



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



***A GOOD WORD FROM THE PASTOR***

Dear Friends,

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Lent is a time for us to do some spiritual spring cleaning. The church places before us three spiritual practices to guide our way. They are prayer, fasting and care for the poor (almsgiving).

Prayer is a necessary part of our relationship with the Lord. Like any relationship, communication is necessary. We communicate to the Lord our thoughts, concerns and desires, not because He does not know our hearts better than we do, but because it is good for us to tell Him. Listening is a necessary part of good communication. Without it our prayer life can become a monologue, and we can wonder if anyone is listening! Before saying “Amen” take a few moments to listen. A few moments at first that can grow into 5 minutes or more of silence before the presence of God. The communal prayer of Word and Sacrament is an integral part of our prayer life. God feeds, nourishes and speaks to us in the Eucharist. Plan to come to the Lord’s Supper weekly during Lent.

Fasting can be fasting from favorite foods or the quantity of food we consume and can be like a spiritually induced diet. But it is intended to be more than that. Fasting from food can act as a physical reminder that it is Lent. But this reminder should not cause us to focus more on ourselves but lead us more deeply into our relationship with God and neighbor by providing more time for prayer and more money for the care of the poor. The time we save making simple meals could give added time for a scripture reading or another prayer practice. The money we save from preparing simpler meals can be given to the poor. Perhaps the best fast for us is a different type of fast. It may be a fast from certain behaviors or attitudes that are less than edifying in the life of a Christian.

Finally, consider finding ways to give extra offerings for the care of the poor or the outreach ministry of the church. You may do this on your own or you may do this through the ministry of Peace. You might consider giving an extra donation to our local food pantry. You might also consider making a special offering to Lutheran World Relief or Lutheran Disaster Response for the fires out west. You may do so by putting your offering in the plate in worship designating it for one of these charities.

Together—may we have a holy Lent.

Abundant blessings,

Pr. Ken



**Below are the contributions for the month of February.**

(thru February 25th)

\$5,563.65 is needed weekly to meet our budget

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Weekly Offering To Date</u> | <u>Received Year</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1&2         | \$8,954.00                     | \$29,820.76          |
| 8&9         | \$4,547.00                     | \$34,367.76          |
| 15&16       | \$3,693.00                     | (\$317.37)           |

Operating Fund Balance as January 31, 2025 = \$28,235.70



**Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is a wonderful ministry for our community. If you know of anyone that struggles making ends meet and food is what gets left out, please send them our way. We have plenty for everyone and lots of smiles and encouragement too. If you are able to help supply food, I'm told currently we have plenty of green beans, peas, and corn. We are in need of **Toilet Paper, 20 load or smaller Laundry Detergent, Body Wash, Pork N Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly Chili and Cream of Mushroom Soup.** Everything is appreciated! If you know anyone who needs help or would like to volunteer, please refer them to the Pantry.

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).

**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



**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>.**



**RESULTS TO OUR SOUPER BOWL CONTEST -**  
**Chiefs** - \$156.01 and 55 Can goods  
**Eagles**- 9 Can goods.

The big winner was the Food Pantry! This will help to support community needs. Thank You.



**The nation returns to daylight savings time on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.**  
 Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night when you go to bed so

you'll not be late for worship on Sunday Morning.

**CEMETERY INFO REMINDER**



Mowing season is drawing near. This is a reminder that all Christmas décor and any flowers or items that are at the base of the stone or stuck in the ground must be removed by the end of March. Any items left after this time will be collected or discarded by the caretakers.

Please remember the rules that apply during the mowing season:

**All décor must be on the stone and not on the base or ground area**, due to the fact that wires, etc. can cause damage to the mower, mowing equipment and personal injury to those who are taking care of the cemetery grounds.

Cemetery Sexton

**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE**  
**SPRING ASSEMBLY**

Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Prince of Peace, Mt. Vernon , IL . Registration is at 2:30pm  
 Worship/Meeting at 3:00pm and Supper at 5:00pm



**YOUTH NEWS:**

Aril 27<sup>th</sup> the Youth along with Congregational Care will be holding a Spring Clean Up. Mark your calendars to join in. More details to follow

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE HAPPENINGS:**

The committee will host a “Kickoff to Summer” event in our church park will take place on June 1<sup>ST</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This will be for the entire community of Steeleville and all members of our church. Events planned are two bouncy houses (with water - weather permitting), the “Balloon Lady”, old-fashioned picnic games such a duck pond, fishing, etc. Refreshments will be served. Invite your neighbors, friends, schoolmates. You won’t want to miss this!

June 8<sup>th</sup> We will be having a reception following Confirmation.

June 15, 2025 We invite the Congregation to join us on Father’s Day following service in the Fellowship Hall



GRIEF SHARE WILL BEGIN ON April 12<sup>th</sup> more information will be place in bulletin as it becomes available.

Peace!  
Be Still!  
CHRIST  
In the Storm  
On the  
Sea of Galilee



This year's painting, *Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, was finished in 1633 when Rembrandt was 27 years old. Characteristic of Rembrandt you see a mixture of light and dark; of shadows and highlights. If you look closely at the painting, you will count 13 heads in the boat with Jesus. That's the apostles, the Twelve, plus one. Come join us as we reflect on Mark 4 in the scriptures.

**LENT**

**WEEKLY THEMES**

|                 |                       |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MARCH 12</b> | <b>Boating Jesus</b>  | <b>Mark 4: 36</b> |
| <b>MARCH 19</b> | <b>Beating Waves</b>  | <b>Mark 4: 37</b> |
| <b>MARCH 26</b> | <b>Sleeping Jesus</b> | <b>Mark 4: 38</b> |
| <b>APRIL 2</b>  | <b>Calming Words</b>  | <b>Mark 4: 39</b> |
| <b>APRIL 9</b>  | <b>Living Faith</b>   | <b>Mark 4: 40</b> |

LSSI has been criticized in recent media reports. The President of LSSI has issued the following response:

February 3, 2025

**Statement on Inflammatory Social Media Posts Regarding Lutheran Service Organizations:**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is aware of inflammatory and misleading statements that were made on social media regarding Lutheran social service organizations nationwide and the work that we do. The statements call into question the bedrock of our collective missions to provide services to our neighbors in need. During our 157-year history, LSSI has partnered with federal and state government to provide critical services for decades.

Federal funding that LSSI receives goes directly toward delivering services, and we are accountable for every dollar received. All of this funding is approved by the Federal government and appropriated by Congress. We follow all regulations of the funding and are subject to federal audit and our own internal auditing. Our more than 1,000 employees are committed to our work and provide our services with excellence and in compliance with all funding guidelines. Additionally, we have a base of committed donors who consistently make charitable contributions to supplement and enhance government funding to continue our programs.

LSSI annually provides social and human services to over 56,000 children, adults, and seniors, including: foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, home care services for older adults, residential programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and programs that help people and families impacted by incarceration. LSSI does not receive funding for refugee resettlement or Head Start services, vital programs that appear to be the primary targets for the most recent misleading social media statements.

We realize extreme, even demeaning rhetoric, may continue along with ongoing scrutiny of the funding we, and similar faith-based organizations, receive.

The mission of LSSI is to provide healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. Our employees live out this mission every day through the positive impact of their work. LSSI holds firm to our mission and faithfully provides critical services that bring dignity, health and well-being, and the promise of reaching one's full potential to our clients.

Mark Stutrud  
President and CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois