

The ANNOUNCER

- 7/2 6-8PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/4 **Independence Day**
Office Closed
- 7/6 9:15AM – Devotional group
10AM – Worship
w/Holy Communion
- 7/7 10-12PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/9 6-8PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/11 10-2PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/13 9:15AM – Devotional group
10AM – Worship
- 7/14 10-12PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/16 6-8PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/18 10-2PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/20 9:15AM – Devotional group
10AM – Worship
11:15AM – Church Council
- 7/21 Aug 2025 Announcer
deadline
10-12PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/23 6-8PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/25 10-2PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/27 9:15AM – Devotional group
10AM – Worship
- 7/28 10-12PM – Rummage Sorting
- 7/30 6-8PM – Rummage Sorting

SORTING ALL SUMMER, PLEASE COME HELP

In June we started sorting on **Fridays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** and then added **Wednesday evening sorting 6:30-8:30 PM**. These times will continue until the sale in September. *On July 7th we will start sorting on Mondays 10:00 AM – Noon*. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us. It is easy to learn what to do, and we usually have some fun. It's a wonderful way to connect with others from the church! If these times don't work in your schedule, come in anytime you can. Some folks

have also expressed an interest in sorting after church on Sundays, so don't be surprised to see people busy at work in the gym after church. On Sundays we do need to stay out of the Lanford Fellowship Hall since New Life Church uses that space during and after their service. You can check with Annie if you aren't sure what needs to be done. Thank you to everyone for the amazing effort getting everything set up and rolling!



CHURCH STORAGE SPACE CLEAN OUT

The upcoming Rummage and Bake Sale is the perfect time for clearing out the church closets and storage areas. There are so many things stored throughout the church that no one uses anymore! If you are aware of items that aren't needed, please pull them and put them in the gym to be sold (or ask Annie if you aren't sure). If you need help with organizing closets or other storage areas, Annie and other from the rummage crew are always happy to help.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE RUMMAGE SALE IF YOU CAN'T HELP WITH SORTING?

In a word, yes. Everyone can help us with the biggest fundraiser of the year, even if you can't come during sorting time. Of course, coming during sorting times, or any time to help us put items out, clean things and organize is a huge help. Here are a few other things we can use help with:

- Recycling grocery bags – We receive so many plastic bags that need to be recycled. These will be left in the lobby on top of the coat rack. Grab a bag or two and take it to the store for recycling.
- Workers always need water, soda and an occasional snack while working. If you can donate any of these items, just leave them in the gym with a note saying they are for the workers.
- Sell valuable and larger items for us online.
- Donate items you no longer need to the sale
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to donate to the sale
- Work the sale days with us.
- And of course, promote the sale which is on **September 26th and 27th from 9AM-3PM**. We need shoppers to make this effort worthwhile!
- Watch for other requests for help in the bulletin and future Announcers

Please note that the sorting takes place throughout the entire summer. We do our best to keep things as neat as possible, especially for Sunday worship. If you notice any issues with things being too messy, please let Annie or Laura know. Thank you to everyone for whatever help you can offer to help make this year's sale a huge success.

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Friends,

I want you to know about a couple of remarkable weekends in your area. Skokie celebrated Juneteenth on Saturday, June 14. A large gathering came to increase our understanding of legacy, freedom, accomplishment and excellence. Music, art, story-telling, food, networking and resources were in abundance. It was good to witness solidarity and support in an age that sometimes pretends we don't see injustice in racist world, and that forgets the strength of diversity.

June 21-22 included local Pride activities. A small group of St. Peter's UCC folk walked in the Niles' Pride Rainbow Walk, showing solidarity in a community that does not always affirm who a person is and who they love. Even in the heat at Skokie's Pride festival, numerous folk visited our St. Peter's table to meet, greet, share bling, paint rocks and make connections. I was especially impressed by teens who came with groups of friends to explore, support one another, play with and affirm each other. They are forging a way through a world who does not always express support and care. By our presence, they might have seen that a church loves them, too.

Friends, never underestimate the impact your church can have. People need us. They need to see that we will reach beyond our comfort zones, listen to stories, celebrate accomplishments, stand up to injustice and build a more loving world. We don't just embrace people in spite of their differences. We reach out because God enriches us with a full spectrum of community. Every difference reveals something else about God and makes us more complete as a people of faith.

As long as some people do not know they are valued and loved, there will be a need for a church. As long as people need to know that they matter to the world, there will be a need for a church. As long as people experience a world who tries to tell them that they don't count, that others matter more than they do, that they are alone and no one will stand with them, the church will be vital.

When you can, please try to attend in person. Summer makes this hard. You may be travelling. There may be heat or other health concerns. For those times, I am grateful that you can enjoy the improved quality of our live streaming.

