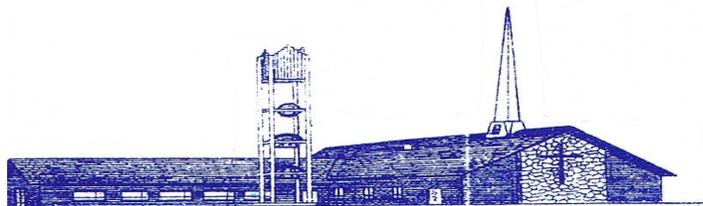


The Bells



PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 38 Issue 1

JANUARY 2012

Same Hope, New Year

Dear Friends in Christ,

A recent devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries pointed out a significant fact. On January 1st, 2012, many new laws will be in effect. For example, as of January 1st, you will no longer be able to purchase 100 watt incandescent light bulbs. On January 1st, the Internal Revenue Service will begin tracking the purchases of gold and silver coins of values over \$600. Besides these, there are countless regulations and tax codes that are changing that only a professional can keep track of them.

In Pennsylvania, there are some new local laws that take effect at the same time. Employers will have to begin withholding local earned income taxes, if they're not already. You'll have to show proof that you're trying to find work in order to receive the Pennsylvania unemployment compensation. And if you are a fisherman, the rules for catching and releasing bass on certain rivers has changed as well.

I've even found out that beginning on January 1st, high school baseball players will have to change the type of bats they use, to make sure they are in compliance with the new rules.

January 1st is a good time to change the rules. It's a date that everyone recognizes and marks on their calendars because it's the beginning of a new year. The government uses it as a date of implantation for new laws, rules and regulations and so do we. Each year, many people make their "New Year's Resolutions." They promise themselves that they will be nicer, be happier, be healthier during the New Year.

One thing won't be changing this year. In the epic psalm 119, the psalmist writes: "Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love. The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." (Ps. 119:159-160 ESV)

God's word never changes. What God has revealed about Himself, His mercy, His love for His creation, and His plan for salvation, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We won't wake up one day to find some other means of salvation. We won't wake up one day to find God abandoning that which He loves.

We can hold fast to our hope of salvation in Jesus Christ without wavering, because He who promised it to us is faithful. It is the same hope we had the year before and it will be the same hope the year after. As we enter this new year, we can continue to encourage each other, to support each other and continue to do good works for our neighbors because our God is faithful and true.

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

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A Challenge for 2012

This year consider making one – just one – resolution for 2012: to speak up more about Jesus, especially to those who do not have faith in Him. We American Christians have become far too quiet. Perhaps we don't want to be accused of shoving our beliefs down someone else's throat. Perhaps we don't want to be viewed as a "Bible beater" or "Jesus freak." Perhaps we actually believe there are many paths to God and it doesn't really matter what someone believes. It's a personal thing, just between them and their god.

Yet, Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. There is only one path to eternal life. There are, however, innumerable paths to hell. We Christians possess the singular most important message the world needs to hear. The words we have to speak are from the Holy Spirit and they are life.

In order to keep this resolution, we have two obstacles to overcome. One is our timidity in speaking the Gospel, which is only dealt with through worship, Bible study, and prayer. The second problem is that some of us really don't know many people who aren't Christians.

How can you and I challenge ourselves to go beyond our comfort zones and reach non-Christians with the message of the Gospel? Here I would like to offer some ideas for expanding our circle of influence in order to make disciples of all nations. Some are simple. Some are a bit radical.

- Cultivate more relationships with non-Christians by joining a book club, sports league, or community education class.
- Continue cultivating relationships by volunteering with a service organization. Examples include hospitals, the PTA, a crisis pregnancy center, soup kitchen or rescue mission, tutoring programs, and the Bountiful Blessings program at St. Matthew's.
- Get involved with political movements that protect our ability to live and witness according to our Christian faith.
- Become a foster parent or adopt a child, either from the U.S. or overseas.
- Prayerfully and financially support Lutheran missionaries who are all over the globe serving the needs of people both spiritually and physically. Learn more about this at: www.lwr.org, www.lhm.org, & www.lcms.org.
- Volunteer to go on a mission trip overseas. Lutheran Hour Ministries and Lutheran World Mission offer opportunities for various lengths of service – anywhere from one week to two years. Read more about this at: <http://www.lhm.org/teams/projects.asp> and <http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=427>.

