

August 2026

NEWS OF PEACE

United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace ELCA

Dear Friends,



Blessings on this very warm summer day!

I hope you are all staying cool and finding ways to enjoy these days before the busyness of the school year begins. Peace has a lot going on this fall, so I'll try to keep you updated.

August 1st and 2nd, Amy Zethlow, Assistant to the Bishop will be leading worship. Amy will bring us any new information on our search for a new Pastor as well as happenings at the Synod level. Amy is an energetic engaging preacher I'm sure you all will enjoy.

August 8th and 9th we will get ready for the beginning of school with the Blessing of the Backpacks! Remember, this is not just for kids and their backpacks! We will even bless briefcases!

I will be on vacation August 12th - 20th. I can be reached by phone should a need arise. Deb Rathert will lead worship for us that weekend.

Moving into September, on the 13th we will recognize our 3rd graders and present each of them a Bible. Immediately following worship, we will have our annual Sunday School Picnic. Everyone is invited, bring a side dish or dessert if you like, and the church will provide the meat and drinks. We will have activities for the kids (that may include water) and a time to enjoy each other.

That afternoon the youth will be hosting a fundraising Paint Party!

Watch for more news on this.

The following Sunday, September 20th, Sunday School classes begin at 10:00. We will also have a meeting for the parents of the confirmands during that time. We have 4 students beginning their classes, and I know it will be a fun class.

Several building improvements are going on this summer. The new floor and paint in the downstairs has transformed our space. Our fellowship hall countertops are looking much better along with repairs and upgrades to the restrooms. The pictures that show so much of our history have been cleaned labeled and rehung in the hallways. Even the parsonage has been freshened up and ready for a new tenant! A huge thank you to so many of you that worked so hard this summer. Everything looks wonderful!

So, a lot going on here and even more so in our personal lives. It's hard to stay connected or even get connected to God! Here are a few ideas that may help you even when life gets crazy.

1. **Read some Scripture.** My goal is to read every day, even just a short scripture or a Psalm. My heart and mind are better prepared to respond to God's presence throughout the rest of the day—and I usually find that I am kinder in my responses to other people and more gracious with myself.
2. **Pray throughout the day.** It is important to have regular time set aside to pray. Having a set time helps it become a habit. I often pray in shorter bursts while I'm doing housework or waiting for someone. It keeps me in conversation with God and helps me stay focused.
3. **Pause when you feel overwhelmed.** In Philippians 4, Paul writes "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

When I actually take time to pause and turn to God when these moments come, I find the peace I need.

May you find God's peace and comfort too!

Peace to you,

Julie



Below are the contributions for the month of

(thru July 19th)

\$5,786.79 is needed weekly to meet our budget

Date	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Received Year To Date</u>
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4&5	\$2,005.00	\$136,916.87
11&12	\$7,651.00	\$144,567.87
18&19	\$3,953.00	\$148,520.87

Operating Fund Balance as of June 30, 2026 has a balance of \$21,032.49



**ATTENTION: STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES...
PRESCHOOL, ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE STUDENTS!!!!**

AUGUST 8 & 9 WORSHIP

Schools starting and we want to send you off with our Blessings for your best and happiest year ever. Bring your backpacks, briefcases, lunch bags, whatever you take to school, and we will have a special Blessing for you.



Sunday, August 30th We will be having **Noisy Offering**. It will go to the Food Pantry



NEW INTERIM COUNCIL MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following members to our Church Council:

Larry Wegener
Katie Cole
Ali Brockmeyer
Keith Hamilton
Fred Karsten
Scott Knop

These members will join our present members:

Bradley Gielow
Owen Gremmels
Marc Kiehna
Jessica McCurdy
Carrie Dierks
Dave Mulholland

OFFICERS:

President – Dave Mulholland
Vice-President – Marc Kiehna
Secretary – Bradley Gielow

CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS



DEATH:

Ada May Gill passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026. Funeral Services were Friday, July 3, 2026, at Wilson Funeral Home, Steeleville, IL. Burial followed at Paradise Cemetery, Steeleville.



CONFIRMATION 2026-27

Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 20** at **10 a.m.** We will meet in the library meeting room. If you have any questions, please contact Julie.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 13th - Back to School Rally
- Bible Presentation

September 20th Blessing of the Sunday School Teachers
Sunday School Begins
Confirmation Meeting

Be God's LIGHTS

Forget the CAMERA

Unite in ACTION

PROD.CO. Leadership Lab
DATE 2026 TAKE 64 SCENE 1 John 3:18

LEADERSHIP LAB '26

HEAR FROM THE PARTICIPANTS!

“ First, I want to thank the congregation for your constant support and encouragement. We wouldn't have been able to have another great year without you all! Leadership Lab is such a great experience that I wish everyone had a chance to experience it as well. Not only does your relationship with God grow, but also you make so many new friends that will last a lifetime. In Lab, you get out of your comfort zone that sometimes you can't always do at home. You're able to bond with your small groups throughout the week, and that is where the real friendships are made. Overall, I had another great week at Leadership Lab that I am very grateful for.

— Bailey Cole

“ Leadership Lab '26 was another powerful and meaningful experience for me. Even though I didn't have the best roommate or feel the strongest connection with my small group, I still had an amazing week and learned a lot. One of the biggest lessons I took away was the importance of changing my perspective. Not every situation will be perfect, but you can choose how you respond. That lesson applies to real life too. For example, in a future job, you may not always get along with your coworkers, but you still have to adjust, adapt, work together, and remain true to yourself. Instead of responding with negativity, you can “kill them with kindness” and be an example of respect and grace. Leadership Lab reminded me to be authentic, put away the camera, live in the moment, and put my faith into action. Above all, I learned that being yourself and choosing to be the light in the room can make a positive difference wherever you go.

— Karsen Wedemeyer

“ I had a great time at Leadership Lab this year. I met so many good people while I was there, and definitely felt God's presence everywhere. The theme for this year was lights, camera, action. I learned that it is important to shine your light in the world, forget about the camera and who's watching, and spring into action for what makes God proud. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again and I hope that the others had as much fun as I did.

— Kolson Wedemeyer

“ Leadership Lab this year was one of the most meaningful weeks of my life. I met so many new people that I connected with, as well as reconnecting with people I had met in previous years. In my opinion, it is one of the strongest and clearest ways I have experienced God in my life. Whether that came from worship time, small group conversations, praying, or simply talking to other people, I could always feel that He was there, watching over us. This week also taught me a lot of things about myself and helped me learn ways I can better my relationship with God. Even though you are meeting most of the people there for the first time, it really does feel like a family. Overall, I had a great time at Leadership Lab and I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in going.

— Owen Gremmels