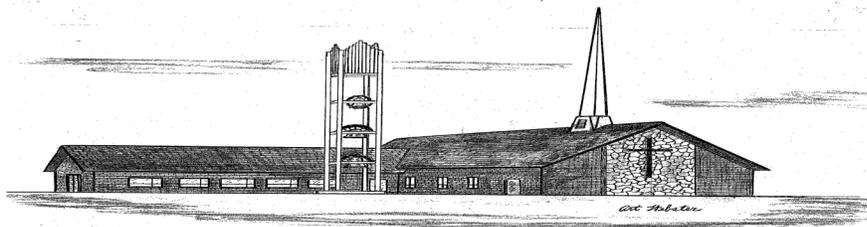


# The Bells

DECEMBER 2013

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## A Christmas Carol

Dear Friends in Christ,

For many people, an annual Christmas tradition is to watch a version of Charles Dickens, “A Christmas Carol”. And there’s many versions to choose from. Since 1910, nearly 95 different actors have played Ebenezer Scrooge in one form or another. That’s nearly one movie or TV show done every year since people started watching “moving pictures”. It’s very popular indeed.

Most of us know the basics of the story, Scrooge is a lonely, miserly, old man. However, on Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by three spirits. These spirits, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, take Scrooge on a journey, revisiting Christmases throughout his life.

While we know the story, most of us don’t realize what a wide influence A Christmas Carol has had on our culture. Phrases like, “Merry Christmas” and “Bah! Humbug!” were popularized by this work. A miserly person became known as a “Scrooge.” And according to one historian, even the current way we observe Christmas is largely the result of a revival of the holiday began by this book.

As people stopped going to church during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Dickens’ created a story of a “self-centered” festival of generosity. Instead of gathering to celebrate the birth of Christ, families gathered around seasonal food and drink, dancing, games, and the theme of “generosity of spirit”. No longer was it important that Christ came, but how you treated your fellow man. In other words, your redemption is dependent on your good works and not on what Jesus did for you.

I think this can be shown in one small scene that the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge. In the Cratchit household, as the family prepares for their Christmas celebration, Bob Cratchit and his son Tiny Tim return to the house. When asked how Tim behaved, this is the reply: “As good as gold,” said Bob, “and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

How is this strange? Christmas is about the one who made lame beggars walk and blind men see. Christmas is about the Son of God who became Immanuel – “Christ with us”. Christmas is about the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, Christmas. Christmas is about our Lord and Savior, coming into this world to save us from our sins, to restore us to a right relationship with God.

Dickens wrote a tale where a life is transformed by the guilt and remorse that one feels confronted by the horrors of this world. But the true **Christmas Carol** is about the one born of the Virgin Mary, the infant who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The true **Christmas Carol** is about the one who came to free us from our sins, who transforms are lives by His grace and mercy. It is only through Christ that we can have the transformed lives that Scrooge experiences in this tale.

And because Christ came, we can echo what Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim say, “A Merry Christmas to us all, God bless us.” “God bless us every one!”

In Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Michael

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### WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM Worship

Sunday: 10:15 AM Worship

### CONTACT US:

#### Website

[www.princeofpeacefreedom.com](http://www.princeofpeacefreedom.com)

#### Phone

Office: 724.728.3881

Preschool: 724.728.2405

Fax: 724.728.6708

#### Email

Pr. Michael

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

[princeofpeacefreedom.com](http://princeofpeacefreedom.com)

Rose DeWeese

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

[princeofpeacefreedom.com](http://princeofpeacefreedom.com)

Liz Shuttleworth

[preschool@](mailto:preschool@princeofpeacefreedom.com)

[princeofpeacefreedom.com](http://princeofpeacefreedom.com)

60 ROCHESTER RD.  
FREEDOM PA 15042

## Bake Sale

The Fellowship Committee is having a bake sale after church on Sunday, December 8, 2013. The proceeds from the bake sale will be used to purchase items that needed for the kitchen. If anyone would like to provide any baked goods for the sale, please see Joleen Mesing.

