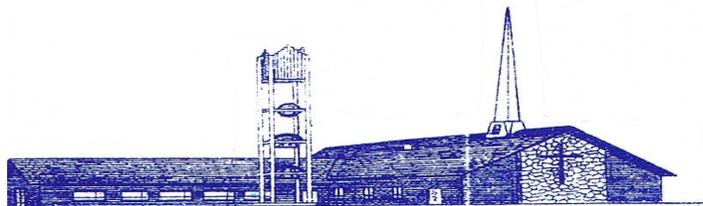


The Bells



PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 38 Issue 11

DECEMBER 2012

Where Are You Going?

Dear Friends in Christ,

The world seems to be getting faster and faster each day. In November of 1838, the Saxon immigrants who founded the Missouri Synod left Germany. They arrived in St. Louis three months later. By the end of the 19th century, that trip would take slightly longer than one week by steamship. Today, it only takes a little over eight hours to fly from Germany to St. Louis.

Of course, travel is only one small measurement. No longer do we have to wait days, weeks or months for letters to be delivered; we can communicate with just about anyone, anywhere in the world. We live in a world where food can be prepared in minutes, shopping can be done from home, and our desires can be satisfied with the click of mouse.

In the midst all this instantaneous gratification comes Advent – the four weeks before Christmas when our worship focus is to patiently wait for the coming of the Lord, both the birth of Christ and His eventual return.

I don't know about the rest of you, but patience doesn't come easily to me. I want it quicker; I want it faster; I want it now. When I go shopping, there are never enough checkout people and I have to wait. When I drive, there are too many cars and too many stoplights and I have to wait. I don't like to wait.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Gal. 5:22-23 ESV) Sigh. Our patience, our kindness, our gentleness and our self-control are some of the greatest gifts that we can give to others. During Advent, we celebrate the birth of our King, and eagerly await His return. But when we allow our need to have it now drive us to impatience and rudeness, we have a conflict with what we celebrate.

Advent is needed today more than ever. Our challenge in the midst of the business of this holiday season is to remember that it is a season of waiting, not for the presents on Christmas morning, but for the presence of our Lord. During this season, we should take the exhortation of David: “Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.” (Ps. 37:7 ESV) He is leading us. He has promised to return; and He keeps His promises.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

Worship with us

Saturday: 6:30 PM Worship
Sunday: 9:00 AM Sunday School
Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Worship

Contact us

Website

www.princeofpeacefreedom.com

Phone

Office: 724.728.3881
Preschool: 724.728.2405
Fax: 724.728.6708

Email

Pr. Michael
pastor@princeofpeacefreedom.com
Secretary:
secretarypop@princeofpeacefreedom.com
Preschool:
preschool@princeofpeacefreedom.com

**60 Rochester Road
Freedom PA 15042**

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The Bells



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

Order Deadline: Sunday, December 9th

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 6-1/2" Pot-\$6.50 | 8-1/2" Pot-\$15.00 |
| Red or White | Red or White |
| 5 to 8 flowers | 10 to 15 flowers |



Would you like to place an order for one or more poinsettias to beautify our church chancel area during Christmas in memory of loved ones or just to say thank you to our Heavenly Father for His many blessings, acts of goodness, and his never-ending love? If interested, **forms are located on the table in the Narthex, just fill one out and return to office or put in Sandi Morgan's mail slot.** Checks should be made payable to Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Your flower order may be taken home following the Christmas service you attend.

Poinsettias will be delivered to our shut-ins.



POP CHRISTMAS DINNER



The annual Prince of Peace Christmas dinner will be held on Sunday, December 16, after service. This year's menu will include: broasted chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, salad, rolls and beverages. We are asking that the congregation signup to bring a favorite holiday dessert or appetizer. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up before **December 9**. There will be a free will offering for the dinner.

Any questions, see Joleen Mesing.

2013 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The Altar Flower Calendar sign-up sheet for 2013 is on the bulletin board. **There are 2 vases of flowers, therefore, two requests per weekend** are available and the flowers can be taken home following the Sunday service. The cost is \$7.50 per vase or if you want both vases fill in both lines on the calendar and the cost would be \$15.00.

