

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday: 10:15 AM

CONTACT US:

princeofpeacefreedom.com

Office
724.728.3881

Preschool
724.728.2405

Fax
724.728.6708

Email

Pr. Michael

Podeszwa
[pastor@
princeofpeacefreedom.com](mailto:pastor@princeofpeacefreedom.com)

Pr. Fred Poeppel
pfpoeppl@yahoo.com

Wendy Liston
[secretarypop@
princeofpeacefreedom.com](mailto:secretarypop@princeofpeacefreedom.com)

Contents:

April Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Evangelism	4
The Lutheran Hour	5
Preschool News	8 & 9
April Calendar	10

Dear Friends in Christ,

At certain times of the year, pastors and churches take a collective deep breath. The week after Easter is one of those times. The busyness of the holidays has passed, the extra services are over, and things have slowed down and gotten back to normal. And that is when we need to be cautious. Cautious because it is too easy to forget the joy that the Easter message brings to our lives and we leave it behind.

Looking to God's Word, we find two disciples of Christ who doing just that. Luke tells us in the twenty-fourth chapter that these two men had left Jerusalem and were walking on the road to Emmaus. They knew Jesus to be a mighty prophet in word and deed. They had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel, but he had been crucified and their hopes had died with them. Sure, they had heard the news of the resurrection, but they did not believe perhaps because it had been reported by some of the women and none of the male disciples had seen anything but an empty tomb.

How often do we too feel like these disciples? How often do we get stuck in the past, looking backwards. Often our hopes and dreams dashed. When we think things are going one way, they go the other. Life never goes as we plan, but throws us with sudden twists and turns. So what do you do when life leaves you reeling, questioning, and doubting? What do you do when your hopes and dreams are crushed?

Life throws sudden twists and turns at us and they leave us reeling, questioning, doubting. So what do you do when your hopes and dreams are shattered and left in ruins? Where do you turn? How do you cope?

For the two disciples on the road, Jesus came into their lives. As the men journey to Emmaus Jesus "drew near and went with them." It's a beautiful picture of what Christ does for us. He seeks us. God himself became one of us, drew near to us and goes with us. As the resurrected Lord journeyed with his confused disciples, he opened up the Scriptures to them and interpreted everything in God's Word concerning himself. The entire Bible is about him, this Savior, who died for the world and rose again. Though the disciples thought they wanted a Savior from the Romans, they got something so much greater. They got a Savior from sin and eternal death. They got a Savior who won a complete victory and then gave it to them! That is the Savior that we have, the Savior who has conquered sin, death and the devil for us.

But the story doesn't end with that Easter journey. For the disciples convince Jesus to remain with them, still not knowing who he is. Luke tells us that when Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them, their eyes are opened. Their Savior is present with them in this bread even though He disappears from their view. In our confusion, as we walk along on our own roads, Christ comes along side us; He also opens the Scriptures to us, He also takes bread and gives it to us! Gathered together here at Prince of Peace we are assured that the risen Savior is present when we partake of that bread together. Even though our hopes and dreams may be crushed from time to time, Christ comes into our lives and assures us of his resurrection and his victory. This month of April, don't leave Easter behind. Come and share in the victory over death that Christ offers you! Come and see your Savior in the Scriptures. Come and see Him present with us in the bread that He offers.

Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Michael

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Bethany Parker	2
Dean Parker	2
Faye Brockmiller	4
Mary Palmquist	7
<i>Celebrating her 97th birthday</i>	
Bobby O'Palka	9
Chance Merceir	15
Eric Bendekovic	17
Jakob Lehman	22
Sandy Kostelnik	30
Justin Mengel	30
Ruthann Weedon	30

Anniversaries

Jim & Tracy Wilde 29

Baptismal Birthdays

Karen Doerr	1
Natalie Osten	1
Matthew Osten	1
Jennifer Weedon	1
Nathan Taylor	7
Allen Lee	10
Matthew Muto	10
Larry Weimer	11
Diane O'Palka	14
Mary Podeszwa	16
Genevieve Leonberg	18
Erich Borgman	19
Sandy Parker	20
Chuck Szabo	24
John Dietrich	25
Karen McCracken	25
Mary Palmquist	30

