

The Bells

Growing Through Conflict

February 10 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty day penitential season of Lent that ends with Easter on March 27. It is early this year. Last year at Labor Day, we had no idea that I would still be serving you, but based on Pastor Michael's latest CaringBridge report, it appears that I will probably be here until Easter. So I need to make plans for Lent.

Since I've been trained to work with congregations in transition that sometimes also includes conflict, I have come to appreciate the ministry of "Ambassadors of Reconciliation," a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. Since conflict is an issue that POP has experienced recently, I would like to share with you during this Lenten season some of the AoR resources that I've used to educate you in Biblical Peacemaking / Reconciliation. I will not be addressing any specific conflicts, but instead we will be learning some basic principles of human nature and how to address conflict in a God-pleasing way as taught in the Bible. What we learn will be a blessing in every facet of your lives.

Let me first tell you a little about the organization, founded by LCMS lay businessman, Ted Kober. Their website describes their ministry as follows: "Ambassadors of Reconciliation is an international ministry founded to equip Lutherans and their churches for living, proclaiming and cultivating lifestyles of reconciliation. Their theme verse is from 2 Corinthians:

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."
(2 Corinthians 5:20)

Since we have been reconciled to God we should therefore also be reconciled to one another. Unfortunately, that is easier said than done. The good news is that God's Word has a lot to say about **how** to "be reconciled to one another." That will be our theme for this season of Lent in our Sunday services as well as our midweek Bible studies.

Plans are still taking shape, but we are considering a slight shift in our Wednesday morning Bible study time, so that we can invite preschool parents or grandparents to meet with us. If you would like a little less conflict and a little more peace in your life, please make it a point to be with us every Sunday during Lent and, if possible, at the Bible study for more in depth discussion. If you can't make it during the day, let Wendy know and I will consider an evening study group as well. If you know someone else who has struggled with conflict in their lives (not just in church), invite them to come with you. We need to have an idea of how many people will participate, so that we can order bible study materials.

We will have the traditional major midweek worship services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

See you in church AND BIBLE STUDY! Bring a friend!—Pastor Fred

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

Pr. Fred Poeppel
pfpoeppe@yahoo.com

Wendy Liston
secretarypop@princeofpeacefreedom.com

Contents:

Lutheran Hour	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Evangelism	5
Preschool News	6 & 7
February Calendar	8

The Lutheran Hour—February Sermon Schedule

February 7

"It's Best to Be with Jesus "

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Life is not a do-it-yourself project. To live life to its fullest, we need Jesus.
(Luke 9:28-36)

February 14

"Call on Him "

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Everyone? Yes!
(Romans 10:11-13)

February 21

"Body and Soul Salvation "

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, we have a "Body and Soul" Savior for "Jekyll and Hyde" sinners.
(Philippians 3:17-4:1)

February 28

"Follow Him "

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Is your life is headed in the wrong direction? Jesus says, "Follow Me!"
(Matthew 9:9)

PoP Sweethearts

Valentine's Day is a special holiday where we remember the sweetest people in our lives. Take a moment to update your address books with contact information for the following members and maybe even send them a special Valentine!

Joan Bowen	134 Marwood Rd., Lund Care Center, Apt. 1801, Cabot, PA 16023
Cora Harris	615 N. Pike Rd., Oertel Hall, Rm. 102, Cabot, PA 16023
Margaret Rombold	161 Brunner Rd., Zelianople, PA 16063
Ross Shively	104 Pappan Business Dr., Apt. 329, Beaver Falls PA 15010
Cliff Teets	100 Norman Dr., Sherwood Oaks, Cranberry PA 16066
Edna Gaertner	Penn Marr Plaza, Apt. 107, Mars, PA 16046
Mary Palmquist	St. Joseph Villa, 1030 W. State St., Baden, PA 15005

The LWML would like to thank you so very much for the mite money collected in 2015. \$742.50 was the total. The mission goal for 2015-2017 is \$2,000,000.00. We still need \$1,338,280.94 . 6 grant recipients are receiving checks this month from mites and they are for : LCMS Global Seminary Initiative, Rosa Young Academies, Training Teachers & Leaders, Opportunities in Uganda, Helping Hands Initiative, & Deaconess Training. Please go to www.lwml.org to stay inform of missions and devotions. Again thank you to all the workers in God 's harvest field! Mary Lehocky

February Birthdays

Birthdays

Roger Nuerge	2
Avis Miller	3
Jean Taylor	4
Shane Parker	11
Brett Torres	11
Joel Nuerge	12
Justin Nuerge	12
Luke Bendekovic	12
Ariana Gloeckner	13
Lisa Dietrich	14
Amber Gremer	14
Matthew Osten	16
Ronald Nowry	17
Skylar DeThomas	19
Minnie Nowry	20
Rich Clayton	21
Allison Bendekovic	22
Morgan Blank	24
Hannah Bendekovic	27
John Dietrich	28
Aubrey Merkle	28
Kyle Borgman	29

