



NEWS OF PEACE
Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL
2024



Dear Friends,

As I write, it is hard to believe that we are preparing for our second Christmas together! It has been a good year and I look forward to our future time together.

As we begin the holy season of Advent it is good to keep in mind that even as we look back to Christ's coming in history as a babe in Bethlehem, that looking back helps us understand that God keeps his promises. As Christ came to us in history, He continually arrives in our hearts through word and sacrament. And, perhaps most importantly, Christ will keep His promise to come again in glory "to judge the living and the dead."

Keeping Christ's future coming in glory in mind, I want to share with you a few words from a modern martyr of the church, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor in Germany during World War II. He was an active participant in the resistance movement against Hitler and was executed in 1945 at the hands of the Nazis. He says this about Advent and Christmas:

"The mystery of Christmas is the fact that God's coming is not only a matter of glad tidings, but first of all, "frightening news for everyone who has a conscience." The love that descended at Bethlehem is not the easy sympathy of God, but a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon. This love reveals sin and overcomes it. It conquers darkness with such forcefulness and intensity that it scatters the proud, humbles the mighty, feeds the hungry, and sends the rich away empty-handed. (Luke 1: 51-53) Because a transformation of this scale can never be achieved by human means, but only by divine intervention, Advent might be compared to a prison cell "in which one waits and hopes and does various unessential things ... but is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside."

The message of Advent and the earth-shattering meaning of Christmas are often lost in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Perhaps Pastor Bonhoeffer's thoughts are helpful in situating ourselves in Advent. Pastor Bonhoeffer calls us to look to our hearts. For it is in the human heart that the love of God breaks in to reveal our sin, conquer our darkness, and nourish us anew.

These days of Advent call us to enter into the feast of faith that is Christmas. The opposite of fear is faith. Faith is a loving trust in a loving God. Emmanuel (God-with-us) CAME as a babe in Bethlehem. Emmanuel (God-with-us) COMES now in word and sacrament. Emmanuel (God-with-us) WILL COME again. Emmanuel. God IS with us. And because God is with us, every season of Advent is a season of unwavering hope, and every season of Christmas is a season of love fulfilled and deep-seated joy.

The One who came at Christmas, will come again as "a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon." This is good news for those who seek and know their need for his light. It is bad news for those who walk by other lights.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. (Isaiah 2:5)

Advent and Christmas blessings,

Pastor Ken

Below are the contributions for the month of November
(thru November)
(need weekly \$5,563.65)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Received to Date</u>	<u>Need to Date</u>	<u>Overage/(Deficit)</u>
2&3	\$6,540.00	\$205,257.55	\$244,800.60	(\$39,533.05)
9&10	\$6,394.00	\$211,661.55	\$250,364.25	(\$38,702.70)
16&17	\$4,314.00	\$215,975.55	\$255,927.90	(\$39,952.35)
23&24	\$11,020.00	\$222,995.55	\$261,491.55	(\$34,496.00)



2025 Envelopes are ready for pick up Dec. 1. They are located in the Narthex.



DECEMBER WORSHIP AND EDUCATION
Advent and Christmas Season

Saturday/Sunday (11/30-12/1) – First Sunday of Advent
 Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday 9 am
 Sunday school to follow on Sunday at 10:15 am No Confirmation

Saturday/Sunday (12/7-8) – Second Sunday of Advent
 Services: Saturday at 6 pm
 Service of Pastor's Installation Sunday at 9 am
Fellowship with Bishop Busboom after service in Parish Hall
 Sunday school to follow on Sunday at 10:15 am No Confirmation

Saturday/Sunday (12/14&15) – Third Sunday of Advent
 Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am
 Sunday school & Confirmation Class to follow at 10:15am.
 Sunday 12/15- 3 pm Caroling & Soup Dinner

Saturday/Sunday (12/21-22) Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am
 Sunday school & Confirmation to follow at 10:15am