Servants in Ministry

<u>Greeter</u>
3 – Kathy Voland/Wendy Liston
10 – Milt/Christie Scott
17 – Darryl/Lynn Gunther
24 – Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
<u>Reader</u>
3 – Kathy Osten
10 – Mary Nuerge
17 – Joshua Humphrey
24 – Christie Scott
<u>Acolyte</u>
3 – Hannah Bendekovic
10 – Tyler Borgman
17 – Nikolai Podeszwa
24 – Cade Skuse
<u>Audio Visual</u>
3 – Darryl Gunther/Mike Gremer
10 – Stephan Fatschel/
Doug Eckstrom
17 – Matthew Muto/
Doug Eckstrom
24 – Lynn/Darryl Gunther



Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- ❖ Bill Hewlett for recovery.
- ❖ Gene Reddel.
- ❖ Continued prayers of healing for Twila DeThomas's stepfather and niece and Willis Voland's sister; Betty Ann.
- ❖ Terry McCall recovering at home.
- ❖ Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Bob Greer (youth leader at Darryl Gunther's former church), Mary Guthrie (wife of Darryl's co-worker), Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott and Joan Doerr.
- ❖ Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Altar Guild

Bonnie Keen/Sandi
Morgan/Joyce Hewlett

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

What a beautiful day the Lord provided for us to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus! The church was nearly full including some returning and first time visitors. Church attendance was good for all the Holy Week services. Pastor Michael has been assisting in worship for the last month and was able to lead the entire service on Maundy Thursday. We have one more sermon in the *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* series on April 3 and the Bible studies that follow.

Several people have asked what is next. Pastor Michael, the Elders and Council have been discussing this throughout March and at the Voters' Meeting. We don't have all the details yet, but here is what we are planning for now.

Pastor Michael will resume preaching beginning April 10. He will enlist assistance from the Elders (or me) as needed to lead worship. I will be transitioning into more of a consulting/mentoring role as we seek to implement what we have learned from the Peacemaker resources. The Voters have also decided that Prince of Peace is now in a position to implement the recommendations made as a result of the survey taken last summer by the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. However I will be leading that implementation in conjunction with the Elders and Council.

Therefore, I will still be around for a while as needed. I will probably worship with you most Sundays and perhaps lead a Bible study. I will be scheduling private interviews with anyone who would like to talk to me about any conflicts that may require some mediation assistance or about your vision for the future of Prince of Peace. We will also be planning some group "listening events" to get input from the congregation.

Pastor Michael and I will also be attending a training workshop in Charlotte, NC by Ted Kober and Ambassadors of Reconciliation the first week of May.

Stay tuned for further details!

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." That is what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal through us." (2 Cor 5:18-21)

Think about that last sentence. Isn't that another way of expressing the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all people? Isn't that who Jesus is calling us to be? Isn't that our mission as a church? We are His ambassadors to whom He has given the message of reconciliation so that God can make His appeal to our lost and broken families and neighbors through us.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Happy Resurrection Day and Easter season! See you in church! Bring a friend!—*Pastor Fred*

Easter Egg Hunt

We were blessed to have so many children from the community, church and preschool attend our Easter Egg hunt this year. Over 100 people gathered for fun, food and fellowship. The kids enjoyed a coloring contest and had an “egg”cellent time hunting for eggs filled with gospel-themed stickers and candies wrapped in Bible verses. Each child received a booklet about the Easter story.

Thanks to our volunteers who made this event possible:

Ethel Clayton
 Twila DeThomas
 Beau DeThomas (2)
 Skylar DeThomas
 Doug Eckstrom
 Tammy Eckstrom
 Sandy Kostelnik
 Tina Noe
 Jarrod Noe
 Willis Voland

Special thanks to Ruth Miller for singlehandedly stuffing 300 plastic eggs.

As we think about our important preschool mission, we’re reminded of the words of Jesus--

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” Luke 18:16-17

+++++

Survey Says...

The results of the Evangelism survey are in:

Activity/Event	Yes	Willing to Lead?
Cookbook Fundraiser	14	Yes
Care Packages for College Students	10	
Care Packages for Shut-ins	14	Yes
Easter Egg Hunt	6	Yes
Financial Education for Teens	1	
Financial Education for Adults	1	
Fall Festival	15	
Kidz Night Out	6	Yes
Vacation Bible School	8	Yes
LHM Work Day	6	
Lutheran Emergency Response Team	6	Yes
Bible Study for Women (in someone's home)	1	Yes

Thank you to those who participated. If you haven’t yet had an opportunity to complete one, please see Tammy Eckstrom.

