

# The Bells

## WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM  
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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## An Invitation

Dear Friends in Christ,

As many of you already know, we are having a discussion on worship in the church. Our contemporary services went on hiatus for the month of December, and as they return in January they will be a little different, a little simpler than they were in the past.

What worship is and how we do it is a not an easy answer for the Church. The doctrine of worship is intertwined with our teachings on who Jesus and what He has done for us, the gifts He gives to us. We cannot separate one for the other. And just as we cannot explain in a short newsletter article who Jesus and what He does, we cannot explained what worship is in the same way. For example, our confessions state that "Faith is that divine service (worship) which receives the benefits that God offers... God wants to be honored by faith so that we receive from him those things that he promises and offers." This simple answer doesn't describe the functions, the forms, the elements of worship.

This is not a new issue for the Church. During the Reformation, Luther and the other reformers were accused by their adversaries of abandoning the right and proper worship of God. And while the Lutheran churches retained rites and practices that delivered to the people the gifts of God, some of the more radical reformers actually did completely abandon and change worship to the detriment of those that God had placed under their care.

So what are we to do? How ought we to do our worship services?

The first step is to develop a common understanding of worship, to learn the terms and meanings what is done in the service and why we do it. As we learn to speak the same language, we will begin to be able to communicate to each other what our needs are in the worship service. In order to develop this common understanding, **you are invited** to attend a study on our Liturgy beginning **January 11<sup>th</sup> after the worship service**. This study is a video series by Dr. Arthur Just, professor and chairman of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne and it teaches the theology of worship.

This series will help us speak the same language about worship so that we can begin the second step and talk about what a contemporary service at Prince of Peace is within the Lutheran doctrine of worship. Now this is not going to be a quick process. It will take some time to learn about worship, about its theology and purpose, before we begin to act upon these teachings. I beg for that time, for patience as we go through this process. By God's grace, as we gather around Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Christian Church, we will grow in faith toward God and in love toward one another.

Please, plan on attending this study on worship, which will last for at least six weeks. Please, pray for us and this church as we learn and act upon God's teachings.

In Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Michael



By now most of you have heard that Kathleen Ormiston resigned as Financial Secretary on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and, prior to that, she resigned as the lead of the A/V Committee. You may have also noticed her absence from the congregational Christmas dinner and weekly church services. It is unclear the reason of her departure, but I am sure she would welcome your phone call or email offering your support and words of encouragement.

Kathleen has been a member of Prince of Peace since 2001 and was a strong, caring leader in our congregation. During those years, she willingly participated on many committees, faithfully conducted and attended Bible studies and enthusiastically and tirelessly volunteered to help with many of the activities and events we hosted. Kathleen had one of the kindest hearts I've ever known. Her devotion to the Lord was and should be an inspiration to all of us. Thank you, Kathleen, for gracing us with your friendship and spiritual wisdom over the past 13 years. I will certainly miss your warm smiling face and God-loving presence every Sunday morning.

God's peace,  
Diane O'Palka

## **The Lutheran Hour—January Sermon Schedule**

January 4 "**Gospel Power for Personal Patience**"

Jesus teaches us to be patient and wait with hope in God's promises. (Luke 2:40-52)

January 11 "**Are You Qualified?**"

God qualifies us for eternal life through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. (Romans 6:1-11)

January 18 "**The Antidote**"

Jesus is the antidote for our cynicism and doubt. (John 1:43-51)

January 25 "**Just the Facts**" Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

God's truth, as revealed in the Bible, remains true regardless of whether anyone believes it or not. (Isaiah 5:20-21)

## **50+ Dinners**

Fellowship's 50+ Dinners will start up again in January. If you are interested in going please sign up on the bulletin board, by January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have our private room at Atria's as usual and dinner is at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions you can contact Joyce Hewlett at (724) 591-5475.

