

September 2026
NEWS OF PEACE
United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace ELCA



Dear Friends,

Fall has a way of filling every calendar spot we own - school, sports, harvest, activities, meetings and more. The days get busy and the to-do lists get long. Before we know it, we feel like we're running on empty.

There's a good kind of busy-when we're working hard, caring for others, and using the gifts God has given us. Farming, teaching, coaching, volunteering, parenting- these are all ways we live out our faith.

But when busyness pulls us away from rest, from one another, and from God, it can steal our joy and wear us down.

Jesus knew how hard life could be. That's why he said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

As the season picks up speed, let's be intentional about what (and who) we make time for.

- Make time for worship. It's not just a weekly event - it's spiritual fuel.
- Take moments to breathe. A few quiet minutes with God can reset a whole day.
- Check in with one another. A call, a card, a wave at church-connection matters.
- Let go of what isn't essential. You're allowed to say "no" so you can say "yes" to what really matters.

We live in a community where people look out for each other. If you feel overwhelmed, speak up, Ask for help. Offer help. That's what the body of Christ is all about.

Teachers, farmers, parents, students, coaches, and caregivers-you are seen, you are appreciated and you are held in prayer!

Remember: You are not a machine. You are a beloved child of God. Your worth is not measured by how much you do. Take a breath. We are all doing our best. And God is with us every step of the way!

May this season be full of purpose, but also full of peace.

Blessings,

Julie



Below are the contributions for the month of August.

(Thru August 23rd)

\$4,213.79 is needed weekly to meet our budget.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Received Year To Date</u>	<u>Needed Year To Date</u>
1&2	\$13,825.00	\$165,869.48	\$171,525.49
8&9	\$ 5,438.00	\$171,307.48	\$175,739.48
15&16	\$ 7,222.00	\$178,529.48	\$179,953.07
22&23	\$ 5,699.00	\$184,228.48	\$184,166.86



CONFIRMATION 2026-2027

The first day of Confirmation Parent Meeting classes will be on **Sunday, September 20** we will have class at **10a.m.** We will meet in the library meeting room.

***Sunday School
Kickoff***



Picnic

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

When: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Time: 9am Church in the Park
10am Picnic

Where: Peace Lutheran Church Park

Who: Bring the whole family!

The Sunday school kick-off picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13th. We will have our 9 am church service in the park followed by lunch and fun. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please make sure to sign up. Thank You.

**Regular Sunday School classes begin on
Sunday, September 20, 2026
10 a.m.**



**BLESSING OF THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHERS:**

Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 9am



YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER! The youth group will be hosting a paint party with

Smalltown Sawdust (Kayla Wathen) on Sunday, September 13th at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Mark your calendars and grab your friends for a great day of painting and fun to support our youth group headed to the National Youth Gathering next summer.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO
SERVE:**



We are in need of Assisting Ministers. This is a great way to serve the congregation and be more active in worship. If you are interested in being trained or would like information about it, please give Julie a call.



Time for Pinochle - first game of the year is scheduled for Monday, Sept 21 at St Luke Campbell Hill at 6:00 Eat and play at 6:30

HAPPENINGS IN THE CONGREGATION:



DEATH:

Judith Bass McSmith passed away on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at Coulterville, IL. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville. Burial was at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville.

RELEASE OF MEMBERSHIP: Kira Gielow Fagan was released of membership.



**WARTBURG PARISH
CAMPING WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 25-27
AT
RANDOLPH COUNTY LAKE
CAMPGROUND.**

Feel Free to come for an activity or the whole weekend

*More details are available at the Church Office.
Friday is check in, set up and Movie night at 8pm.
Saturday 10am Faith Practices with Deacon Jason
Afternoon will have Games & Crafts. 6pm Chili and
Hot Dog Supper, 7pm Wartburg Parish Squares, and
8pm Sing Along with Kevin
Sunday 10am Outdoor service And Fried Chicken
Potluck to follow.*



FOOD PANTRY we are in need of the following items:
Hygiene Products, Toilet Paper, Chili, Tuna, Ravioli & Peanut Butter



Synod Days



FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY: Living out our baptismal calling to ...

- live among God's faithful people
- hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- strive for justice and peace in all the earth

A day of worship, learning, fellowship, and relationship-building for all generations in each of the six conferences of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY
2026 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Days

SYNOD DAY PROGRAM

Each synod day includes:

- Cross-generational worship
- Activities for children and families
- Shared meal
- State of the synod video
- Q&A with synod staff

- Mission moments from each conference
- Four "Spirit Lab" workshop options (each person may choose two)

"SPIRIT LAB" WORKSHOPS

The Foolishness of Trying to Save Your Church: Letting Go So We Can Go!
Led by Bishop Greg Busboom

Jesus Journeys and Faithful Field Trips
Led by Deacon Jason Fisher, Director for Evangelical Mission

Body Building with Love: Tools for Adaptability
Led by Pastor Kristen Schmid, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities

Here I Am, Send Me!: A Vocational Workshop
Led by Pastor Amy Zietlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership



He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12

Southern Conference

- Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1501 Broeking Road, Marion
- Registration closes Sept. 28
- Lunch provided: chicken and dumplings catered by A Taste of Bev

REGISTRATION

The cost is \$10 per adult (18 and over), \$5 for youth (3-17), and free for children under 3, capped at a total of \$25 per family. Registration is open now at CSIS-ELCA.org/synoddays26 or by using the QR code.

If your schedule conflicts with your conference's Synod Day, you are welcome to attend another conference's day.

Synod Days are open to **ALL** in our synod, not just those who participated in the Synod Assembly.