## Christmas Poinsettia Sale

**Deadline: *December 13, 2013***

***7-1/2" Pot of RED Poinsettias \$10.50 each***

If you would like to order one of these beautiful plants to beautify our sanctuary for the holidays, in memory of a loved one or to thank Our Heavenly Father for His many blessings, **please fill out order forms** and leave it in **Kathy Voland** or **Sandi Morgan's** mail slot, or drop in the offering plate. Please remember to take your plant home after whichever Christmas service you attend.

## POP Christmas Dinner

Our annual Prince of Peace Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 22nd, after service. We are asking that the congregation bring a favorite holiday dessert or appetizer. Please see the sign up form posted on the bulletin board before Sunday, December 15th. There will be a free will offering for the dinner.

Any questions, see Joleen Mesing

## 2014 Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar sign up sheets for 2014 is now posted on the bulletin board. There are two vases of flowers, therefore, two requests per weekend are available and can be taken home following Sunday service. The cost is \$7.50 per vase or if you want both vases fill in BOTH lines.

Altar 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 Kathy Voland's mailbox. Please make checks payable to Prince of Peace. Thank you!

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Bob Dietrich	1
Lynn Melberg	4
Kathy Osten	4
Terri Humphrey	5
Rachel Humphrey	8
Shane Dietrich	10
Jesse Dietrich	12
Kathy Dietrich	15
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

Eric Bendekovic	
Allison Bendekovic	
Darryl Gunther	1
Terri Humphrey	1
Beau DeThomas, Jr.	3
Zach Eckstrom	3
Sarah Nuerge	5
Kathleen Ormiston	9
Andreas Fatschel	18
Bill Kerr	19
Twila DeThomas	24
Carrick Skuse	24
Stone Parker	25

## Anniversaries

Charles & Susan Szabo	1
<i>Celebrating 40 years!</i>	
Craig & Lori Voland	6
Willis & Kathy Voland	11
Jason & Jodi Blank	17
Mike & Donna Lugo	17
Pr. Michael & Mary Podeszwa	22
Ed & Lynn Melberg	27

## Servants in Ministry

### Greeter

1-Rich/Ethel Clayton
8-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
15-Ed/Sandi Morgan
22- <b>OPEN</b>
29-Ruth Miller/Avis Miller

### Reader

1-Ron Doerr
8-Tom Sigler
15-Darryl Gunther
22-Bill Mallary
29-Mary Nuerge

### Acolyte

1-Sophia Fatschel
8-Carrick Skuse
15-Matthew Muto
22-Jase Wilson
29-Kyle Borgman

### Audio Visual

1-K. Ormiston/D. Eckstrom
8-L. Gunther/D. Gunther
15-K. Ormiston/M. Gremer
22-J. Ciccone/D. Eckstrom
29-J. Ciccone/M. Gremer

### Altar Guild

Sandi Morgan & Robin Young
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## Prayer Concerns:

***Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:***

- The victims and survivors of Typhoon Haiyan
- Meghan Lindell recovering from intestinal issues
- Kathy Hoelzel Kathy & Willis Voland's niece) for emotional issues
- Betty Happel, (Jean Taylor's mother)
- Prayers for Tim Rodman's mom who is starting chemotherapy
- Sharon, Bill & Becky Mallary's son-in-law's mother, for serious health issues
- Daine Tomako (friend of Lynn Gunther), lung cancer, Rose Reiley (friend of Sallie Mannino), Bill Patterson (Lawrie Borgman's father), Kristanya Zittlow, Milt Scott, Twila DeThomas' stepfather, Philip Forsyth, battling cancer.

## **HELP WANTED**

Looking for GREETERS on Sunday mornings. Please respond to the note placed in your mailbox asking for your availability.

# The Lutheran Hour

December 1 **"Where There's a Way, There's a Will"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
God is at work in the world today and provides a way for His will to transform your life. (Revelation 22:1-5)

December 8 **"Daily Bread for Eternal Life"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
We can pray to God for daily bread because He's already given us Jesus, the Bread of Life. (Matthew 6:1-5)

December 15 **"Forgiveness, the Gift That Keeps on Giving"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
Forgiveness is God's gift that keeps on giving when our giving gives out. (Matthew 18:21-35)

December 22 **"Use What You've Been Given"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz (Eph. 6:10-17)

December 29 **"Regrets, More Than a Few"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus  
Christ's forgiveness enables us to start the new year with gratitude instead of regret. (1 John 1:9)

## Adopt-A-Student

*From Seth Kunze, our "Adopt-A-Student" from Concordia Seminary:*

Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

I am Seth Kunze, a second year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. I was recently informed that you are helping me financially. Finances are a daunting part of this journey, yet God has given my wife and me peace in being here, a portion of which is from people's support—Christ's body working together.

