



NEWS OF PEACE
Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL
2025



Dear Friends,

Christmas time is here once again. It's a time for shopping and feasting and trimming the tree. It's a time for festive gatherings, for holiday music, and holiday foods. In the midst of all that — it's also a time for remembering. We remember the "reason for the season." It is indeed so much more than a winter holiday for us in the Household of Faith.

With reverent awe and holy fear, we remember that the all-powerful God we worship is also an incarnate One, the One who became flesh. For the all-powerful God to visit His creation in the form of a tiny child so that He might save it and make it right with Him once again is not simply a preposterous idea, but truly a Godly one! His name is "Emmanuel" meaning 'God-with-us' and rightly so - for so God IS.

Our mid-week Advent services this year will be a time for us to reflect on the titles and names of this One who came among us at Bethlehem. We will reflect on the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and the One we call Emmanuel. These services will be each Wednesday at 12:30 and 6:00 p.m. Come join us for this time of worship during this busy, yet holy, season!

The older I get the more I realize how holidays, but particularly Christmas, can be a mix of joy and sadness. With so much centered on home and family, it can be difficult when those things are no longer the same. When we or those we love are away from home; when our childhood home is no more; when loved ones are sick or when we have suffered their death over the years; when we see our children grown and now with their own families — all these changes can bring fond and dear memories, but also a certain ache of the heart.

For those of you who don't feel quite up to all the festivities this year, I invite you into the abiding presence of the Child Jesus who is with you and near you and for you.

The all-powerful God took on human form in a tiny child so that we might forever know the love of God and His abiding presence with us. Because of the goodness of God, this tiny Babe of Bethlehem assures us that we are never alone again! He is with us now and forever. And He is not just with US, but He is with all those we love - even those who have gone before us in faith. In a very real sense, we meet at the manger. For where Christ is, there is Eternal Life and the fulfillment of our most ardent hopes. And that is good indeed! JOY - even for the heavy of heart.

Because of Jesus, all of us can come to the altar at Christmas with grateful and loving hearts - for in the coming of Christ God has been wonderfully good to us!"

Christmas blessings to you and those you love,

Pastor Ken

Below are the contributions for the month of November
(thru November)
need weekly \$5,482.59

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Received to Date</u>	<u>Need to Date</u>	<u>Overage/(Deficit)</u>
1&2	\$7,539.00	\$240,963.52	\$241,233.96	(\$ 270.44)
8&9	\$4,227.00	\$245,190.52	\$246,716.55	(\$1,526.03)
15&16	\$4,386.00	\$249,576.52	\$252,199.14	(\$2,622.62)
22&23	\$4,638.00	\$254,214.52	\$257,681.73	(\$3,467.21)



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Flooring for the Lower Level

We will hold a special Congregational Meeting to act on a recent Church Council recommendation regarding the replacement of the flooring of the lower level: the fellowship hall, bathrooms and hallways. The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 10 a.m. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.

BASEMENT RENOVATION FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Much needed basement renovations are coming! For many years, the flooring and walls in the Fellowship Hall, restrooms, and hallways in the basement have deteriorated badly. The underlying problem seemed to come from water leakage from outside the building. The Property Committee has been diligently working on this problem, and the end of water leakage is in sight.

We will be holding a specially-called congregational meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 2025 to vote on proceeding with the needed renovations. We need a quorum of 50 members to vote; it is very important that you attend the meeting.

The quoted cost of the new flooring is \$30,741.80. In addition, the Fellowship Hall bathroom walls will be repaired and all walls in areas designated for new flooring will be painted. The total cost estimate is between \$40,000 to \$45,000. We have some of the money needed to cover these costs but need your help to raise the additional funds required. Please give generously as you are able. Any donations for this project should be marked "Basement Renovation Fund."



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Christmas season will soon be here. You and your family are invited to join with other members of our church and friends in the community to go Christmas caroling on December 14, 2024, at 3:00pm. Last year, adults and children joined the caroling group to bring much needed joy to our shut-ins and senior members of the congregation. This is a FAMILY event; all ages are welcome. Refreshments (soup, hot chocolate, etc.) will be served after the carolers return to the church.



