

May 2026
NEWS OF PEACE
United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace ELCA
A Good Word from the Pastor



Dear Friends,

As I write, we are in the midst of the church's celebration of Easter. I passed a non-liturgical church since Easter and their sign read: "Easter is over, but Christ's resurrection still brings new life."

However, contrary to that sign, in the liturgical churches (mostly Lutheran, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox) we are in the early weeks of Easter. We celebrate Easter for seven Sundays. It is a "week" of Sundays! Easter Day is the "day of days" for Christians that is extended through a week of weeks!

In the scriptures the number 'seven' has particular meaning. Seven is a number of completeness, perfection and fulfillment. St. John, in the book of Revelation, writes to seven churches. In writing to seven churches, he writes to the whole church across the known world. As a number of completeness seven is the number of the days of the week in the creation account in Genesis. The seventh day is a holy day, a day of rest and worship.

So, we celebrate Easter for seven Sundays. The number of Sundays denote the fullness of celebration for the church's highest festival of the year. Easter is not over for us Lutherans because we celebrate Easter for seven full weeks! We just cannot contain all our feasting in one day or even one week, but we need a week of weeks to do it!

During the Sunday liturgy during this Easter season, you may have noticed that I moved the baptismal font to the back of the center aisle. I did that because we begin each service of the Easter Season with the Thanksgiving for Baptism in place of the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness. We begin worship around the Baptismal font to remind us that it is because of the Easter mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection that we are connected to Him, original sin is forgiven, and we share in Christ's eternal life. Forgiven and redeemed, you might choose to mark your forehead with the cross as you enter and leave the worship space.

If it's not too late, you might consider keeping a traditional sign of Easter visible in your home for all seven weeks of Easter. Perhaps you have a ceramic egg or a spring basket or a special cross that could remain visible in your home to remind you that we celebrate the great 50 Days of Easter (which includes Pentecost Sunday to make 50). Perhaps there is a special food that you connect with Easter that could be served more than once during the Easter Season. Consider finding ways to keep the full Easter celebration in your home. Yes, it is **that central** to our lives as Christians.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Continued Easter blessings,

Pr. Ken

P.S. You probably already heard, but in case you haven't, I announced my retirement at the April Council meeting. I plan to retire at the end of June. This is sooner than I planned, but life has its unexpected turns. I will share more thoughts on this in the June newsletter.



Below are the contributions for the month of April

\$5786.79 is needed weekly to meet our budget.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Received Year To Date</u>	<u>Overage/(Deficit)</u>
5 th	\$8,307.12	\$80,736.98	(\$278.08)
11&12	\$2,962.00	\$83,698.98	(\$3,102.87)
18&19	\$5,693.00	\$89,391.98	(\$3,196.66)

Operating Fund Balance as of March 31, 2026= \$32,428.74



Central/Southern Illinois Synod

Assembly – Business Session: Online VIA Zoom Saturday, June 6 from 9am-3pm with break for lunch.

Voter orientation will be Thursday,

May 28th From 7-8pm. We still need 2 voting members to participate.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ISN'T FAR AWAY

Plans for this year's Vacation Bible School

Snowball Mountain Challenge (June 15 - 19, 2026) are well under way. We thank those of you who have already volunteered to help in one way or another. However, a great deal of help is still needed: Helpers (youth entering 7th Grade and up, adults, retirees, etc., are welcome), Kitchen Helpers, Recreation Helpers, and Craft Helpers. Remember: You don't have to be available to help all week. Any of the days throughout the week that you are available we can use the help. Just let us know what day's work for you.

Please prayerfully consider assisting with any of the above and call Michelle at 615-3535 to volunteer. We anticipate another full house of children and will need all the help we can get.

Watch the newsletters and bulletins for further information



SATURDAY MAY 2, we will be having a yard sale in the park beside the Fire Department. Many items to offer will be a free will

donation. Proceeds will go to the Youth Gathering.



You're invited! The Sunday School will be hosting our annual Mother's Day Brunch on

Sunday, May 3, 2026 to honor the women of our congregation. Please plan to join us immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall!



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM will be held on May 31st during worship. The last class is on **May 24th**.



The last day of Sunday School will be on May 18th



KICK OFF TO SUMMER is coming Sunday, June 7, 2025 at 5:00pm in our church park. This event is open to our congregation and anyone in

Steeleville and the surrounding area. **FREE OF CHARGE.** 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!!!**



Reports needed: In preparation of this meeting, committee reports need to be turned into the office by May 17th.



Semi-Annual Meeting

Our **Semi-Annual Meeting** will be held on June 14 right after morning worship. This is committee and organization report. They will be available for you to pick up the Sunday before the meeting. Please attend this very important meeting. We need all our members, sharing in the work of our congregation.

CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS



BAPTISM: Rylea Marie Mulholland, the daughter of Chad Mulholland was baptized on April 19th 2026.



DEATH:

Earl Ernsting passed away on Monday, April 20, 2026 Funeral Services were Friday, April 24, 2026, at Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL. Burial followed at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville.

Mother's Day Word Search

M A M H O M O I C A R N C N G
 A P A R E N T A A C O S H N E
 S A L N A T H A R F A M I L Y
 T R E O N G S T D M A T L O O
 C H I L V D R E F L I L D A Y
 E H O L D I A Y S E A S R T E
 K C A L N D N G F L O W E R S
 E T R Y I N S G L E C Y N Y M
 B M O A F D M I W O A E R S O
 R I O E Y O A N S R R F L O T
 O T A M O A Y Y L E I W M B H
 T H Y E A R C R A V N E A R E
 E R A M O T C H I L G R Y A R
 C E L E B R A T E M O Y J E R
 A F I A M I L I S T M O N T S



- CARD
- CARING
- CELEBRATE
- CHILDREN
- FAMILY
- FLOWERS
- HOLIDAY
- LOVING
- MAY
- MOM
- MOTHER
- PARENT



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