So now is the time to take action. We have set some key dates for the future and hope that you will mark your calendars for these important events:

Vacation Bible School – June 27th to July 1st

Fall Festival – September 24th

Other dates are yet to be determined. For those of you who indicated that you would be willing to lead an effort, please see Twila DeThomas, Tammy Eckstrom or Willis Voland to discuss making your activity a reality.

The Lutheran Hour—April Sermon Schedule

April 3

"Blessed Are Believers"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

By faith in Jesus, you are blessed—even as your struggles continue.

(John 20:19-31)

April 10

"Breakfast with Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Jesus shows up and shows us that God is close and God cares.

(John 21:1-14)

April 17

"Confidence for Life"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Jesus' miracles were signs of God breaking into a sinful world, but the religious leaders saw it as a threat to their kingdoms.

(John 10:22-30)

April 24

"One-upmanship"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Heaven will be more beautiful than we can imagine; it will rectify our problems and satisfy our most profound longings.

(Revelation 21:1-7)

Memorial Service

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, will hold a memorial service in memory of those who spent their final days in one of their hospice care facilities or in Good Samaritan Home Care. The memorial services are open to all who are dealing with grief, even if they did not have a loved one in GSH care.

The service will be at Prince of Peace on Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m. Concordia Chaplain Rev. Paul Rist will conduct the liturgy. A reception will follow.

Attention Married Couples: Thousands of couples have

learned that taking some time to "tune-up" their marriages pays huge dividends. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed to strengthen and revitalize marriages whether you have been married a year or 60 years. We're sorry that the April 8-10 Weekend in Lancaster is now full. (Feel free to contact us about the waiting list.) There is, however, currently still room for you at the **April 22-24 Weekend at State College's premier conference center, the Penn Stater.** If this date doesn't work for you, registrations are also being taken for the two fall Weekends at lovely, hotel-style retreat centers: September 16-18 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos or October 21-23 at Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. All costs for 2 nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and supplies are covered by a \$100.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish that you are given the opportunity to make toward the end of the weekend. To register online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, or for further information, contact Fred & Julie Schamber, PA Directors, at: fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.



YOUR CAR.....YOUR MARRIAGE
BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!



www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

'Smart' Planning Gives Twice

Being smart has both spiritual and temporal dimensions. Intelligence from faith often produces an outcome different from worldly intelligence. Christian stewards recognize that they are not owners but managers, called to protect property and provide for people under their care so it/they flourish to the potential and purpose intended by the Creator.

Intelligence in the temporal dimension usually reflects natural laws. People tend to focus on their own blood relations, where emotional and physical connections exist. Modern laws of property distribution follow the logic of ancient laws to give property 'through the bloodline' using Latin words like 'per stirpes.' Under the law, being smart follows such logic. Family members are the natural objects of bounty, so most people limit estate planning decisions to benefit their own families.

The intelligence of faith comes from a person's soul and spirit, and informs a person's physical connections. Being aware of our "faith smarts" involves how a concern for others, even the least of these, is remembered in planning.

A Christian's motivation flows from their baptism; from Christ's redemption from sin and eternal death. God's Word tells us that such grace is a gift of God. It results in spiritual intelligence - in listening to God's calling to serve others and to be generous for the purpose of advancing Christ's kingdom.

Current tax laws encourage a smart planner to explore ways to conserve tax shrinkage in property transfers. These laws give incentives to charitable gift planning through estate and income tax deductions. Thus, even though our laws don't require such sharing, public policy confirms that generosity makes our world better.

Whether smart planning remembers family or ministry or both, intelligence that plans with both the heart and the mind can be how God blesses the people we love and ministries we care about.

For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfd.org or 716-863-4427.



Survey of Millennial Church Attitudes

President Chris Wicher and Mrs. Kris Birus

The 2016 Eastern District Futures Task Force has assembled women and men, pastors and lay leaders from across the district to look at questions facing our church in the future. Your assistance is needed with one of the questions, "What is it to be the church?" In order to best secure answers to that question, the Task Force has designed two surveys intended for people age 35 and below.

