and email addresses. If you would like to update your information or do not want your cell phone number or email address included, please contact the church office by **August 16** with any changes.

Electronic Giving

If you would like to sign up for automatic withdrawals, please contact the office. You can also give online at any time through our website www.peacenewlenox.org, click on the donate tab.

All Committee Meeting – Sun., Aug. 16

Want to be involved in the ministries happening at Peace? You are invited to join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30am.

Special Music

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

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

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

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

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



Looking Ahead

Office Closed For Labor Day-September 7th

Rally Day and Messtival- September 13th

Blessing of The Animals-September 26th



Fellowship

Women's Retreat September 19th

We invite all women high school aged and older to join us for a day of learning and fellowship at our annual women's retreat. This year the theme will be "women of faith, past, present and future." Come learn about the faithful women that have impacted your life as well as the life of the Church and world. We will meet at Peace from 9am till 2pm. If you would like more information reach out to Deacon Shari or Pastor Amy.

Thrivent Members

Did you know that all Thrivent Members now have Choice Dollars that you can direct to an organization at any time during a calendar year? Choice Dollars are grant funds that come directly from Thrivent, not from your accounts. If you're a Thrivent Member, we'd be so grateful to you if you'd think of Peace when directing your Choice Dollars. If you need help, let us know. Thank you for your generosity!

Faith Development & Education

Free books!

Yes, you read that right! We are now giving away our "Questions Kids Ask About God" books. They are available in English and Spanish, hardcover, softcover and coloring books. If you know of anyone who would enjoy learning about God in a fun, creative way, help yourself to these books. They will be available on the counter in the narthex. They make great gifts.

Sunday School Teacher & Helper Orientation – Sun., Aug. 9 – 9:30am

Our Sunday School staff gathers before the start of Sunday School to help get to know each other, help new teachers and staff get acquainted with our Sunday School ministry, get our supplies and curriculum, and generally have a good time! This year's orientations will be Sun., Aug. 9 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. We would love if our substitute teachers can join us, too!

Blessing Of the Backpacks August 15 & 16

On Saturday August 15 and Sunday August 16, we will bless our children and teachers as they head back to school. Please feel free to bring your backpack or briefcase to church and we will bless you and your bag that will carry your learning materials. We hope that the school year will be filled with learning and friendship and that you feel God's presence with you each day.

1st Communion Class

Join us to learn about the amazing gifts God gives to us in communion! Traditionally at Peace, 5th grade has been the age for First Communion, however, all are welcome at Christ's table, so if you have a kid who desires to take communion, they are welcome in our class. Please use the sign up slip or email Pastor Amy if you have a kid who is interested. We will then try to find a date that works for everyone. (This particular class is open to all school-aged kids, so if you have a younger child who is interested, please reach out to Pastor Amy.)

Register for 2026/2027 Sunday School

We look forward to a great year starting on Rally Day, Sept. 13 at 9:45; "Caught in God's Love"! We rely on the registration forms to give us updates and to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School. Please fill out a registration [form online](#), or call the church office.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10am. We just started back in Genesis so this is a great time to join us! You do not need to know anything about the Bible. Just come with an open heart and mind and with a curiosity to listen and learn from one another and the Spirit.

Groups

Coffee & Conversation – Mondays

Every Monday morning from 10–11am, Deacon Shari will be holding office hours at Gost Coffee on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Please come grab a cup of joe and share in conversation.

Peace Page Turners-Sat., Aug 1 at 4:00pm

The next book the Peace Page Turners will discuss will be “The Outliers” by Malcolm Gladwell.

Tuesdays at Peace-Tues., August 18 at 10:00am

The club is meeting on Aug. 18 to discuss "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

Strong Seniors Exercise – Mon. & Wed.

Join us for a low impact program for seniors. Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm.

Golf Group – Thursdays at 8:00am

The golf group will start playing when the temperature hits 50 degrees in the morning. We play for fellowship, fresh air and maybe hit a good shot occasionally. Each week Mike Bohl will send out an email to interested golfers with when and where to meet. You do not have to play every week. Questions, contact the church office.