“THE WORDS
WE HAVE TO
SPEAK ARE
FROM THE HOLY
SPIRIT AND THEY
ARE LIFE.”

Finally, if you have ideas for how we, the family of God at Prince of Peace, can serve the needs of our community together, please share them with a member of the Evangelism team. Also, speak with one of them if you are interested in going on an overseas mission trip with a team from church.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries:

David & Susan Voland—4
Mike & Sharon Marr —20
Bob & Debbie Steigerwald —29

Birthdays:

Erich Borgman —1
Joanie Gremer—1
Tom Applequist—2
Mike Gremer—2
Amy Wilson—2
Karen Doerr—3
Jason Bruce—5
Rory McCracken —25
Ethel Clayton —6
Sam Osten —6
Sallie Mannino—7
Brooke Lehman—10
Sandi Morgan—10
Olivia Baker—14
Stephen Baker—15
George Mesing—15
Karen Meinert—17
Colleen Sigler—17
Karen Koenig—18
Linda Mcweyn—20
Ted Fessides—21
Mary Nuerge—21
Natalie Osten—21
Kathy Volland—24
Joan Bowen—25
Sylvia Clayton—27
Bob Steigerwald —31

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Greeters:

1-Crissy Nadzam/Madi Daubenspeck
8-Milt/Christie Scott
15-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
22-Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
29-Bill/Brandon Andrews

Readers:

1-Alex Remmers
8-Tara Dulski
15-Bill Andrews
22-Diane O’Palka
29-Sam Osten

Acolytes:

1-Jeremy Osten
8-J.P. Humphrey
15-Erich Borgman
22-Ruthann Weedon
29-Tori Muto

Audio Visual:

8-Stephan Fatschel
15-Lynn Gunther
22-Kathleen Ormiston
29-Darryl Gunther

Altar Flowers:

1-Alex Remmers
8-Tara Dulski
15-Bill Andrews
22-Diane O’Palka
29-Sam Osten

Altar Guild:

Crissy Nadzam, Madi Daubenspeck
Robin Young, Linda Weimer

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- The Alberts family for the passing of Ken Alberts
- Cliff Teets hospitalized for a stroke
- Leslie, co-worker of Darryl Gunther for health concerns
- The family of Jim Smith for his recent passing
- John Alberti, diagnosed with rare bone marrow disease
- Kim Singleton’s uncle and family for support and guidance during difficult situations
- Buck Patzer
- Christina Schuliger and Angela Schwab (friends of Lynn Gunther)
- LuAnn Shonk (Bev Kohler’s daughter), lung problems
- Mare Miller, Connie Mannino, Alan Singleton, Joanie Gremer, Philip Forsyth, Marie Teets, battling cancer.

CITY RESCUE MISSION

This year more than 2,000 individuals will receive food through the City Rescue Mission’s Thanksgiving Basket Distribution. It is only through your generosity that we are able to care for so many of our neighbors in need. Thank You! To learn more about the ministries of City Rescue Mission, please visit us on the web at:

www.cityrescue mission.org

Thank you for being our Partner in Hope!



Rev. Gregory Seltz

The LHM Mission:
*Bringing Christ to the Nations—
and the Nations to the Church.*

**THE THREE
INITIATIVES OF
LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**

- Powerfully proclaim Christ's love in the public arena so the unchurched can come to know and respond to Christ's love.
- Equip Lutheran Church members worldwide with adequate skills and a passion to share their faith and welcome the unchurched.
- Engage Lutheran Church Congregations worldwide in a commitment to reach all nations, all peoples, all in Christ.



LHM International Ministry Centers in more than 30 countries around the world share God's love and the story of Jesus through means appropriate to the local culture. Drama, music, rhythm, and dance are frequently used in African communities as vehicles for conveying Christian messages.

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Proclaiming Christ for 75 Years.