Tuesday, 12/24 Christmas Eve
 6 pm Children Program w/Communion
 11 pm Christmas Candlelight service with Communion

Wednesday, 12/25 Christmas Day
 9 am Festival Service of Holy Communion

Saturday/Sunday (12/28-29) First Sunday of Christmas
 Services: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am
 No Sunday School or Confirmation

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING & NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY:



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 15, 2024. at 3:00pm. 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. Once again this year, Members of the congregation will be asked to bring their favorite nativity scenes to be displayed in the Fellowship Hall the same day as the caroling (December 15th). Why not come and see the beautiful display and then join the group that goes caroling? Refreshments (soup, hot chocolate, etc.) will be served after the carolers return to the church.



Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas –buy a poinsettia plant in honor of or in memory of someone, or you may just make a donation. You may take it home after the 9:00 am service on Christmas morning. The cost is \$18.50 envelopes are available in the bulletin or also in the Narthex. Deadline to order is December 15th.



FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Calendar will be put up the first weekend of December 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!!!

COAT DRIVE UPDATE



THANK YOU so very much for your generous donations of coats, hats, gloves, and socks over the past two weeks. However, there are still some items very much needed as indicated below. Inventory as of November 5th is shown below, as well as the number donated, number distributed, and the number remaining:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INVENTORY</u> <u>11/5/24</u>	<u>NUMBER</u> <u>DONATE</u> <u>D</u>	<u>NUMBER</u> <u>GIVEN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u> <u>REMAINI</u> <u>NG</u>
<u>Toddler (Newborn to 5T)</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Youth (XS to XXL) or (0-2 to 16)</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Women</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Men</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Gloves</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Mittens</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Earmuffs</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Hats</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Socks</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>164</u>

What we urgently need RIGHT NOW is:

- Coats – Babies & Toddlers, especially 2T, 3T, 4T - girls and boys
- Coats – Youth, all sizes, especially for boys
- Coats – Men – Extra Small & Small
- Gloves, Mittens for Toddlers, Hats, Socks (especially for children)



The Food Pantry would like to thank everyone who donated to the Boy Scout's Food Drive. We collected 3427 items. And to the Science Club at Steeleville High School who collected 500 items, and other community organizations.



Parish Confirmation

Confirmation classes will continue on December 15th and December 22nd. There are no classes on December 1, December 8, December 29 and January 5th.

Class will start back up on January 12th.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CONGREGATION



Wedding: Savannah Schnoeker and Aidden Ryan Wilcox were married on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at Peace Lutheran Church.



Angel Tree. We will be doing curbside pickup again this year on December 13th. That worked out really nice last year so we will be doing it again this year. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Thank you, Vickie Wathen, Angel Tree Committee.



A list of members of Peace who are in Nursing Homes or who cannot get out as much as they would like is available in the office. Please remember them with cards and keep them and their families in your prayers especially during the holiday.

We have Christmas Cards available just come by and pick some up

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR TEGTMEIER AS PASTOR OF PEACE

Pastor Tegtmeier will be installed as pastor of Peace on Sunday, December 8 at our 9 a.m. service. Bishop Greg Busboom, our synod bishop, will be here for the installation.

After the service, there will be a reception in our fellowship hall. Please come and take part in this service as we pray for the ministry of Peace and Pastor Ken.

ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES

We will have Advent Mid-week services this year on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. December 4, 11, and 18. They will be services of Evening Prayer with traditional Advent hymns and carols. Portions of Holden Evening Prayer will also be used. John Posth will be leading our singing and will also sing some special music during the offering on December 4 and 11.

Our reflections are entitled: JOSEPH: Man of Dreams. We will look at Joseph the dreamer, son of Jacob, from the Old Testament and Joseph, son of David, guardian of Jesus in the New Testament. Join us as we gather in prayer giving thanks for these two men who were faithful to God and through whom God's plan was accomplished.