2026 Envelopes are ready for pick up in the Narthex. Please pick up, we will not be mailing them this year.



DECEMBER WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Advent and Christmas Season

Wednesday, December 3, 10, & 17 Advent Service at 12:30 & 6pm

Saturday/Sunday (11/29-11/30) – First Sunday of Advent

Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday 9 am

Sunday school & Confirmation to follow on Sunday at 10am

Saturday/Sunday (12/6-7) – Second Sunday of Advent

Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am

Sunday school & Confirmation to follow on Sunday at 10 am

Saturday/Sunday (12/13&14) – Third Sunday of Advent

Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am

Sunday school & Confirmation Class to follow at 10am.

Sunday 12/14- 3 pm Caroling & Soup Dinner

Saturday/Sunday (12/20-21) Fourth Sunday of Advent

Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am

Sunday school & Confirmation to follow at 10am

Wednesday, 12/24 Christmas Eve

6 pm Children Program w/Communion

11 pm Christmas Candlelight service with Communion

Thursday, 12/25 Christmas Day

9 am Festival Service of Holy Communion

Saturday/Sunday (12/27-28) First Sunday of Christmas

Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am

No Sunday School or Confirmation



Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas –buy a poinsettia plant in honor of or in memory of someone, or you may just make a donation. You may take it home after the 9:00 am service on Christmas morning. The cost is \$17.50 envelopes are available in the bulletin or also in the Narthex. Deadline to order is December 13th.



FLOWER CHART

The 2026 Flower Calendar will be put up the first weekend of December on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The cost is \$40 You let me know how you want the dedication to read, and we will take care of the rest. Remember someone or something special or just share the joy of your life in Christ by supplying flowers for our chancel. Sign up soon!!!



Parish Confirmation

Confirmation classes will continue on December 7th, December 14th and December 21st. There are no classes on December 28th, & January 4th



Angel Tree. We will be doing curbside pickup again this year on December 5th. That worked out really nice last year so we will be doing it again this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Thank you, Vickie Wathen, Angel Tree Committee.



The Food Pantry would like to thank everyone who helped or donated to the Boy Scout's Food Drive. We collected 3000 items. And to the Steeleville High School that collected over 1000 items, and other community members and organizations that have been so generous this year.



Below is a list of members of Peace who are in the Nursing Homes or who cannot get out as much as they would like. Please remember them with cards and keep them and their families in your prayers especially during the holiday.

We have Christmas Cards available just come by and pick some up

Addington Place

211 N Market St
Sparta, IL 62286

Mary Witbracht
Greg Colbert

RANDOLPH COUNTY CARE CENTER

312 W Belmont St
Sparta, IL 62286

Ada Gill #209
Yvonne Rabe #216

COULTERVILLE CARE

13138 State Route 13
Coulterville, IL 62237

Wynona Bierman
Judy McSmith

Du Quoin Rehab

Carol Schiffendecker
514 E. Jackson St
Du Quoin IL 62832

AT HOME

Fritz Eggemeyer
5244 Foxtail Rd
Chester, IL 62233

Earl Ernsting
810 W. Pine St
Percy, IL 62272

Sonja Bollmann
7561 Shawneetown Trail
Ellis Grove, IL 62242

Harry & Doris Rahlfs
305 Crestview Dr.
Steeleville, IL 62288



COAT DRIVE UPDATE – NOVEMBER 15, 2025

Our annual coat drive has been distributing coats, etc., since October 1, 2025. Indicated below are the items given out so far:

ITEM	SIZE	AMOUNT
COATS	CHILDREN	66
COATS	ADULT	57
GLOVES	CHILDREN	39
GLOVES	ADULT	39
HAT & GLOVE SETS	CHILDREN	12
HATS	CHILDREN	54
HATS	ADULT	20
MITTENS	CHILDREN	9
SOCKS	CHILDREN	94
SOCKS	ADULT	59
MISCELLANEOUS		22
GRAND TOTAL		471

The number of items distributed (471) so far is huge, and we still have a month and a half to go. You should be so proud of this accomplishment! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

At this point, the items most needed are:

Coats – Newborn to 5-T – Boys & Girls
 Coats – Youth – Extra Small to XXXL – Boys & Girls
 Gloves – Women
 Hat & Glove Sets – Boys & Girls
 Hats – Boys
 Hats – Girls
 Hats – Women
 Mittens – All Sizes – Boys & Girls
 Socks – Children – All Sizes – Boys & Girls
 Socks – Men & Women