



NEWS OF PEACE
Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL 2024



A GOOD WORD from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As the leaves are finally falling and the temperatures beginning to descend, our thoughts turn to the upcoming holiday season. The start of our holidays is marked by a time of thanksgiving—and rightly so. All that we have and all that we are come from a good and gracious God.

Over the next couple months, we will have numerous opportunities to give to many worthwhile causes and needs. As we do so, it is good to understand the spirit in which we give. We give because we have first received. We give in response to what God has done for us. Unlike ancient pagan societies, who would give gifts to the gods in order to garner favors from them, we give because we have already received so many favors from a good and gracious God.

Together with all humanity, we have received the gifts of family and friends, gainful employment and opportunities for leisure, play and celebration. We have received the gifts of music and sport; the gifts of time and talent and bodily ability. In a word, we have received the gift of LIFE, yes, the very next breath.

As Christians we have receive even more than these. In fact, we have received more than we could ever ask or imagine. We have a God who loves us so much that in His Christ He gave His very life for us in sending us Jesus. As brother and friend, Jesus knows us intimately. He understands our struggles and our daily needs. He knows our sin because He took our sin and made it His own. In taking our sin and crucifying it in His flesh, He is not simply brother and friend, but He has become our risen Savior and exalted Lord!

Jesus, our Savior and Lord, continues to lavish gifts upon us. He gives us the gift of one another in the fellowship of the Church. In the Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, He makes Himself present and known to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, in the Word proclaimed, in Holy Baptism and in the words of absolution spoken for the forgiveness of our sins. What a mighty God we have who would make Himself known in these everyday signs of grace and mercy!

How can we not be people of thanksgiving? How can we not come into His courts with songs of praise? How can we not reach out to share with those in need what we have first received from our good and gracious God?

Let us love—for God has loved us first.

God's Abundant Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ken Pagano".

Pastor Ken

Worship – Fall 2025

The fall always includes several important festivals:

11/1-2 – All Saints Day - This service will include the Remembrance of the Faithful departed.

The Remembrance of the Faithful Departed - At our celebration of the Feast of All Saints on Saturday November 1 and Sunday November 2, our worship will include the Remembrance of the Faithful Departed. During this part of the service, we read the names of those who have died in the Lord during the previous year (November 2024 through October 2025). If you would like someone included in this prayer of remembrance, please call the church office no later than **October 27 at 9am** and we will include them in this prayer litany.

11/8-9 Commitment Weekend - At these services we will celebrate God's generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God's grace and for our ministry of sharing this grace.



Thanksgiving Service - Tuesday, November 26- 6pm Non-Communion Service

12/3-12/17 Wednesday Advent services begin - this will continue through the following 3 weeks.
12:30pm & 6pm Service



Below are the contributions for the month of October.

(Through October 19th)

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>
4&5	\$5,847.00	\$218,597.56	\$219,303.60	(\$706.04)
11&12	\$5,103.00	\$223,700.56	\$224,786.19	(\$1,085.63)
18&19	\$5,426.00	\$229,126.56	\$230,268.78	(\$1,142.22)

Operating Fund Balance as of September 30, 2025= \$29,001.35



MORNING PRAYER:

Each Wednesday morning, Morning Prayer is prayed in the Chapel. This mid-week service provides us with a chance to slow down and focus on our faith in our Lord Jesus for this short time. The service begins at 11:30 AM and you are welcome to join us.



ANGEL TREE – It's Angel Tree time! This will be our 30th year of sponsoring local families. The tree is set up in the Fellowship Hall. If your family would like to sponsor an entire family, please let me know. Or if you have a specific age/boy/girl I can match you up. Just give me a call at 618 615-1161. If you are unable to shop, but would like to help, we can do the shopping for

you! Simply make a tax-deductible donation- payable to Peace Lutheran Church. Please mark angel tree in the note area or put in an envelope marked angel tree and drop in the weekly offering. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office or mailed in. And we can always use help in many capacities- new ideas are welcome- shoppers- baggers- mailers.... Thank you for always supporting this community outreach program!
- Vickie Wathen, Angel Tree Committee



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, 2025. 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 will be served after the carolers return to the church. More information about both events will be provided later.

FOOD DRIVE

The Annual Boy Scout Food Drive is on November 22. Please come and help us receive, check, and stock all the wonderful donations. We meet at the church at 9 am and typically finish by 1pm. It's a fun event, and just one more way to serve your community.



Plans for a float for the November 28, 2025 Small Town Christmas Parade are under way. Children are needed to ride on the float and youth and adults are asked to walk along and hand out treats.

FLOWER CHART

The 2026 Flower Calendar is up 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!!!



HOMETOWN CHURCHES Celebrating Christ's Birth CHRISTMAS CHURCH TOUR

Thursday-Friday, December 11-12, 2025 2pm to 8pm

The Rotary Club of Steeleville is sponsoring a Christmas Church Tour throughout Randolph County and Peace has agreed to take part. The purpose is to bring people into our area to see how we have decorated our churches in celebration of Christ's birth. Our "We Care" Committee has taken the lead on our church's response. You may call Carolyn Bert (618-534-8977) or Rodney Rohlfing (618-615-1529) if you have any questions or would like more information.