Ruth Circle Quilting – Mon., August 10 & 24 at 9am

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

Trailblazers – Tues., August 18 at 12pm

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

Mahjong Masters – Thursdays at 1pm

Don't worry, being a master is ABSOLUTELY not required! A group of Mahjong Minded Members have started gathering at Peace on Thursdays at 1:00pm. We would love to have you join us!

Men's Breakfast – Sat., August 22 at 9am

Men ages 16 and older are invited to this fellowship opportunity that meets at Peace on the fourth Saturday of the month. Cost is a free will offering – breakfast cost is approximately \$15 each.



July 2026 Peace Trivia Champions!

Save the date for the next Trivia contest Saturday, December 5th.

Youth

Peace Youth Groups

Do you want to hang out with other awesome Peace youth? Do you like to eat good food, play games, and talk about Jesus? Awesome!!!! Peace Youth Groups are for you! Peace Youth is for 7th - 12th graders and Jr. Youth Group is for 3rd - 6th graders. Both groups will continue meeting regularly again in the fall so stay tuned!

National Youth Gathering June 28- July 2027

Imagine worshipping with 20,000 other people who believe in the same God you do. Now imagine that 15,000 of them are youth the same age as you. The National Youth gathering is an event where this becomes real. We will travel to Minneapolis this year with other Lutheran youth from all over the United States and hear from amazing and honest speakers about how to imagine more love, welcome, grace, Joy, and courage. We will begin meeting as a group every month starting August 16th at 12pm to begin imagining more, planning and preparing. If you are interested in attending please let Deacon Shari know.

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

Come get Messy with our youth group as we kick off our programmatic year. The Messitval is a fun time of messy games and friendship. We will get to know each other and leave covered in things like cool whip, slime and chocolate syrup. We will meet outside the church at 12noon and have pizza and then play games until 2pm. Parents are advised to bring towels to cover their car seats as the kids will be very messy. This event is for 7 through 12 grade youth, but we can always use adult volunteers. See Deacon Shari if you have any questions.

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

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



Upcoming Youth Events

- Sun, Aug 16 -NYG Meeting- 12pm
- Wed, Sept 10 -Confirmation Orientation- 7:00pm



Helping Others

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Needs List

We are always collecting bottled water, juice, paper products, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, Jell-O, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc. for Santa Cruz's Food Pantry. Look for the baskets by Fellowship Hall.

Help Others Fund

Alongside our regular giving that helps all kinds of people in need, we also have a special "help others" fund within our general fund. It is targeted to help people who need food or gas. We continue to be diligent in making sure the money actually goes to people in need.



Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for individual volunteer opportunities, to earn community service hours, find ways to give back or lend a hand? The Service/Outreach Committee is creating a list of ideas for individual service projects. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex and the newsletter for details. For starters, here are a few suggestions. If you know of other opportunities, please share.

****ShareFest, 21715 Moni Drive, New Lenox, needs volunteers to help out in its food pantry and warehouse during the day, Tuesday-Saturday. Sign up at <https://www.sharefestwillcounty.org/>**

****Sunny Hill Nursing Home, 421 Doris Avenue, Joliet, you can scoop ice cream in the Sweet Shop, help with Bingo, and more. All volunteers must complete a form for a background check. Contact Kristen at 815-727-8710.**



Community Resources



Will-Grundy Medical Clinic
free healthcare for the uninsured and
those who qualify 815-726-3377, ext. 228.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
call/text 988 or online chat at
www.988lifeline.org

Joliet Area Hospice Support Groups
www.joliethospice.org or 815-740-4104

Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available
please contact the church office

Guardian Angel Community Services
Sexual assault & rape crisis services
24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984

LSSI's Joshua Arms
independent & supportive living units for seniors
www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms or 815-727-6401

NAMI - National Alliance for Mental Illness
info@namiwillgrundy.org or
www.namiwillgrundy.org

Recycling and Green Initiatives-
willcountygreen.com



General Information

Worship Details

Saturday worship 5pm, Sunday at 8:30 & 11am.
8:30am service is live streamed.

Email Contacts

Pastor Amy – amichelson@peacenewlenox.org
Deacon Shari – strotter@peacenewlenox.org
Church office: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org.

Hearing Assistance Available

We are happy to offer wireless receivers to assist anyone with a hearing impairment. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one.

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Phone: (815) 485-5327

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

website: www.peacenewlenox.org