

# Prince of Peace

## THE BELLS



October 2017  
Volume 43, Issue 9

### It's Not Special

Oxygen, is not special. By weight it is the third most common element in *the universe*. Oxygen comprises about twenty-one percent of our atmosphere. In various alloys it makes up 49% of the earth's crust and 45% of the earth's mantle. Oxygen makes up 7/8ths of every drop of water, every river, stream, and ocean. Oxygen is not special.

But, boy-oh-boy is it necessary.

Without oxygen, there is no life. Without oxygen, our cells cannot turn the nutrients we consume into energy for our bodies. Without oxygen, we wouldn't have skin, or teeth, or nails. Oxygen isn't special, at least looking at it from a chemical perspective, but ask someone with asthma, chronic bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, or emphysema and they will tell you not only how necessary oxygen is, but how absolutely special it is.

Every week we gather together to hear the Lord's Word, to participate in the Liturgy, and to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Every week, I put on my alb, my cross, and my stole – only changing the colors based on the season. Every week, we sing hymns, we stand and sit and stand again. The creeds we confess, the liturgy we use, even some of the hymns we sing can be traced all the way back to the first and second century of the Church. Every week, it's the same old, same old, it's just not special.

But, boy-oh-boy is it necessary.

Without the Word, without the Sacrament we don't have God. Without God, we are dead in our sins, condemned to everlasting torment in the fires of hell. When we gather together around Word and Sacrament, God is gifting us forgiveness, life, and salvation. He has promised us that the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace to sanctify us and keep us in the one, true faith – which believes Jesus died on a cross for our sins. St John wrote, "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." (2Jo 1:9 ESV)

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#### WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM

Sunday: 10:15 AM

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It's easy for us to look at our weekly worship as a boring routine that has no pizzazz. In a culture that thrives on being entertained, the familiar rhythms of our liturgy because mundane and routine. Yet ask a person who is troubled by sin, who is crushed by the guilt of their iniquities, who feels the full weight of God's wrath upon their shoulders, and they'll tell you not only how necessary attendance at worship is, but how absolutely special it is

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Michael

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| <b><u>Birthdays</u></b> |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Carole Alberts          | 9  |
| Beau DeThomas           | 16 |
| Zach Eckstrom           | 19 |
| Andreas Fatschel        | 19 |
| Sarah Nuerge            | 29 |

| <b><u>Anniversaries</u></b> |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Joel & Heather Nuerge       | 4  |
| Don & Betty Wunnenberg      | 14 |
| George & Joleen Mesing      | 17 |
| Bob & Pam Licht             | 20 |

| <b><u>Baptismal Birthdays</u></b> |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Lynn Gunther                      |    |
| Alice Dietrich                    | 7  |
| Stephan Fatschel                  | 11 |
| Cora Harris                       | 12 |
| Sue Szabo                         | 12 |
| Tyler Borgman                     | 20 |
| Robert Blank                      | 24 |
| Ron Doerr                         | 27 |
| Cari Skuse                        | 27 |
| Sylvia Stedina                    | 27 |
| Lawrie Borgman                    | 31 |



## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- Continued prayers of healing for Willis Voland’s sister; Betty Ann.
- Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Carol Helkowski, Milt Scott and Erica Davids.
- Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, Hodgkin’s lymphoma.
- Lanaya (Granddaughter of Karen & Joe Meinert) for her mental health.
- Khia, (Twila DeThomas’s niece), and Dave, (Twila’s stepfather), both with recurring lung cancer.
- Mary Lou, Kathy Voland’s sister, serious heart and kidney problems.
- Zachary Weldon for health concerns.
- Amy Bailey, work friend of Lynn Gunther, recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Jim Sims, Liz Shuttleworth’s brother, for successful surgery.
- Joan Cuppett, Sandy Kostelnik’s cousin, stage 4 lung cancer.