The flowers can be purchased in celebration of a special occasion, in memory of someone, or to the "Glory of God and his love for us". Payment envelopes should be marked "Altar Flowers" and placed in the offering plate (be sure to include your name with your payment) or in the mail slot for Kathy Voland. Checks for should be made payable to: Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU!

Kathy Voland

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Bob Dietrich | 1 |
| David Voland | 1 |
| Lynn Melberg | 4 |
| Kathy Osten | 4 |
| Terri Humphrey | 5 |
| Rachel Humphrey | 8 |
| Shane Dietrich | 10 |
| Jesse Dietrich | 12 |
| Kathy Dietrich | 15 |
| Tim Bishop | 17 |
| Shawn Nowry | 18 |
| Stephan Fatschel | 20 |
| Derek Mengel | 20 |
| Tom Sigler | 20 |
| Jason Mengel | 23 |
| Ross Shively | 23 |
| Bonnie Keen | 24 |
| Jane Wilson | 24 |
| Diane O’Palka | 25 |
| Don Wunnenberg | 29 |
| Alice Dietrich | 31 |
| Jennifer Weedon | 31 |

Baptismal Birthdays:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Darryl Gunther | 1 |
| Terri Humphrey | 1 |
| Zach Eckstrom | 3 |
| Sarah Nuerge | 5 |
| Kathleen Ormiston | 9 |
| Barb Bishop | 15 |
| Andreas Fatschel | 18 |
| David Voland | 18 |
| Bill Kerr | 19 |

Anniversaries:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Charles & Susan Szabo | 1 |
| Craig & Lori Voland | 6 |
| Willis & Kathy Voland | 11 |
| Tom & Kelly Applequist | 14 |
| Jason & Jodi Blank | 17 |
| Mike & Donna Lugo | 17 |
| Ed & Lynn Melberg | 27 |
| Barb & Ray Steinwehe | 30 |

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Greeter:

2-Rich/Ethel Clayton
9-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
16-Ed/Sandi Morgan
23-Ted/Mark Fessides
30-Ruth/Avis Miller

Reader:

2-Ron Doerr
9-Tom Sigler
16-Darryl Gunther
23-Bill Mallary
30-Mary Nuerge

Acolyte:

2-Kyle Borgman
9-Ruthann Weedon
16-Brendan Doerr
23-Matthew Muto
30-Connor Ciccone

Altar Guild:

Sandi Morgan & Robin Young

Audio/Visual:

2-Darryl Gunther/Doug Eckstrom
9-Stephan Fatschel/K. Ormiston
16-Kathleen Ormiston/Mike Gremer
23-Darryl Gunther/Doug Eckstrom
24-Darryl Gunther/Doug Eckstrom
30-Kathleen Ormiston/Mike Gremer

NOTE: All Servants in Ministry are responsible for finding their own replacement when unable to serve.

Thank you.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following members and friends of Prince of Peace in your prayers:

- Connie Mannino battling cancer
- The Singleton family for the loss of Kim’s father
- Delores Simmons, recuperating at home
- Prayers for healing for Ed & Lynn Melberg, Lynn had surgery on her foot and Ed is seeing a doctor for back pain
- Continued prayers for Richie, Tom & Colleen Sigler’s nephew;
- Twila DeThomas’ stepfather, Milt Scott, Alan Singleton, Joanie Gremer, Philip Forsyth, Marie Teets, battling cancer.

HELP WANTED

Looking for some helpers to be Greeters on Sunday mornings. Please call the office or email if you can assist on the following Sundays:

March 31
June 30
July 14 & 21
August 25
November 3
December 22

Thank You!



DECEMBER 2012

December 2 — **"Hope for the Holidays"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Even if everything is going all wrong, God is at work for you right now to make things right. (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

December 9 — **"Promises for a Grinch-Proof Christmas"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

In Dr. Seuss' classic story, the Grinch tried to steal the joy of Christmas. Who's trying to steal your joy? (Malachi 3:1-7)

December 16 — **"The Real Gift of Christmas: To Believe"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Is this what Christmas is all about, or should we expect something else? (Luke 7:18-28)

December 23 — **"Something Special Happened Here"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Pastor Ken Klaus takes us to Bethlehem and the place where God began to make good on the promise He made to redeem a world of lost sinners. (Luke 2:6-15)

December 30 — **"God's Bucket List"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Something that should be on everyone's list of things to do before they die: seek the Lord while He may yet be found. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Q: What Is Stewardship? A: Everything?

