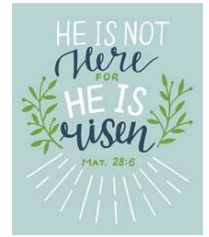




**NEWS OF PEACE**  
**Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL**  
**2025**



Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate the high holy days of Christianity. During Holy Week and Easter, we celebrate the gift of our salvation in the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Easter, the Resurrection of Our Lord, is both the primary and initial festival of the church. It was the first feast celebrated! In fact, the whole Church year is centered in the church's celebration of Easter.

On the **Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), April 13**, we assemble to worship our Lord Jesus who is both Suffering Servant and King and royal Lord. On this day the center of our worship service is not so much the procession with palms as it is **the Proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord**. Hence, the name change from Palm Sunday to Sunday of the Passion.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 17**, we will gather to commemorate the end of the days of Lent and the beginning of the Great Three Days (Triduum) from Maundy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening. The service of the Three Days is one service celebrated over three days. Using the Jewish ordering of time, the day begins as sunset and concludes at the following sunset. So Maundy Thursday (**Day One**) begins at sunset on Thursday and ends at sunset on Friday. **Day Two** of the Three Days extends from Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset. **Day Three** begins at sunset on Saturday and concludes on Sunday at sunset. (This is why we can have Sunday services on Saturday evening. Our Christian Sunday begins at sundown on Saturday and ends on Sunday at sundown.)

On **Good Friday, April 18**, we will gather for the second part of the Service of the Three Days. We will once again hear the **Proclamation of the Passion from John's Gospel**, followed by the showing of the cross. On this day we solemnly remember the cost our Lord paid for our sins as we also celebrate the triumph of his victory over sin and death. The service of the day concludes on a note of Triumph rather than sadness.

**The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Sunday) is April 20.** At the beginning of our Easter 6 a.m. service, we will conclude the **Service of the Three Days** with the Service of Light at which time we prepare and light the **Paschal Candle** and **Renew our Baptismal Promises**. This is the first Eucharist of Easter. The 9 a.m. Service will be our Festival Service of Easter. First Communion will be celebrated at this service! What a joy that will be when our young people receive our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time at the High Holy Festival of the Church Year!

As your Pastor, I encourage you to take spiritual advantage of these days. Celebrate them with one another by joining together in prayer and worship. These days define who we are as Christians. Make every effort to participate in all the services of Thursday, Friday of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Come, together let us enter into the joy of our Lord!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken".

Pr. Ken



**Below are the contributions for the month of March**

(thru March 23<sup>rd</sup>)

\$5,482.59 is needed weekly to meet our budget.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Received Year To Date</u>
1&2	\$5,347.00	\$48,624.48
8&9	\$6,500.00	\$55,124.48
15&16	\$4,901.00	\$60,025.48

Operating Fund Balance as February 28= \$ \$25,744.98

**CONFIRMATION** will start back on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am on Sunday's. Do not forget to do your Sermon Reflection.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Join us for Road Trip VBS

where we will go on an exciting journey as we discover new places, new friends, and ways that we can discover God's goodness and presence everywhere.

Road Trip VBS is based on Joshua 1:9, "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." This verse reminds us that God's presence is always near, no matter where the journey of life takes us.

This year VBS will be held from June 16 through June 20, 2025. Please volunteer; don't wait to be called! If you can help, contact either the church office (965-3119) or Michelle Gremmels (615-3535).



**FIRST COMMUNION:** First Communion will be held at 9:00am Easter Service on April 20, 2025.



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY – We still need a male and female member representative.** This year the Synod Assembly will be held in Bloomington, IL on June 5-7, 2025.



**Community Pinochle Party:** There will be a Community Pinochle Party at St. Paul's, Wine Hill, April 7, 2025. A light meal will be served at 6:00 pm, with the card party starting at 6:30 pm.



**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are being received for the Peace Lutheran Church Scholarship. This one-year

non-renewable scholarship is available to any first-year full-time students attending an accredited institution of higher learning who are confirmed, voting members of Peace Lutheran Church for at least one year prior to application. If you are interested in this scholarship, please contact the office to receive the new guidelines and an application.

Applications are also being received for the Herman and Esther Trede Scholarship. This scholarship is available to anyone attending a Lutheran college or seminary. Applications and information for both scholarships are available in the church office. Pick up a form soon. Deadline to apply is May 1<sup>st</sup>.



Throughout the month of May, we will again be collecting donations for **"ONE FOR THE CROSS-ONE FOR EVERY PERSON IN EVERY CHURCH"**. This is the annual fund drive to help support and provide upkeep for the Bald Knob Cross of Peace in Alto Pass, IL. The Mission of Bad Knob Cross of Peace is to provide a place where all people can unite to experience the presence of God. The Bald Knob Cross can be of service to our church in many ways. We can take a group there and host a service have and evening worship, host a potluck or picnic, or bring our youth out for a day of fun and fellowship. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing monument in our region. Please generously give to support it.



Sunday, June 1, 2025 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in our church park. This event is open to our congregation and anyone in Steeleville and the surrounding area. **FREE OF CHARGE**, we will provide a bouncy house, water slide (weather permitting), the Balloon Lady, old-fashioned carnival games (Duck Pond, Fishing, Plinko, Cornhole, Photo Booth, and more).

Refreshments will be served. Bring lawn chairs and a desire to have a great time. An event this size requires many volunteers to oversee the activities. If you would like to help, contact Carolyn Bert (618-534-8977) or the church office (618-965-3119). **ALL ARE WELCOME - COME JOIN THE FUN!!!**

**URGENTLY NEEDED** As you may or may not know, our church has had a float in both the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Small Town Christmas parades the last few years. In the past, we have assembled floats in the FS Building located on Shawneetown Trail. The ice storm in January caused the roof of the FS Building to collapse, and the building has since been torn down. **We urgently need a new location in which to assemble our floats, or we will have to discontinue participating in the parades.** We would only need the location approximately two weeks before the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and two weeks before the Friday after Thanksgiving (the Small-Town Christmas parade). We require the location's door to be at least 8 or 9 feet high to be able to accommodate the height of future floats. If you have, or know of, someone who has a building suitable for our needs, please contact Carolyn Bert (618-534-8977) or the church office (618-965-3119) as soon as possible.

Thank you



We will be holding the Mother's Day Brunch in the Fellowship Hall on May 4 during the Sunday School

hour...probably from 10:00 to about 12:00. Wanted to let you know for calendar purpose

## CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS



### **DEATH:**

**Mark L. Kranz** of Steeleville, IL passed away on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Carbondale, IL.

Mark's wishes were cremation and a Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

**Dorothy "Dot" Bockhorn** passed away on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Sparta Community Hospital, Sparta, IL. Funeral Services were held Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL. The burial was at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville, IL.



It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now if you've lost a

spouse, child, family member or friend. You may have found that there aren't many people who understand the deep hurt that you feel.

GriefShare, a Grief Recovery Support Group, is a faith-based program designed for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Each 13-week session includes a video, support group discussion and a workbook-based personal study and reflection. As part of a GriefShare group you will discover there are people who understand your hurt, emotions and painful experiences. You'll learn helpful, practical information that will help you recover from the pain of grief and loss. You'll have the chance to talk about your experiences. You'll have a workbook for personal study and to write down things you've learned. You'll discover hope for the future.

The beginning date is scheduled for April 21st to be held at Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville in the library; each session will begin at 7:00 pm. There will be a calendar of meeting dates available at the first meeting. There is no cost for the workbook mentioned.

For more information or questions, please call Debra Rathert at 618/318-2026.