NEWS OF PEACE United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace ELCA

Steeleville, Illinois



Good News from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

While there is nothing magical about the turning of a calendar page, it seems as each new year begins we look at our world, take stock of our lives, and look for ways to renew ourselves in mind, body and spirit.

I would like to briefly consider the hope that strengthens us and to which we are called as Christians in the world. A recent church theologian stated this about Christian hope in the context of faith: "Christian faith is not just a look back at what happened in the past, an anchorage in an origin that lies behind us in time; nor is it just an outlook on the eternal; it is above all things a looking forward, a reaching-out of hope." As Christians our hope is found in the person of Jesus Christ.

We begin the new year with the festival of the Name of Jesus on January first. Our hope in Him is found *in the manger* and *at the cross.* When God took on human flesh new hope dawned on the world. Reconciliation with God was now possible. Humanity would once again be in right relationship with its Creator. This reconciliation was accomplished on the cross when the God-made-flesh took the sins of the world upon Himself and crucified them in His flesh so that now God would see and love in us, what He sees and loves in His Christ.

The hope we have in Christ is not just a personal or individualistic hope. No, the hope we have in Christ is for all or it is for no one. For Christ came to suffer and die *for all* so that all could be one with God.

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, eternity entered into time bringing with Him not just the promise of eternal life some day off into the future, but He brought eternal life with Him such that we share His eternal life NOW -- and forever! The Eternal Life that is ours in Christ is both a comfort and consolation as well as a challenge and calling.

As we enter this New Year 2025, how can we share the eternal life we have in Christ now in our world among our families and friends, strangers and, yes, even enemies? How can the hope we have in Christ aid us in living the Christian life more fully this year? How can we be agents, conduits, of hope in our daily lives? As the New Year begins, let us think on these things.

Pastor Ken

Below are the contributions for the month of December

(thru December 15th)

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

<u>Date</u>	Weekly Offering	Received Year To Date
30&1	\$4,560.50	\$231,573.08
7&8	\$7,662.50	\$239,235.58
14&15	\$10,705.50	\$240,941.08



<u>ANNUAL FINANCIAL</u> <u>MEETING</u> will be

January 26, 2025.

Remember that this is a financial and statistical meeting.

REGULAR AND LARGE PRINT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

for January through March are available in the Narthex and the church office. Pick one up soon.



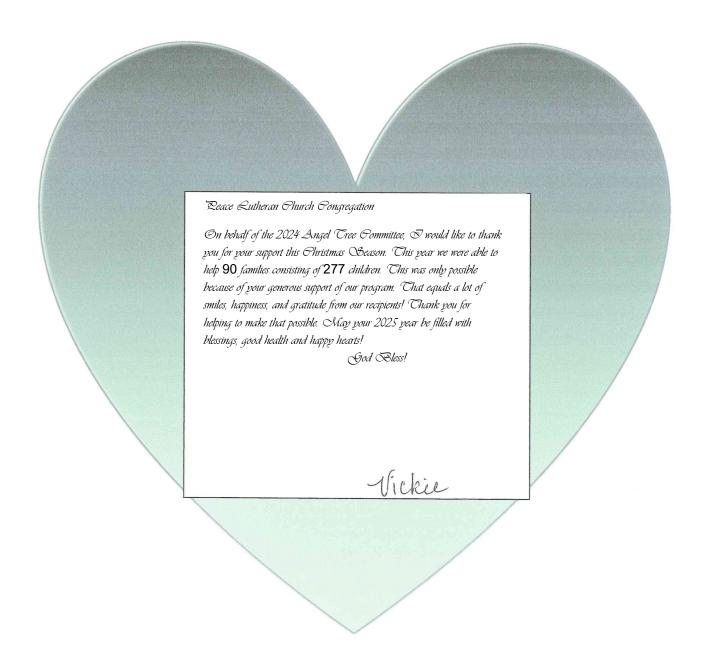
MORNINGPRAYER:

Each Wednesday, *Morning Prayer* is prayed in the Noah's Ark Chapel. This mid-week service provides us with an opportunity to enter prayer and supplication. The service includes prayers for all our armed service personnel, and we pray for all members of the parish who are celebrating birthdays & anniversaries. This brief service begins at 11:30 AM and you are welcome to join us.



We had several special programs during the advent season and we would like to **thank everyone** involved in these special programs & services and all the helpers for the Angel Tree, the coat drive, the

Parade, all who helped with the Christmas pageant, including making goodie bags, all who helped setting up the Christmas caroling, all that helped with the Christmas Decorations in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, the Nativity Display and everyone who participated in these activities in any way. They made the advent season very exciting.





<u>CONFIRMATION</u> — will begin Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:15am



Alice Sternberg passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at Randolph County Care Center, Sparta, IL. Funeral Services were held Saturday, December 7, 2024, at Peace

Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL. Burial was at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, Steeleville, IL.



2025Flower Calendar is on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. Let me know how you want the dedication to read. **donate \$40.00**

to the church, and we will take care of the rest. Please share a special occasion and bring joy and sunshine in the worship services. Remember someone or something special or just share the joy of your life in Christ by supplying flowers for our chancel. **Remember:** We do not have flowers during Lent.