Baptismal Birthdays

Kathy Voland	
Tom Sigler	
George Mesing	2
Sallie Mannino	5
Shane Dietrich	7
Bill Mallary	8
Jean Taylor	9
Joan Coe	14
Mary Nuerge	15
Kim Singleton	21
Roger Nuerge	22
Brooke Lehman	22
Lisa Dietrich	24
Jason Mengel	24
Becky Mallary	25
Joel Nuerge	26
Justin Nuerge	26
Karen Meinert	28
Jane Wilson	28

Anniversaries

Tom & Cheri Shively	12
Lorena Hamara & Ron McWilliams	14
Scott & Beth Lehman	19
Tom & Aubrey Merkle	21

Servants in Ministry

Greeter

- 7 – Doug/Tammy Eckstrom
- 14 – Eric/Luke Bendekovic
- 21 – Ed/Sandi Morgan
- 28 – Ruth Miller

Reader

- 7 – Sam Osten
- 14 – Bill Mallary
- 21 – Karl Borgman
- 28 – Tara Dulski

Acolyte

- 7 – Cole Skuse
- 14 – Noah Weedon
- 21 – Hannah Bendekovic
- 28 – Tyler Borgman

Audio Visual

- 7 – Darryl Gunther/Mike Gremer
- 14 – Stephan Fatschel/Doug Eckstrom
- 21 – Matthew Muto/Doug Eckstrom
- 28 – Lynn/Darryl Gunther

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer
& Susan Ozenich

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- ❖ Kathy Voland for recovery after shoulder surgery.
- ❖ Joyce Hewlett for healing after foot surgery.
- ❖ 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: Rich Kardos (Tom & Colleen Sigler’s nephew), 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.





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

Attention Married Couples: Have you signed up for your spring Lutheran Marriage

Encounter Weekend? NOW is the time to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty God intended. Weekends run from Friday evening at 8 PM to Sunday afternoon around 4 PM.

The 2016 Pennsylvania Spring Weekends are:

- **April 8-10, 2016** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's"
- **April 22-24, 2016** at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA, Happy Valley's premier conference center located on a quiet hillside with views of Nittany Mountain

Registrations are also being accepted for the September 16-18, 2016 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA, in the Poconos and the October 21-23, 2016 Weekend at the beautiful Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA . Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee plus a contribution of whatever amount you wish to make near the end of the Weekend toward the continuation of the program.

To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. **Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice.** For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.



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

Our Family, Our Father, Our Faith

Family love runs deep. It often defines a person's priorities.

The Apostle Paul asked the Corinthian Christians to consider this question; "What do you have that wasn't given to you?" *1 Corinthians 4:7.*

Despite rampant dysfunction, families remain the cultural foundation for untold benefits that God gives to the world. Families can also breed personal trouble and societal curses.

Being part of a family frames a person's sense of security, respect, hope and service, or the lack thereof. Parental influence is well documented. Its significant impact cannot be denied. Parents provide the key factors in a person's values and attitudes.

Among the many designs our Creator gave, He also gave us His Word about His intent for families. A family home is the place where children are to be nurtured, admonished (encouraged) and instructed to help them know God and learn to be stewards (managers) of all of life. The family unit provides the best opportunity for a person to grow in loyal love and grateful service.

Jesus showed us that God is our heavenly Father. Jesus, as our brother, understood his eternal identity and left us His example as a testament to exhibit all the power and wisdom that our eternal Father wants for us and our spiritual family.

With this picture of 'family' in view, a question arises.

When we leave this earth, what will others remember about us? What will the example of our own lives tell others? Will our own last will and testament reflect our connection with our family of faith? Will it point to the priorities that we held as faithful Christian stewards? Will it give witness to our prayer that, "Thy Kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven?" Or will we leave no documentable trace of such a legacy? *For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfn.org or 716-863-4427.*

Reflecting Back, Looking Forward

In the Great Commission, Jesus says, **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** Matthew 28: 19-20.

God doesn't say that only the select few should be working for Him. He commands ALL Christians to do what they can. While we may never see first-hand the results of our efforts to live out the Great Commission, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit is at work all the time to make things happen. All we have to do is create opportunities to make those connections and develop relationships with those around us. And in 2015 we did just that.

It's humbling to work with so many people who are committed to getting to know others on a personal level by volunteering to be involved in the many activities hosted by POP members in the past year:

- Leading worship at Rebecca Residence for those who are unable to attend a traditional church service
- Hosting Fall Festival to give our preschool families an opportunity to have fun and refreshments and meet some of our members
- Sending Care Packages and Devotional Booklets to our College Students to remind them about Jesus' (and our) love for them
- Hosting Kidz Night Out to give our preschool parents a break during the Christmas season
- Distributing “Do You Know Who Jesus Is?” booklets to our preschoolers

We'd like to thank those who are generous with their time and talents and encourage those who aren't yet plugged in to these fun and rewarding opportunities. Let's not rest on our laurels but look forward to 2016 and the opportunity to make an even greater impact for Him.

