

July 2026

NEWS OF PEACE



United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace ELCA

A Good Word from Julie

The times they are a changing! As we wish Pastor Ken and Nancy lots of love and thanks for a wonderful three years, we know things will not be the same without them. I am so grateful for the wisdom and support and laughter Pastor Ken brought our congregation. We will certainly miss them, but we know things will continue. Peace is more than the pastor, or staff, or individuals. Peace is the church; all of us together, each necessary to make us whole. As a congregation we are again entering a time of change. In some ways we've been here before, but with each clergy transition, we have grown and learned that our strength lies in the only true constant which is the love of Christ who lives in us and through our good work. While things may look a bit different, we continue our weekly worship together, taking time for tradition, and to reflect on our personal spiritual journeys and our shared spiritual journey. We continue our mid-week prayer, as we sit quietly for just a few moments to help center ourselves and join our prayers with each other. We continue to support our community, assuring that no one needs to be hungry in our midst through the Steeleville Food Pantry. It is the generosity of individuals working, and organizations and Bible School donations that enables us to keep going. We continue our outreach program through the Ambassadors who visit the shut-ins, build floats for parades, support those who are grieving, prepare our celebrations, and so much more. We continue to foster the spiritual and religious growth of our youth, who are the lifeblood of our church. The youth get together once a month to talk, plan cool adventures and build relationships that will last their lifetimes. This summer four kids are at Leadership Lab at Augustana College for a week of laughter, seeing old friends and meeting new ones and learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We continue the decades long tradition of Vacation Bible School, which was held last week, filling the halls with lots of laughter and energy. VBS is possible only because of the work done by you, the "grown-ups" of the church, preparing months before and working tirelessly through the week of Bible school. Thank you to all of you who work so hard to make Jesus become personal to each of these kids. And a big THANK-YOU to Michelle for directing this again another year! So, you see, we are not in a holding pattern, just waiting for the next installed pastor. We are a strong community continuing to flourish as we prepare ourselves and our church for new leadership. I have thought a lot about change lately. It seems like change is the constant in our lives. As I look to the scriptures, I am reminded that there is never a need to fear change. In Malachi 3 we read, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore, you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." And in Hebrews 13, we learn that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." As we wish Ken and Nancy joy and peace on their well-earned retirement, let us continue our work on this incredibly blessed journey we travel together, knowing that we have everything we need right here and right now.

Peace to all,
Julie



Below are the contributions for the month of
(thru June 19th)
\$5,786.79 is needed weekly to meet our budget

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Received Year To Date</u>
6 & 7	\$5,343.00	\$122,834.79
13&14	\$4,265.00	\$127,049.79

Operating Fund Balance as of May 31, 2026 = \$25,714.46



INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL: will be held on Sunday,
July 12, 2026 during Service at 9am

CHRISTMAS IN JULY!



Angel Tree is sponsoring "Christmas in July" the weekend of 18th/19th and 25th/26th.

Donations of children's Socks and Underwear any size would be appreciated. (We are in definite need of Boys!) Every child receives socks and undergarments. Cash donations always welcome!

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED July 2nd in observance of Independence Day.



VBS UPDATE:

We had a fantastic week at Snowball Mountain Challenge. At Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS, we learned that we can do all things with Jesus' strength.



Once again, we had a wonderful turnout of children from our church and community and had a great week. I just want to say thank you again to everyone who helped make Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS a HUGE success! I could not have done it without the help and support of the entire congregation.

The children collected a total of 554 cans for our food pantry. We also had a grand total of 139 people involved with VBS in one way or another – from students, to painters, to janitors, to teachers – anyone that played a part. Without everyone's help and prayers we couldn't have made it possible. Thanks so much to all of you!

The entire week was a wonderful testament of how God does good works through his people! I am looking forward to next year.

Thanks again,
Michelle Gremmels
VBS Director



Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning 11:30AM in the chapel.

CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS



DEATH:

Margaret E. Knop passed away on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Sparta Community Hospital, Sparta, IL. Funeral Services were held Friday, June 5, 2026, at Wilson Funeral Home, Steeleville. Burial was at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville.