## OCTOBER SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

### Greeters

- 1 – Tom/Colleen Sigler
- 8 – Doug/Tammy Eckstrom
- 15 – Ed/Sandi Morgan
- 22 – Ruth Miller/Matthew Gunther
- 29 – Rich/Ethel Clayton

### Readers

- 1 – Milt Scott
- 8 – Sam Osten
- 15 – Karl Borgman
- 22 – Bill Mallary
- 29 – Peter Humphrey

### Acolytes

- 1 – Skylar DeThomas
- 8 – Hannah Bendekovic
- 15 – Nikolai Podeszwa
- 22 – Ethan Bendekovic
- 29 – Skylar DeThomas

### Altar Guild

Sandi Morgan

## LUTHERAN HOUR – OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 1

### **"Power to Overcome Worry and Anxiety"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Thanksgiving and anxiety are two opposing forces. Have you ever thanked God for your problems, pains, and suffering?  
(Philippians 4:4-13)

October 8

### **"No Selfies Needed"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

God isn't afraid of messy people. He loves the broken, embraces the outcast, and seeks the lost.  
(Philippians 4:4-14)

October 15

### **"Luther the Man: Called by God to Boast in Him "**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Although Martin Luther is widely regarded as one of the most influential people of the last 500 years, he knew he was no big deal, compared to Christ.  
(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

October 22

### **"The Enduring Reformation Moment and Message of Grace"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

The Reformation was quite a moment for Martin Luther, but also for people who suddenly heard of a merciful God Who really cared for them.  
(2 Corinthians 4:13-18)

October 29

### **"A Reformation Invitation - the Just Live by Faith "**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

500 years ago, Martin Luther rediscovered a truth that turned the world upside down: the just shall live by faith. Can this message transform you today?  
(Romans 1:16-17)

## State of the church

At the June Voters' Meeting, the voters asked Council to compose a "State of the Church" letter in order to clarify how things are developing within the church and where we are headed. Respectfully, I submit this letter to the members of Prince of Peace. – Pastor Michael

## Blessings

A quick review of the Apostle Paul's letters show that they overwhelmingly start with praise and thanksgiving to our Lord and God for the overwhelming blessings that He has poured out upon His people. It seems good to me, that this letter should follow that precedence.

- First and foremost we remember the great blessings of God given to us in our baptisms and through the Holy Word. In Jesus Christ, He has chosen you, He has forgiven you all your sins and made you His children, heirs of His heavenly kingdom. He has brought us together as His church, to serve Him both now, and into eternity.
- We are blessed with a clear confession and teaching of the church as found in the Book of Concord and with the traditions handed down to us by the church fathers. Because of this, we are rooted in Holy Scripture, in the clear teachings of the prophets, apostles, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We are blessed with a beautiful location in which we gather to worship. We are blessed with the land, with the pavilion, fellowship hall and a wonderful sanctuary which are used to the glory of Almighty God.
- We are blessed with many volunteers. They have been present at dinners, VBS, Sunday school, pre-school and many other events. The

volunteers serve the church by maintaining the grounds, by supporting the staff of our pre-school, and by taking care of the upkeep of the buildings.

- We are blessed with a strong synod that provides many educational materials for our growth in the maturity of faith.
- In October, we will join with Lutherans from around the Pittsburgh region to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.
- In September, leaders of the congregation participated in Re: Vitality, a program which gives us tools to help us move the connections we have with people into Word and Sacrament ministries.

And I could go on. Our preschool continues to teach the love of Jesus to many kids each year. Our VBS program has grown in attendance. We support missionaries and seminary students and two separate food and clothing banks. And our staff is the finest group of people that I could ever hope to work with.

## Challenges

Of course, with abundant blessings come abundant challenges. God doesn't call us to sit around and do nothing, we are to serve Him. Let's look at some of our challenges.

- ❖ Church attendance. I cannot stress enough how important regular attendance at church is. As we gather together, God acts to keep faith alive and well through His Word and in the Sacrament He provides. Far too many families and members do not understand this. Granted, there are those who are physically unable to attend and there are times when our vocations, due to travel or scheduling, interfere with attendance. But too often irregular church attendance results from

## State of the church (cont.)

less important affairs taking precedence over regular and faithful worship of God. We should not be surprised, then, when our habit of skipping church occasionally turns into the next generation's habit of skipping church regularly leading to a generation that has nothing to do with the Church and the gifts God provides there through Word and Sacrament. The tragic result is not lower attendance at church, but the loss of faith for our children and grandchildren.