I would like to introduce you to my family and me so you know more of where your support goes. I am originally from North central Wisconsin where I was raised in a Lutheran Christian family. Lutheran Camps were quite an important part of my life as a kid and even in college when I was a counselor. I went to Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska where I graduated from the Dir. Of Education program, majoring in theology in 2008. For my DCE internship I was placed in Bradford, PA where I then accepted the call to be a DCE. While in Pennsylvania God began tugging harder on my heart to make the move to the Seminary. With tons of prayer, and countless conversations we moved to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the summer of 2012. With one year down, I have passed Greek and Hebrew, wow-tough classes—and am now certified to lead worship and preach. I look forward to what God has in store for the remainder of this academic year. I have an on campus job, manager at the Welcome Center, and work variably at a farm outside of St. Louis.

My wife Jacqueline and I have been married four years this past June. Next to Jesus, she is without a doubt the most amazing person on this planet. We have the gift of a 2 year old son, Kor. He has brought us so much joy it's almost silly! Jacque volunteers on campus, and provides a peaceful place to come home to. Jacqueline is from Oregon where most of her family lives and her father is an LCMS pastor. She too went to Concordia University in Seward where she graduated with a high school and Lutheran teaching degree, majoring in Biology. Her support for me is of greatest encouragement to me through this huge life change!

I close this letter thanking you again for your heart in supporting us. May God richly bless you!

God's peace and JOY!

Seth Kunze

**Note:** Seth & Jacque Kunze can be contacted by writing to them at 6A Founders Way, St. Louis, MO 63105. Updates from the Kunze family will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

# POP Preschool's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House

The Prince of Peace Preschool staff is proud to include a little note about our "Open House". During the first month of school, after all the newness settled down, we realized that not all open seats were filled in Mrs. Smith's classroom. While the preschool staff was attending our morning meeting one day we decided we wanted to try to get not only the already enrolled families to come in, but also invite anyone from the public looking into preschools for their child(ren) to attend as well. With this, the idea of having an open house was born. Fliers went out to our existing families, local schools, businesses, and social media sites, inviting folks to attend our open house that was scheduled on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, and join us for a "Day in the life of our preschoolers!"

The open house really had two purposes: one, allow existing preschoolers and their parents to come in and see what we do on a day to day basis maybe for the working parents who otherwise would not get to see their son or daughter go to preschool, and two, invite any friends, cousins, or neighbors with children of the preschool age, to come see what we are all about. What better marketing than a happy customer who will suggest referrals. Prince of Peace Preschool has a wonderful facility in which we house these students during these two very stepping stone years of social development. Why not fill two morning classes and two afternoon classes?! If we get word out into the surrounding communities about the great things we have to offer, **THEY WILL COME!**

So the beginning of the week leading up the open house we started to get nervous due to lack of RSVP's. We weren't sure how many baskets to raffle off, we weren't sure how many cookies we would need, and we weren't sure if any existing families wanted to attend. Well, God must have answered our prayers because the day before and the morning of the open house everyone rallied and accepted our invitation with excitement. Below and behold the evening of the open house, we received a head count of 90+ in attendance. The number of people who came to experience the preschool and show support was humbling.

Each head classroom teacher spoke briefly about activities their students do daily. We explained likes and dislikes in the classrooms. All students were given a raffle ticket just for attending that evening to be entered into a basket raffle later during refreshments. Parents were given tickets for the raffles too. Each student was encouraged to take their parents around the room and hallway to show off their art work we had worked so hard to display leading up to the open house. Next, all families were invited inside the Chapel for a couple announcements and to enjoy a performance from their children. Lastly, all families were invited to the fellowship hall for some refreshments and at this time the baskets were raffled off. Congratulations to all the basket winners BUT...the preschool staff were really the winners that evening because of the outpouring of support and positive praise we received by countless parents.

