

November 2026

NEWS OF PEACE

A Season of Thanksgiving, Fellowship, and Christmas Cheer!



Hello, Friends!

Hasn't this year just flown by? It seems like we were welcoming summer yesterday, and now the holidays are upon us! I always get excited this time of year. Of course, along with the excitement comes a longer to-do list, a fuller calendar, and the occasional question of how we're going to get everything done before Christmas arrives!

In the middle of all the hustle and bustle, I hope we can remember to slow down now and then. Take a moment to watch the leaves change colors, breathe in that crisp autumn air, or enjoy a sunrise or sunset painted in beautiful shades of orange and red. God's handiwork is all around us, and sometimes we just need to stop long enough to notice. After all, the beauty of God's creation doesn't require an appointment or a spot on our calendar!

There is plenty happening at Peace, so grab your calendar (and maybe a cup of coffee) and take a look at what's coming up!

It Takes All of Us!

Peace is more than a building where we gather for worship. We are a community of people who care for one another, share fellowship, visit our homebound members, support our youth, and keep our congregation active and growing. Every helping hand, every prayer, and every act of kindness makes a difference. We can't do everything ourselves, but together we can accomplish wonderful things!

You should have received your **Pledge Request** in the mail recently. If yours didn't arrive, please let the church office know. On **November 14 and 15**, we invite you to bring your pledges to worship, where we will offer a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can support the ministry we share at Peace.

Boy Scout Food Drive – Saturday, November 21 Our local Boy Scouts will be holding their annual Food Drive, and this is a wonderful opportunity to help our neighbors in need. Our Food Pantry shelves are ready and waiting to be filled! We are currently serving about **20% more people than last year**, and that number may continue to grow. Every can, box, and bag of groceries makes a difference to a family facing a difficult time. As you shop, please consider picking up a few extra items. Your pantry at home may be full, but there are neighbors who would be grateful for a little help filling theirs!

Thanksgiving Communion – Tuesday, November 24 What better way to begin Thanksgiving week than by gathering for Holy Communion and giving thanks to God? In a season that can get a little hectic, this is a wonderful opportunity to pause, worship, and remember the blessings we share.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Thanksgiving Day at Noon

There will be a **Community Thanksgiving Dinner at 12:00 noon on Thanksgiving Day** in the fellowship hall! Please help spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors. No one should have to spend Thanksgiving alone if they would enjoy sharing a meal and some fellowship with others.

Please RSVP to **Margie Wagner at 618-967-9654**. We look forward to gathering around the table, sharing good food, and giving thanks together!

Steeleville Christmas Parade! That's right! Peace will have a float in the Steeleville Christmas Parade! Carolyn Bert would appreciate any help with the project, so please consider lending a hand. Whether you are creative, handy, or simply willing to help, there's a place for you.

It will be fun to see Peace represented in the parade and share a little Christmas cheer with our community. Come help us make it happen!

Advent Is Coming! Sunday, **November 29**, marks the beginning of Advent, and we will also begin our Wednesday evening services at **6:00 p.m.** This year, our Advent theme is *"God in the Ordinary: An Advent Series for People Who Live in the Real World."* I love the reminder behind this theme: Advent isn't about escaping our everyday lives to find God. It's about discovering that God has been showing up in ordinary life all along. God is present in our families, our work, our conversations, our challenges, and even in those everyday moments when nothing seems particularly special. We don't have to wait for everything to be perfect to experience God's presence. (And if we waited for everything to be perfect, we might be waiting until next Christmas!) If you need a ride to any of our services, please call the church office. We want everyone who wishes to attend to have the opportunity to join us.

Hometown Church Tours – December 11 and 12 We will once again participate in the Hometown Church Tours! This is always a fun opportunity to visit other churches in our area, enjoy their beauty and traditions, and appreciate the faith communities that make our hometown special. It's also our chance to show off Peace's beautiful sanctuary, so we hope you'll come out and be part of it!

Christmas Caroling – December 13 at 3:00 p.m. Bundle up in your scarves and mittens as we spread Christmas cheer to our Peace members who aren't able to get out. After caroling, we'll warm up with chili and hot cider. Come share some songs, smiles, and Christmas love—**no singing experience required!** Enthusiasm counts, and hot cider makes everything sound a little better!

Christmas Worship at Peace Christmas will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars now!

- **Christmas Eve, 6:00 p.m.** – Children's Christmas Service
- **Christmas Eve, 11:00 p.m.** – Candlelight Service
- **Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m.** – Christmas Morning Worship

There is something special about gathering together to celebrate the birth of Christ, whether it's through the excitement of the children's service, the quiet beauty of candlelight, or the joy of Christmas morning. I hope you will join us as we celebrate the good news of God's love coming into the world.