- ❖ Stewardship. We often talk about stewardship in relation to our time, our talents, and our treasure. I'd like to address each one individually.
  - Our time: We have good, faithful stewards of their time who serve this congregation on a regular basis, but we need many more of you to be directly involved in service. There are many opportunities for the members of Prince of Peace to serve each other and our neighbors, but we cannot do this great work placed before us without the members of this congregation being present. We need people to serve as ushers, sound technicians, greeters, counters, visitors to our sick and shut-ins, and many, many other areas. Many hands make light work, and when we all contribute together, more gets done.
  - Our talents: In our baptism, God has gifted to us the Holy Spirit, who produces in us the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are gifts given to all the Saints, although because of our sinful nature we do not always bear such good fruit. But beyond the gifts of the Spirit, God has created each one of us, individually, with gifts to be used for

the good of our neighbor. For some it's the gift of the green thumb, or the understanding of finances, cooking, or music. Perhaps you have the talent for carpentry, plumbing or other manual work. We are not to use these gifts for our own benefit, but to serve God through the service of our neighbors. We need these gifts used for the sake of the church, to enable us to go out to our neighbors and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Our treasure: As you know, many families in this area have been affected by the downturn in our economy over the last few years. Many people are unemployed or underemployed. And when our families are affected, so is Prince of Peace. As most of you know, Prince of Peace has been operating right at our budget line. As of the August council meeting, our offerings are ahead of budget by just \$59. In order to be "in the black" we've had to cut back on our church tithes to various groups outside of Prince of Peace.

In all matters of stewardship, it is important for us to remember that God's Stewards are God's Stewards. All that we have in our time, talents, and treasure are first and foremost God's, who has blessed us with them. We must always strive to use what we have to the glory of God.

- ❖ Age: We are an aging congregation. Half of the members of this congregation are older than 49. As we age, we are physically unable to do the things we did when we were younger. Adding to this challenge is the change in our culture. Fifty years ago, only the father worked outside the home. Today, in most families both parents work leaving them less time to work at the church.

## ALTAR GUILD

We are desperately in need of help on Altar Guild. Setting the altar for communion is not anything to fear. It is easy to learn the set up and Pastor Mike seldom has a complaint (if ever). It takes a matter of minutes to set up before a service and to clean up after. Not to mention the joy of the personal time spent with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Time not unlike that spent in prayer and meditation on the blessing of the Lord's Supper.

Please consider volunteering to help us. It is a most rewarding effort. It does not require a college degree, nor does it require references. It involves minimal training and possibly one fifteen-minute meeting per year. No dues and no dress code. The pay is far more than monetary and the hours are of your own choosing. Not to mention the fact that your coworkers are really nice people!

If you are interested please see Kathy Voland before or after a service or call her at 412.491.9390. Thank you and we hope to hear from you soon!



[www.lcmsfoundation.org](http://www.lcmsfoundation.org) 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

The purpose of the LCMS Foundation is to provide investment management services for legacies, bequests, devises, endowments, annuity gifts, and other trust funds of the Synod and its agencies. It further seeks to provide these services to congregations, auxiliaries and other recognized service organizations, individuals and families.

The LCMS Foundation helps LCMS ministries, congregations and Lutherans throughout the United States discover the plan God has placed in their hearts. The Foundation helps implement giving plans with confidence and trust.

Our gift planning counselors and staff have the wisdom, knowledge and expertise to direct activities and investments with professionalism and passion for Lutheran beliefs. Gifts made through the Foundation impact lives and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod *today, tomorrow and forever.*

The investment management team at the Foundation strives to achieve total rates of return which exceed the appropriate market benchmarks with minimal excess risk. For more information, please review our annual 2016 Ministry Report.

## Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Jill's Preschool News

Welcome back 4 year olds and Welcome to Prince of Peace Preschool 3 year olds! We do have some new 4 year olds as well, we welcome you too! We are off to a great start! During the month of September our science topic was the Caterpillar and the Butterfly. The children were very enthusiastic about it. We have a total of six caterpillars, and 4 of them started out as eggs. They all have successfully spun their chrysalises and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the butterflies. We are hoping to witness these beautiful butterflies and will hopefully get the chance to hold one. This truly is one of God's many miracles. It has been so amazing watching the transformation from egg to butterfly. I have been doing this since I was their age.

**3 YEAR OLD CLASS** The three year old class started their alphabet books and are very eager to learn!! They love to sit at circle time and sing our silly songs and listen to a good story! We read Jack and the Beanstalk and planted our very own beanstalk! Make sure it gets plenty of sunshine, no watering needed as long as you have it hanging in a window! We had some fun with Bubbles one day and everyone got to take some home! We made some eatable beautiful butterflies that we had for snack! This was a big hit!