January 1 "The Lord Will Have the Last Say!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The Lord Jesus saves, the Lord Jesus reigns, and in all things He will have the last say! We begin the new year in His Name. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

January 8 "Jesus' Baptism: Solidarity with Sinners to Save Them!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus stepped into the Jordan River for a baptism He didn't need in order to save a people who didn't deserve it. He showed solidarity with sinners so that they might receive God's forgiveness and mercy by grace. (Mark 1:4-11)

January 15 "Bought with A Price!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

What are you worth? We live in a world that doesn't know how to answer that question. Your true value is found in a restored relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

January 22 "Living a Life With Purpose"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, God has a plan for you—a life with purpose, life to its fullest measure, life in Him—for others. (Mark 1:14-20)

January 29 "One With Authority"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Even Jesus' enemies had to admit that He spoke with authority. What's more, Jesus showed His power and authority to forgive sins and conquer death itself. (Mark 1:21-22)

Bible Studies for Women

Much is made of "getting some me time" in our hectic lives. This could be the ability to sit quietly, alone, on the couch, with a good book and a cup of coffee. It could be a night out with "the girls." It could be a luxurious bubble bath, a horseback ride, or a movie -- anything that restores us to the sane and joyful people we want to be. We long for peace and rest. Jesus beckons to us, "Come to ME all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

This is an invitation to spend some time abiding in Jesus.

It is the best thing you can do for your soul.

God Is in the Laundry Room—Wednesday Mornings- Jan. 11 – Feb. 29, 9–11:15 am

There's more to life than daily task lists and repetitive chores. There has to be...right? Begin to see purpose and significance wherever you are in your day. Inspired by the words of Jeremiah 29:13, *God Is in the Laundry Room* is a reminder that when we seek the Lord with our whole heart, we find Him everywhere...even in the laundry room. This Bible study takes you beyond merely filling in the right answers. Instead, it challenges you to dig a little deeper, explore a little further, and make personal application of the passages to your life. As you do, you'll be drawn closer to the Savior, who washes away our sins.

God Loves Moms—Monday Evenings—Jan. 9 – March 26, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This Bible study was offered during the fall. The women who participated enjoyed it so much and thought it was so good, we decided to offer it again. Even though this study was written with moms in mind, any woman will gain tons of insight from it, whether or not she is a mom.

The women we read about in God's Word were just regular women—like us. And they had the same insecurities and vulnerabilities that we all feel – guilt, bitterness, loneliness, skepticism, grief, etc. Each of these twelve sessions includes a short narrative about a typical modern mom's life and a look at a biblical woman's faith story to show how she serves as an example of God's love. This study digs deep into the stories of thirteen biblical women for a fresh look at how God reveals His grace through Christ for you.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PUZZLE (ANSWERS)

This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends.

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**. **Elaine** Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her with her nerves.

There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That is a **fact**. **Some** people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, **especially** since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** a minister or a scholar to see some of them **at the worst**.

Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local paper, the **Chronicle**, surveyed over 100 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view from sight." **Those able** to find all of them will hear **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**; there are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES

When is the last time the two of you did something just for your relationship? Make 2012 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the Weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you choose toward the continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The **2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends** are: **March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College PA**; **April 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA** **September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA** and **October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA**. Registrations are limited, so choose your Weekend, and sign up today to ensure your first choice. If a conflict arises, you may transfer your registration to any other Weekend that has openings. To sign up, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and register using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

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Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Chris's Preschool News

What a busy month we have had! The children have been practicing very hard for their Christmas programs! They worked very hard and it was such a joy watching them perform! Both classes did a super job and we are so proud of all of them! A big THANK YOU to all the parents who made costumes and baked cookies for our programs! We could not do it without you!



Four & three year olds

The four and three year olds are still working hard on their letters and numbers. Our main topic for the month was The True Meaning of Christmas. We had a tree decorating party and made some very pretty ornaments for our tree.

We started on evaluations and we will be finishing them up after Christmas break! The fours will start working on printing their name in upper and lower case letters.

Thank you for sharing your children with us! We are having so much fun with them and they are a joy to have! Have a blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Mrs. Ward & Ms. Carrie's Preschool News

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. James 1:17

I have to admit that Christmas isn't my favorite time of the year. I just feel like so many of us get so caught up in the hustle bustle of the season that we forget the true meaning of the holiday. One of my favorite teaching moments occurred last year during the Christmas season, one of my students reminded me of their innocence and that not all of us forget the birth of Jesus...