Whew! That's Quite a Calendar!

As you can see, we have a lot happening at Peace, with opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, and celebration. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for additional events and any schedule changes. And remember, you don't have to do everything to be part of something meaningful. Find a way to participate that works for you!

Most importantly, please know that I am here for you. If you need prayer, would appreciate a visit, have a concern, or simply need someone to talk to, don't hesitate to call the church office or reach out to me directly.

As we begin this wonderful season of Thanksgiving and look toward Advent and Christmas, may we make room in our busy lives for gratitude, kindness, laughter, and the quiet assurance that God is with us in all things—ordinary and extraordinary.

Blessings to each of you as we enter this season of Thanksgiving. May your days be filled with peace, joy, and reminders of God's abundant love. And if things get a little hectic, take a deep breath, enjoy the moment, and remember: we don't have to do it all perfectly to experience the joy of this season!

In Christ's love,

Julie

Worship – Fall 2026

The fall always includes several important festivals:

10/31 & 11/1 – 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 October 31 and Sunday November 1, 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 2025 through October 2026).

11/14-15 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 24– 6pm Communion Service



Below are the contributions for the month of October.

(Through October 18th)

Need weekly \$4,213.79

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Received to Date</u>	<u>Need to Date</u>	<u>Overage/(Deficit)</u>
3&4	\$ 3,914.00	\$209,738.39	\$209,449.60	(\$288.79)
10&11	\$ 5,151.00	\$214,889.39	\$213,663.39	\$1,226.00
17&18	\$ 4,526.00	\$219,451.39	\$217,877.18	\$1,538.21

Operating Fund Balance as of September 30, 2026, = \$34,859.65



REMINDER: Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 1, 2026, 2:00am



ANGEL TREE – It's Angel Tree time! This will be our 31st year of sponsoring local families. 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. The tree will be set up in the church basement on the weekend of November 1. Gifts will need to be back by December 4. Pick up will be December 9th. 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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Annual Boy Scout Food Drive is on November 21. Please come and help us receive, check, and stock all the wonderful donations. We meet at the church at 10am and typically finish by 1pm. It's actually a fun event, and just one more way to serve your community. Give Julie a call if you have any questions: 618-301-6561

SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT

Plans for a float for November 27, 2026, Small Town Christmas Parade are under way. Help is needed to assemble the float. Children are needed to ride on the float, and youth and adults are asked to walk along and hand out treats. If you are interested in helping assemble or ride/walk along with the float, contact Carolyn at 618-534-8977.



ELEVATOR ISSUES

Most of you know the elevator was inoperable for several months. We asked our previous vendor to inspect it. They said it was a problem with the motor. They were unable to make the repairs. We then contacted a different company who came and inspected the elevator and were able to determine the problem really was a bad coil in the control panel. This vendor, Access Elevator and Lifts, worked with A & I Supply to affect the repairs. The total cost of the two site visits and repairs was \$2,638.94. We will be using Access in the future to provide our annual service to the elevator.

While the elevator is now working, it must be noted the unit is 34 years old. Additional problems could develop at any time. We face the possibility that we may incur costly repairs or have to purchase a new elevator in the not-too-distant future. A new elevator is projected to cost between \$100,000 to \$140,000. With this huge expense looming, the Council is establishing an Elevator Repair/Replacement Fund. If you are able to contribute to this fund, any and all donations are welcome. If you donate by check, write "Elevator Fund" on the memo line of your check. If by cash, use one of the pew envelopes and mark it in the same way. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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 13, 2026. 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. Mark your calendar to save the date; a sign-up sheet will be posted at a later time.



FLOWER CHART

The 2027 Flower Calendar Will be up on the first of November 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 chance! Sign up soon!!!



HOMETOWN CHURCHES Celebrating Christ's Birth CHRISTMAS CHURCH TOUR

The Rotary Club of Steeleville is sponsoring the second Christmas Church Tour throughout Randolph County, and Peace has again agreed to take part. Last year's tour held on Thursday and Friday proved to be very successful. This year, the tour will move to Friday, December 11 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. per the public's request. This will allow those who couldn't attend on weekdays to view the churches. Rodney Rohlfig is in charge of decorating the church. If you would be willing to help him decorate, please call him at 618-615-1529. The Congregational Care and Outreach Committee is asking members to greet guests who come to view our decorations. If you would like to take a one- or two-hour shift as one of our greeters, please contact Carolyn at 618-534-8977.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CONGREGATION:



DEATH:

Paul D Guebert passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at Coulterville, IL. Funeral Services were held Friday, October 9, 2026, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Burial was at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Congratulations to Heath Kirby and Kellyn Rohlfig Kirby as they were united in Christian Marriage on Saturday, October 17. God's abundant blessings to them and their families as they begin their lives together.