Two different surveys have been developed in order to reach two different subsets of this age group. One survey, for those not affiliated or loosely affiliated with the church, is comprised of three open-ended questions. The second survey, comprises of seven multiple choice questions, is intended for millennials IN your church or circle of Christian relationships.

We need you assistance in the distribution of these surveys so that we received the broadest possible set of responses. The following two paragraphs, complete with QR codes to access the surveys, have been arranged so that you can take a "screen shot" or cut and paste to be used in your churches communication pieces.

The first block of information is designed to be shared with those age 35 and below who are currently affiliated in some manner with your congregation.

The second block of information ("God Stinks") and QR Code is designed for distribution outside your worshiping community in any venue that you might see appropriate.

+++++



+++++

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to further the work of the Eastern District Futures Committee!

March Preschool News . . . Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Kristina

Is it true that spring is right around the corner? We sure hope so! The weather sure doesn't seem to be on our side! That silly groundhog was RIGHT! We have faith though and are hoping it is just around the corner! What a great month we had! It was filled with lots of fun and learning! Time is just flying by and it's hard to believe that our year is coming to an end. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday! We ate green eggs and ham and made our very own hat, like The Cat in The Hat! We read all of our favorite stories by Dr. Seuss too! There are many to choose from too!

Three year olds

The three year old topic for the month was all about transportation. We had so much fun with this. The three year olds are doing such a great job! We started cutting and they are getting really good at it. We made a plane collage, colored a traffic light and made a traffic light that we could eat! They really enjoyed all of our activities this month! It was a lot of fun! They are also finishing up their alphabet books. We are all so ready to get outside and play so that we can release some energy!

Four year olds

The four year olds topic for the month was: All kinds of weather! Some of our projects included our favorite weather in a bottle and we made a kite and went outside to fly it! That was a lot of fun! We are still working hard on our alphabet books and everyone is doing a great job! Like the three's they too are very anxious to get outside. Hopefully spring is coming soon!

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Kristina

March Preschool News...Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. -1 John 4:16

March sure came in like a LAMB!!! We welcome Spring!!

March 2nd was Dr. Seuss' birthday. Both classes celebrated by "hitting the books". Dr. Seuss books that is...The three year old class favorite Dr. Seuss book was One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish.

The four year old class's favorite Dr. Seuss book was Green Eggs and Ham. As the month progressed, each class celebrated the anticipation of Spring. We decorated the classroom with rainbows and shamrocks. The three year olds covered a rainbow with Fruit Loop cereal. That was a delicious craft! The four year olds enjoyed some gold glittered shamrocks hanging with the student's names hanging around the room. Once the classroom was festively decorated, all we had to do was WAIT! We waited to see if the book we read, Luckiest Leprechaun would come to life. Each class had a surprise during snack time on the school days surrounding St. Patrick's Day. The Luckiest Leprechaun spread glitter around our classroom. PESKY LEPRACHAUN...!

During the month of March we learned four new letters during writing skills. Letters li, Mm, and Gg were our focus. Next month we will finish up our writing skills books. All year long we compromised the writing skills and will gift them to the student's families at graduation.

Towards the beginning of March the four year old classes took a Friday fieldtrip to a gymnastics class located in Cranberry at X-Cel Gymnastics facility. This was a great opportunity to get the kids some physical activity. Parents were welcomed to attend and participate too. At the end of the month our four year old classes took a fieldtrip to an art studio in Beaver called Artsy Doodle. The four year old classes boarded a school bus and headed to Beaver to the art studio Artsy Doodle. The children were engaged in painting an Easter Bunny painting on their very own canvas. It was an "outside the box" school day lesson, and everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Thank you Artsy Doodle!

As our time with the classes is coming closer to graduation, please remember to turn in next year's registration forms, if you have not already done so. We are now accepting all 2016-2017 registrations for both three year old and four year old classes. "Our cup runneth over" for the four year old morning classes; we are full and now filling an afternoon class. Please contact one of us at preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Blessings to you and yours,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

April 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	4	5	6 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	7 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	8	9
10 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	11	12	13 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	14 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	15	16
17 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	18	19	20 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	21 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	22	23
24 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	25	26	27 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	28 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	29	30