During our morning playtime, one of my students said to me, "Mrs. Ward, my birthday is in December. Do you know why I'm excited for my birthday?" I was expecting her to say something like..."I'm having a Barbie party!" or "I'm asking for a dollhouse!", but that isn't what she said at all. She said, "Mrs. Ward, I'm excited for my birthday because it is two days after Jesus' birthday. That means that I almost get to spend my special day with special Jesus!" I was taken aback and tears filled my eyes. I thought this was one of the most thoughtful and unselfish things I have ever heard a three year old say. I was quickly reminded that the children really do know that Jesus is the reason for the season! *The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126:3)*

We spent the month of December talking about the birth of Baby Jesus. We also spent a great deal of time preparing for our Christmas program. The children were very proud of themselves. They did a fabulous job. In addition to these things, we also had some fun. We decorated our Christmas tree, made a countdown for Christmas, made Santa's beard from our very own handprints, and had our Christmas party! A special thank you goes out to all of the parents for helping with the Christmas party and making this a joyous time for the boys and girls. As always, we are continuing to work on our ABC and 123 books. Ms. Carrie and I are pleased with the progress your children have been showing since the beginning of the school year!

Until next month...I hope this holiday season left you with precious memories and a new year with continuing blessings, friends, family, good work, and great fun! Happy 2012!

Smiling at you, Mrs. Ward and Ms. Carrie

Special December Birthdays

December 5th ~ Robbie Castelli

December 13th ~ Dante Burkett

December 23rd ~ Jason Mengel

December 27th ~ Kara Aland

December 27th ~ Sara Aland

RESOLUTIONS

How did you do with your resolutions for the year 2011? About the same as for other years? Can you even remember what those resolutions were? Why do we struggle so much with resolutions? Is it because they are not realistic? Is it because we try to do it completely on our own without any outside help (even from God)? Failure is one of the biggest disappointments in life. Is it possible to start over successfully?

As we enter into this New Year we have another opportunity to start over. Having the privilege of starting over is one of the things in life that gives us hope and courage as we look to the future. As we take down our 2011 calendars and replace them with 2012 calendars we really can start over.

In Romans 12:12 (NIV) the Holy Spirit gives us some great ingredients for a really good New Year's resolution. The encouragement is to ***"be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer."*** Life would be so sweet if everyone could adopt and live out those three pieces as a New Year's resolution.

"Be joyful in hope" should be pretty easy for Christians because our hope is in Christ and ***"that hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."*** (Romans 5:5 NIV)

"Be patient in affliction" can be considerably more difficult because we do not like affliction. Who of us likes to be mistreated by people who are rude, inconsiderate and downright nasty? Where can we get the strength to be patient in affliction? It takes a giant transformation to behave so nicely when afflicted? Our comfort is that the power to do that does not come from within us, but from outside of us. When we were baptized ***"we were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*** (Romans 6:4 NIV) No one in the history of mankind had to deal with as much affliction as Jesus, our Savior! And He did it out of love for us so that we do not have to fear eternal affliction!

"Faithful in prayer" keeps us in touch with God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spent entire nights in prayer with His Father in heaven so that He would have the strength to carry out His mission of dying for sinners so that they might have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Prayer is an excellent way to stay in touch with God and His love and power.

How does this threefold resolution make a difference in our lives and the lives of those around us? It does because the Holy Spirit is at work within us to make us more and more the children of God. As children of God we seek to do the same things that give Him such delight. John 3:16 tells us that God delights in **loving** and **giving**. God has entrusted us with all of life and life's resources and desires that we manage them wisely according to His purposes. **Loving** and **giving** are at the heart of Christian stewardship.

May God bless us all as His stewards in this New Year of 2012!



JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday of Christmas	2	3 6:30 Kidz Klub 7:00 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study	4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	5 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	6	7 6:30 Holy Communion
8 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion	9 7:00 God Loves Moms Bible Study	10 6:30 Kidz Klub 7:00 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study	11 9:00 God is in the Laundry Room Bible Study 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	12 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	13	14 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion	16 7:00 God Loves Moms Bible Study	17 6:30 Kidz Klub 7:00 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study	18 9:00 God is in the Laundry Room Bible Study 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	19 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	20	21 6:30 Holy Communion
22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion	23 7:00 God Loves Moms Bible Study	24 6:30 Kidz Klub 7:00 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study	25 9:00 God is in the Laundry Room Bible Study 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	26 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	27	28 6:30 Holy Communion
29 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Bible Classes 10:15 Holy Communion	30 7:00 God Loves Moms Bible Study	31 6:30 Kidz Klub 7:00 Comrades of Christ 7:00 Bible Study				