We are happy to announce to date that we are only two students short of a full roster in Mrs. Smith's three year old class.

Last but not least, the preschool staff would like to send a sincere THANK YOU to all the congregation members who were in attendance that evening and helped in any way they could. The cookies were delicious as always! God Bless!!

Continuing everyday to make Prince of Peace a Great place to Teach and Worship,

**Mrs. Shuttleworth & Mrs. Smith  
Miss Nikki & Miss Twila**

## **Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Nikki's Preschool News**

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. We have also started on printing our names in upper and lower case letters, not all capitals. Try to reinforce this at home. We have finished all the evaluations so please send them back as soon as possible. Thank you!

### **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 Jesus heals 10 men.

**Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Nikki**

## Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's Preschool News

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

*(Chronicles 16:34)*

The month of November is always a time for us to reflect upon the things in life that we are truly thankful for. I personally use this time of year for reflection, and to thank God for my many blessings which include but are not limited to my two growing daughters and supportive husband at home. During the daily hustle and bustle of life, we sometimes take for granted the roof over our heads and the materialistic items we enjoy. Take all the extras away in life and you still have the love and support of our God!

The Bible lesson we learned in both the three year old and four year old classes during November was the story of "Jesus Heals Ten Men". We explained that the men had a skin condition which was undesirable, leading them to Jesus to ask to be healed. Jesus sent them to the Priest and upon being healed; only one man returned to thank Jesus for his miracle. In addition to the story we emphasized that even children should be thankful for all things. Of course, the ending to our Bible lesson took place during Chapel where the classes sang "Give Thanks to the Lord". Thank you to all the parents, friends, and neighbors who attended Chapel. We even hope everyone enjoyed the "Happy Thanksgiving" salute at the end with the children gobbling like a turkey.

Once again, we added three new letters to our writing skills this month; **L**, **P**, and **T**. The letter **L** helped us focus on Love and Laughter while completing leaves with items we were most thankful for. The letter **P** coincided with the Pilgrims of the "1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving". Both classes enjoyed drawing and coloring Pilgrims and Indians to put on display as I read them a short story of The First Thanksgiving. The letter **T** most certainly stood for THANKSGIVING! We read the book "*Thanks for Thanksgiving*" by Julie Markes. This was a perfect book to read during the week of Thanksgiving because of its language directly explaining to children what they should be thankful for. Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's classes would like to say Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we will be continuing to plan for the class Christmas programs. The three year old program will be held on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am. The four year old program will be held on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Refreshments will follow both programs for the children and their families in the fellowship hall.

As always, we are truly thankful that we get this opportunity to share class time with each and every student. We love all the willingness to learn. As this holiday season is quickly upon us, please have a safe journey through the hustle and bustle of the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Blessings to You and Yours,  
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

# December 2013

SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 1st Sunday of Advent	2 Millvale Braille	3 AM - Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	5	6	7 6:30 Holy Communion
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Study 10:15 Holy Communion Bake Sale <i>Immediately following service</i> Christmas Decorating	9 St. Luke's Braille	10 AM—Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	11 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	12 Forest Hills Braille 6:30 Council Meeting 7:00 Choir Practice	13 Christmas Poinsettia orders due	14 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Study 10:15 Holy Communion	16 Haven Braille	17 AM—Braille 9:00 3 yr. old Preschool Christmas Program 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	18 9:00 4 yr. old Preschool Christmas Program 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	19 9:00 3 yr. old Christmas Party 7:00 Choir Practice	20 9:00 3 yr. old Christmas Party	21 9:00 Practice for Christmas Program 6:30 Holy Communion
22 4th Sunday of Advent <b>Children's Program</b> 10:15 Holy Communion  POP Christmas Dinner <i>Immediately following service</i>	23	24 4:00 Contemporary Service 7:00 Traditional Service	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service	26	27	28 6:30 Holy Communion
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Study 10:15 Holy Communion	30	31 7:00 New Years Eve Service				