

JANUARY 2025

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

ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING 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.



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.



Peace Lutheran Church Congregation

On behalf of the 2024 Angel Tree Committee, I would like to thank you for your support this Christmas Season. This year we were able to help 90 families consisting of 277 children. This was only possible because of your generous support of our program. That equals a lot of smiles, happiness, and gratitude from our recipients! Thank you for helping to make that possible. May your 2025 year be filled with blessings, good health and happy hearts!

God Bless!

Vickie



CONFIRMATION – 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.



2025 Flower 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.