While we like to host major events, such as the Spaghetti dinner fundraiser scheduled for January 30th, there are many ways to reach out to others with love and compassion. Let's make 2016 a year to focus on this theme, **“With God all things are possible.”** We can make a difference simply by inviting a struggling acquaintance or friend to have coffee or lunch. We can make a difference by forgiving someone who has hurt us in some way. We can make a difference by serving others in need. There are so many simple ways to help others that only require some of our time and a commitment to be present.

We would like to hear from you—please tell us what events you would like to see (or, better yet, organize) at POP, tell us your stories about opportunities that you've had to shine the light of Jesus so that others may be inspired, and be on the lookout for opportunities to make a difference in the community in which you live or work.

Yours partners in His work,
Tammy Eckstrom
Willis Voland
Twila DeThomas

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

Well it is that time of year again, when we get the snow suits out and dress children over and over again! I love a good snowball fight and making snow angels in the fresh fallen snow! Winter is definitely here! The children are all busy working on their alphabet books and their number books. They have grown in so many ways since the beginning of the school year. You should be very proud! We are! I will say that I do believe that they have spring fever and the teachers do too!!! They have a lot of energy to run off so we have been doing just that. We have been playing musical snowflakes and snowmen in the fellowship hall with many balls and some hockey nets. Boy they have been enjoying that!!! It's also great exercise for the teachers. Our Bible lesson for the month was Daniel in the lion's den. Both classes had a pajama party and the teachers even liked coming to school in our pajamas. We danced and played games. A great time was had by all!

Three year olds

The three year olds lesson for this month was Nursery Rhymes. I was glad to see that some of them knew some! We did some fun activities too. Mitten Matching, Mitten Measurement and Musical Snowflakes! Wow did they like that! We even wished upon our own stars! This is such a fun unit to do with them. We had a lot of fun with the kids. Thanks for sharing them with us.

Four year olds

The four year olds lessons for this month were hibernation and rhyming words. Once they caught on to the rhyming, they had a lot of fun with it! We even made up silly rhyming words, like Dr. Seuss is known for! The children had so much fun with this! We discussed the many animals that sleep for the winter and how other animals prepare for the winter and we talked about how we prepare for the winter too. We are still working hard on our number and alphabet books. We have started printing our names in upper and lower case letters. Everyone is doing a great job and time is sure flying.

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Kristina

January Preschool News - Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

HAPPY 2016!!!

Both preschool classes jumped right back into each school day after a quick “show and tell”. All the boys and girls were permitted to bring his or her favorite Christmas gift to show the class. Toys were definitely the most popular type of gift that the children brought from home.

It was nice during the month of January to have full weeks of instruction again since the holiday season is over. The only thing we are battling now is “Mother Nature”. Is spring coming yet? Please stay warm and safe during the rest of this winter. Both classes sure were busy all month. We learned four new letters during our writing skills lessons during January. We learned the letters; N, Y, D, and Z.

During the N week we talked about the “New Year” and even made a 2016 card to take home. Towards the end of the month we focused on animals that hibernate. We talked about what it means to hibernate and which animals typically do so. We always have crafts that go with lessons and even our three year old class took home a book about hibernation. This time of year it’s hard to keep the distractions to a minimum, but when it was time for a science project about the five senses, the boys and girls sure were attentive. The sense of “taste” was so cool to play with. Students were encouraged and given the opportunity to taste food items that were: sweet, sour, bitter, and salty. We really had their attention during this activity. In addition to taste the students learned about sight, sound, smell, and touch. Our job is so easy when we have all these eager learners.

As always, all classes had a Bible lesson to focus on. This month the preschoolers learned about Daniel and the Lion’s den. The children were taught that the King wanted to make Daniel the ruler over the land because God had made him wise. This made the other men jealous so they talked the King into making everyone pray to him and not God. Daniel still prayed to God even though he was thrown to the Lions; Daniel was saved. Our boys and girls really participated in a question and answer segment Miss Twila held asking detail questions about our theme in January, Daniel and the Lion’s Den. Miss Twila asks enough questions so that every student can win a small prize during our bible lessons each month.

January was a fun and exciting month during preschool. We are gearing up for a very busy February too. We will have two field trips to look forward to in February to Monte Cello’s Restaurant and X-Cel Gymnastics facility. Our time with the four year olds is half over, which makes us push toward preschool graduation so that they may be ready to enter kindergarten. We are now accepting 2016-2017 registration for both three year old and four year old preschool classes. Please contact one of us at the preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Until Next Month; God Bless,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

February 2016

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