# January Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Erich Borgman	1
Joanie Gremer	1
Mike Gremer	2
Amy Wilson	2
Karen Doerr	3
Ethel Clayton	6
Sam Osten	6
Sallie Mannino	7
Brooke Lehman	10
Sandi Morgan	10
George Mesing	15
Karen Meinert	17
Colleen Sigler	17
Mary Nuerge	21
Natalie Osten	21
Kathy Voland	24
Joan Bowen	25
Brianna Dulski	26
Sylvia Stedina	27

## Baptismal Birthdays

Charles Coe	1
Peter Humphrey	1
Bill Mallary	1
Joseph Meinert	1
Skylar DeThomas	8
Morgan Blank	9
Dustin Parker	11
Brendan Doerr	17
Matt Parker	18
Kaitlyn Schultz	21
Don Wunnenberg	22
Mike Gremer	29
Sam Osten	31



## Servants in Ministry

### Greeter

#### 4-**OPEN**

11-Milt/Christie Scott  
18-Darryl/Lynn Gunther  
25-Stephan/Mirka Fatschel

### Reader

4-Karl Borgman  
11-Dana Hankinson  
18-Kathy Osten  
25-**OPEN**

### Acolyte

4-Cade Skuse  
11-Noah Weedon  
18-Matt Osten  
25-Jase Wilson

### Audio Visual

4-D. Gunther/M. Gremer &  
M. Muto  
11-S. Fatschel/D. Eckstrom  
18-L. Gunther/M. Gremer &  
M. Muto  
25-D. Gunther/D. Eckstrom

### Altar Guild

Rachel Eckstrom &  
Linda Weimer

## **Prayer Concerns**

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- The Borgman family grieving the loss of Karl's father Robert
- June Shively, at Beaver Valley Nursing home
- Continued prayers of healing for Chuck Taylor, Sue Szabo, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks, Carol Helkowski and Willis Voland's sister Betty Ann
- Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott, and Twila DeThomas' stepfather battling cancer

## **December Preschool News ... Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki**

What a busy month we have had! The children practiced 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!

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.

The four year olds worked very hard on our new Christmas program. They were all angels and sang like angels too!

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!

Smiling at You,

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

**December Preschool News . . . Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila**

*Glory to God in the Highest, Peace and Goodwill toward Men.*

The month of December was spent worshipping God and preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This Bible concept is what we focused on with both the three year old and four year old classes. This year's preschool Christmas program for the three year olds consisted of the children bringing forth items mentioned in a story told from the perspective of Santa Claus. Santa tells the story of how Jesus' birth is the meaning of the holiday. Santa tells us to "Teach the Children" about the true meaning of Christmas. The boys and girls were sweet and innocent as they presented their gifts during the program. Let us not leave out our four year old class. Just like last year our four year old class represented an angelic choir. The four year old class began with a spunky rendition of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, just to get all the families who attended into the holiday spirit. During the main part of the show; a narrator read the true story of Christmas (Jesus' Birth). The children listened as the story was read; only to intermittently chime in as an angelic choir with songs that coincided with the journey to Jesus' birth. All the four year old boys and girls were dressed in white angel costumes. Oh, what a sight! Try to imagine the sanctuary darkened while the children were singing *Silent Night*, only by the light of their candles. Miss Twila and I are very proud of both classes for a job well done! What a busy but wonderful program to be a part of.

A special THANK YOU goes out to the members of the congregation for once again taking time out of their lives to help and be hospitable as we welcome our preschool families to stay for refreshments after the program. In addition to congregation members we would like to say another special THANK YOU to Miss Donna, Mr. Terry, and Miss Rose for always being there to help behind the scenes as we prepare each year for the family Christmas programs.

Instruction time was limited this month due to the short three weeks leading up to Christmas break. We did have time to fit in some holiday decorations and crafts. We also made time to practice writing skills for two letters this month with both classes, letters J, and S. During the letter J week we focused mostly on J being the first letter in Jesus' name. During letter S week we read books with Santa Claus in them. There was actually a great deal of geography in the book, *Santa's coming to Pennsylvania*. The children laughed when they recognized some of the historical landmarks through Pennsylvania that Santa would make a stop at on Christmas Eve.

December is a very special month for multiple reasons. Let us not get caught up in all the tinsel and lights; and remember the true meaning of the season. We hope this year left you with precious memories with your loved ones young and old; and this coming New Year will be filled with continued blessings of health and happiness for your friends and family. On behalf of myself and Miss Twila we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We Welcome 2015!!

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

January 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 New Years Day	2	3 6:30 Holy Communion
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	5	6 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	7 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	8 7:00 Choir	9	10 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
11 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion <b>Liturgy Bible Study</b> after service	12	13 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	15 7:00 Choir	16	17 6:30 Holy Communion
18 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. aft. Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion <b>Liturgy Bible Study</b> after service	19	20 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	21 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	22 7:00 Choir	23	24 6:30 Holy Communion
25 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday aft. Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion <b>Liturgy Bible Study</b> after service	26	27 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	29 7:00 Choir	30	31 6:30 Holy Communion