Everything matters to God. Stewardship is our living witness to what comes first in our lives.

Here is the battleground of our faith: daily life! "Everything" includes: the words we choose to say, spending our time (those valuable minutes that we'll never get back to spend over again), investing in relationships and going out of our way for others; how we spend our money, and much more than can be listed here.

In a few short weeks, we'll be making our New Year's Resolutions. What one thing will you commit to doing differently in your walk for 2013? We all know that big change is hard, while small change is achievable! (And small change snowballs!) What habit could you start, stop or continue that would be an act of devotion to the one who gave His Son for us?

- Prayer
- Reading the Bible
- Attending Bible Study
- Weekly Worship
- Volunteering
- Teaching
- Helping 1:1 Your Fellow Members
- Leading
- Encouraging
- Sharing Our Faith in Words

What's Your Idea? Email it to Jennifer_ciccione@hotmail.com

NEW CASTLE CITY RESCUE MISSION

On behalf of the New Castle City Rescue Mission I want to personally thank you all for your donations of food items and money for the New Castle City Rescue Mission. It is only through your generosity that we were able to care for so many of our neighbors in need in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. This year more than 2,000 individuals will receive food through the City Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving Basket Distribution.

Our goal was to collect 1,000 food items and we almost made it collecting 890 items. What a blessing you all have been to this outreach program. A special thanks to our church members, friends and family who volunteered to help pack those baskets. The Mission truly appreciates our assistance every year.

Thank you for being a Partner in Hope and may God bless you and your family this holiday season.

Diane O'Palka

RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD! HOW DARE THEY?

Really! Can you believe it? There's a Christian organization that isn't afraid to share the Good News as they provide quality healthcare and services to Christians, non-believers, and Jews – right in our own backyard! How dare they? Please forgive me for being overly dramatic, but Concordia Lutheran Ministries never ceases to amaze me in all that they do and the way that they do it.

On November 11, Milt Scott and I represented Prince of Peace as delegates to the Concordia annual meeting and I realized how little I knew about Concordia just a few years ago. I also realized that many people in the congregation may also not be aware of what Concordia does and what Prince of Peace's role is in it. Allow me to share with you. (Those of you who are more familiar with Concordia, please feel free to chime in at any time!)

Concordia's vision: Serving the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people. **Concordia's mission:** To serve our aging community with a continuum of high quality care giving options, provided in a Christian environment, and to serve those with limited funds to the best of our ability.

According to Keith Frndak, President and CEO of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, "Concordia serves thousands every day with a dedicated group of 2,000 employees. Like the innkeeper in the parable of the Good Samaritan, our employees provide care to all those who are brought to them in need. Today Concordia operates 532 retirement apartments, 22 villas, 891 personal care/assisted living units, 290 skilled nursing beds and 16 hospice beds (with 10 more to be added in the coming months). That's 1742 daily opportunities to serve people under a Concordia roof. In addition, we serve people every month in homecare, hospice, outpatient physical therapy and adult day services.

Concordia is also blessed with opportunities to serve through mission support. Last year we supported 26 mission projects through our Angel Tear Ministries program. Our biggest mission investment is 1001 Orphans. We are also proud to support a variety of LCMS ministries in the region such as Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools, Sonshine Kitchen, Shenandoah School, and others."

So what part does Prince of Peace play in this amazing organization? We actually have many more connections than people realize. From within our congregation, several people are employees of Concordia and a number of people are residents of the Concordia community. Prince of Peace is one of 35 member congregations. As a member congregation we provided financial support to Concordia as well as remembering the organization and its work in our prayers. (Note: Concordia is one of our designated missions included in our annual budget.)

Member congregations send delegates to the annual meeting each year. As delegates, we were given the opportunity to vote for members of the Board of Directors. These people are instrumental in guiding Concordia's operations and helping it fulfill its goals. Many members of Prince of Peace have served on the Board of Directors through the years.