We talked about apples and the many different kinds there are and how many good things you can make from apples! We had an apple tasting day to see what apple was the favorite and as it turns out the red apple was the most well liked apple! We dipped them in Carmel and peanut butter!! YUM!

The 3 year olds are getting use to all the classroom rules and are settling into our daily routine and are doing a great job! We are really enjoying their enthusiasm!!

**4 YEAR OLD CLASS** The four year old class has started on their alphabet books and we are all working hard! We are also started to print our name in upper and lower case letters. We have started to do some rhyming words too.

They learned about the four stages of the caterpillar, we had an apple tasting day and once again the red apple was the favorite! The fours made an eatable butterfly to eat for snack which was a big hit!

We took our first trip to Soergel's Orchard for their apple tour. What a great place and the weather was perfect for apple touring. We also got to sample some cider.

We have started counting in Spanish at Calendar time! They are loving it and catching on fast!! We also have a new job this year....Snack Helper and it's a huge hit! It gives them a chance to get to know everyone's name by passing out the lunch boxes!

We are excited for our new year and can't wait to share it with all of you!

*Mrs. Shuttleworth and Ms. Jill*

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

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. (Psalms 127:3)*

Thank you to all the families of Prince of Peace who have chosen to put their trust in Miss Twila and me to teach your children, as we begin a very busy school year. We have been very blessed with new and returning faces of our students as we embark on our 169 day journey through this 2017-2018 school year.

During this school year, Mrs. Shuttleworth's classes and ours will be learning the alphabet out of order, starting with the letter W. The letter W represented a WELCOME week for all classes. The other letters we focused on this month were B and F. During B, week we focused on the Monarch butterflies life cycle. When we started the letter F, it was the first day of Fall and we created an art project using paper towels cut into leaf shapes with paint that would run together creating vibrant fall colors.

At the end of September, our students brought their best smiles for picture day! We also took a field trip to Soergels' Orchard to learn about apples. We took a tour and saw an apple press in action as they were making apple cider. At the end of the tour we had a chance to sample fresh apple cider. There were mixed emotions; some children loved it and others said they didn't like it at all!

We are off to a wonderful start in both classes. We are doing extra writing skills practice each week so that the boys and girls can write their letters; help from home with the practice sheets is greatly appreciated. We are looking for positive attitudes toward learning from all the boys and girls and their families. The children are full of energy and so much fun; we are learning to channel the energy for the good of the classes. Thank you for sharing these precious gifts with us each and every day.

Lastly, if anyone knows of a preschooler looking for a preschool program please send them our way! We have seats still available in both the three year old and four year old preschool classes.

***Blessings to you and Yours,***

***Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila***

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## PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

We kicked off the school year with our first lesson being Creation.

The children learned about the things that God created, what days He created them, and that He rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. This month's chapel song was *Genesis 1:1*. The children enjoyed talking to Pastor about everything that they learned. They did a wonderful job singing and dancing for their families. Our next lesson for the month of October is Noah's Ark!

God's Blessings.  
Twila and Jill

# OCTOBER 2017

| Sun.   | Mon. | Tue.                   | Wed.   | Thurs.           | Fri. | Sat.                      |
|--|------|------------------------|--|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1<br>17 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:00 SS/Adult Class<br>10:15 Holy Communion  | 2    | 3                      | 4<br>11:00 Midweek Bible Study                 | 5<br>7:00 Choir  | 6    | 7<br>6:30 Holy Communion  |
| 8<br>18 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:00 SS/Adult Class<br>10:15 Holy Communion  | 9    | 10<br>6:30 Council Mtg | 11<br>11:00 Midweek Bible Study                | 12<br>7:00 Choir | 13   | 14<br>6:30 Holy Communion |
| 15<br>19 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:00 SS/Adult Class<br>10:15 Holy Communion | 16   | 17                     | 18<br>11:00 Midweek Bible Study                | 19<br>7:00 Choir | 20   | 21<br>6:30 Holy Communion |
| 22<br>20 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:00 SS/Adult Class<br>10:15 Holy Communion | 23   | 24                     | 25<br>11:00 Midweek Bible Study<br>6:30 Elders | 26<br>7:00 Choir | 27   | 28<br>6:30 Holy Communion |
| 29<br>Reformation Sunday<br>9:00 SS/Adult Class<br>10:15 Holy Communion                      | 30   | 31                     |  |                  |      |                           |