But do consider coming in person. Consider coming because you care that someone might need to feel God's love through you. When they walk through our doors, they might need to see your smile, hear your greeting, feel your love and notice your inclusion. They might need to witness the love you share with each other. They might need to feel that their presence matters to you. Perhaps one day, they may need to tell their story; they may feel safer talking with you because they have seen you in church. You will be a face of God for them. And they may be a face of God for you. Listen. Love. Care. Share. By God's grace, they might teach us more about God, and this could change us forever. God is alive and well as we build relationships.

Blessings, Brenda

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1 – Mia Paige Speicher
Randy Altmayer
- 7/3 – Ann Aler
Mandy McDonald
Mike Taheny
- 7/4 – Dan Mahoney
- 7/7 – Ron Schuhrke
- 7/11 – Hillary Gack
Wendy Svenson
- 7/15 – Jeremy Steegmueller
Shari Meggs
- 7/16 – Mary Taylor
Sydney Kerbel
- 7/21 – Louise Dahm
- 7/22 – A.J. Tarzian
- 7/24 – Justin Mitchell
Kaitlin Garcia
- 7/27 – Alice Schaller
- 7/28 – Ryan Miller



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/3 – Linda and Bruce
Mau
- 7/12 – Gail and Greg
Thomas
- 7/17 – Beth and Paul
Brzozowski
Gail and John Balling
Lisa and Eric
Martinek

RESPECT OUR SHARED SPACE

Recently we have had a few people comment that things are being left in places they don't belong, such as offices and classrooms. If you are dropping items off at church for any reason, but aren't sure where they go, please don't just leave them in a random spot. If Laura is available, she can always give guidance. If she isn't available, leave items in her office or in the

Lanford Fellowship Hall with a note stating what they are for. This way they will get put into the appropriate space. Be aware with the rummage sale going on, that items left around are likely to be put into the gym to be sold. Thank you for your help keeping our shared spaces neat and workspaces clear of extra clutter.



WOMEN'S GUILD JUNE 2025

The Women's Guild met on Wed. June 11 at the home of Pres. Barbara Todd for their annual season-ending picnic. We welcomed Pastor Brenda and Office Manager Laura Olson and also some newer Guild members. The Guild Board hosted the Buffet Luncheon of various salads and breads, and cakes and cookies for dessert, including a Birthday Cake for Ginger Kalensky. Jim Todd served his special punch and Annie Noorts and Barb Todd provided

chips and dips. There was no formal business meeting, but the current Board of Officers will serve another year. There was discussion on the Sept. Rummage and Bake Sale and everyone was urged to bake! Also discussion on ill and recovering members of the congregation. The weather was lovely for a deck party and a good time was had by all! There will be no meetings during the summer, and the **next meeting will be on Oct. 8**. Have a great summer!



AJH THANK YOU

On Saturday May 31st, St. Peter's provided the groceries and volunteers to serve a midday meal at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen. Part of A Just Harvest's mission is to, "fight poverty and hunger in the Rogers Park and greater Chicago community by providing nutritious meals daily..." Every day of the year anyone can go to the A Just Harvest Community Kitchen and get a hearty free meal! Your donations

helped purchase the ingredients for a meal consisting of Sloppy Joe's, steamed vegetables, baked beans, salad, cookies, fruit, and beverages. Eighty-One customers were welcomed into the AJH dining room and were served a nutritious meal. Thanks to Carolyn Van Til and Jake Ryan for volunteering to help serve our neighbors. **Our next time to partner with AJH Community Kitchen is Saturday August 30th.**

Operating Budget at a Glance, May, 2025

	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$10,747	\$13,808	\$61,196	\$70,941
Expenses	\$16,971	\$22,561	\$77,167	\$92,665
Gain/(Loss)	(\$6,224)	(\$8,753)	(\$15,971)	(\$21,724)



Lector/Nursery for July 2025

July 6 th	Lector: Rita M. Nursery: Laurie M.
July 13 th	Lector: Olivia A. Nursery: Heidi T.
July 20 th	Lector: Peter S. Nursery: Carolyn V.
July 27 th	Lector: Jen S. Nursery: Mike R.
August 3 rd	Lector: Peggy R. Nursery: Rita M.



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JULY 2025

VENDORS WANTED

Holiday Craft Show applications are being accepted now. If you are interested in having a table at our sale, contact Wendy or Annie for more information. For an application, email st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com, or contact the office.

MINI-PANTRY DONATIONS

Our Mini Food Pantry is visited daily by many, but we need regular donations to keep it filled and are currently very low on food. If you are able to donate, please bring your items to the shelves outside the offices. Please, no expired food. Thank you so much!

PERSPECTIVES ON PATRIOTISM

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.