Providing quality healthcare and services at a reasonable price – again, how dare they do all this? By God's grace and with our gratitude that's how! Please check out the Concordia Lutheran Ministries web-site to learn more about this amazing organization: www.concordialm.org.

November 2012

Whoever said that time stands still? That is certainly not true for this preschool! We have been so busy that we need more time. Do you believe that the holidays are upon us? What a busy time! Both classes have started practicing for their Christmas programs. They are so precious! This is something definitely worth seeing! If you have a chance to come and see these little angels in action you will see why we love our jobs!

Four year olds

The four year olds talked about the first Thanksgiving Feast. We are all thankful for the many great things God has given us. We practiced recognizing and drawing shapes and are still working hard on our letters and numbers. We made thankful turkeys and pilgrims. Everyone's favorite story was "Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes". It's a very cute story that rhymes. They love story time. We have also started on printing our names in upper and lower case letters, not all capitals. Try to reinforce this at home. We will spend more time on this after the holidays. We are starting evaluations and should be done by the time Christmas vacation starts.

Three year olds

The three year olds topic for the month was "Shapes" and we talked about what we were thankful for. What a lively group this is! They have a favorite time and its snack time of course. Although they are so cute and we are having fun with them! They keep us on our toes. We are still working on recognizing our names. Some do and about half still are having trouble so try to work on that over the holidays as well. I will try and send some ideas home over vacation. The threes are working hard on their alphabet books and they love getting stickers to put on their books.

BIBLE LESSON The story for this month was "The Crippled Lamb" written by Max Lucado. This is one of my favorite books. The story is about a little lamb named Joshua who God has a special plan for. This heartwarming tale is one of my favorites and your children certainly enjoyed it as well!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Shuttleworth and Ms. Chris

November 2012

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

(Chronicles 16:34 ESV)

I always love the month of November, as it is a time for us to reflect upon the things in life that we are truly thankful for. I am most certainly thankful and blessed with many aspects of my life. That includes the wonderful job of being a teacher. There is nothing better than seeing the world through the eyes of a child!

Our bible theme this month was centered on *The Crippled Lamb*. We talked about how other people may be different than us; however, we are all children of God and should treat each other with kindness and respect. We should not judge, nor should we think we are better than others. It seems that at times, children are more accepting than we, as adults, are. That's the beautiful thing about children, they're so innocent!

This month we also focused on "The 1st Thanksgiving", "Pilgrims and Indians", "What are we thankful for?", and "Shapes". The 3's brought in items to share with the class. These items reflected upon our "What are we thankful for?" theme. Most of the students brought in pictures of their families. Some of the students brought in their favorite stuffed animals! The four year old class made their very own placemat for Thanksgiving dinner. The placemat displayed what they are thankful for this year.

In addition, we are continuing to work on our ABC's and 123's. Until next month, may God bless and keep you sane as the hustle bustle of the holiday season is upon us!

Smiling at You,
Mrs. Ward & Ms. Twila

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 2 1st Sunday in Advent 10:15 Holy Communion | 3 9:00 Millvale Braille | 4 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study | 5 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service | 6 7:00 Ladies Bible Study "What is Islam?" 7:00 Choir | 7 | 8 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 9 2nd Sunday in Advent 10:15 Holy Communion Poinsettia Orders Due | 10 6:00 St. Luke's Braille | 11 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study | 12 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service | 13 11:00 Forest Hills Braille 6:30 Council Mtg. 7:00 Ladies Bible Study "What is Islam?" 7:00 Choir | 14 | 15 12:00 Christmas Decorating at POP 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 16 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Program POP Christmas Dinner | 17 9:00 Haven Braille | 18 8:30 Braille 9:00 3 Yr Old Christmas Party 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study | 19 9:00 4 Yr Old Christmas Party 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 4 Yr Old Christmas Party 7:00 Advent Service | 20 9:00 3 Yr. Old Christmas Program | 21 9:00 4 Yr. Old Christmas Program | 22 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 23 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion | 24 4:00 Christmas Eve Svc. (Contemporary) 7:00 Christmas Eve Svc. (Traditional) | 25 10:00 Christmas Day Service | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 30 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion | 31 7:00 New Year's Eve Service | | | | | |