

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



September 2017
Volume 43, Issue 8

Bringing People To Church

Why do people come to Church? A simple question, with not so simple answers. Current surveys suggest that people go to church to “connect with others”. They go to be “a part of something bigger.” They go because of the programs or the volunteer opportunities. Some go because the pastor preaches well, or because of the style of service music. Of course, all these answers are coming from a worldly view point.

The bible tells us that people come to Church for one, simple reason: they are fallen and broken sinners. The guilt of their sins weighs them down and they know that only through the blood of Jesus Christ can they be forgiven.

So, the Holy Spirit calls them, gathers them, enlightens them with gifts through Word and Sacrament which brings to them, pardon and peace.

Does that mean we cannot like the music? No. Does that mean we cannot connect with family and friends? Of course not. Music adds to the beauty of worship. We serve God in fellowship by serving our neighbor and by bearing one another’s burdens. But what should be the primary reason for Church? Where should our passion lie?

We must remember that when the Holy Spirit calls, gathers and enlightens people in Church through the ministry of Word and Sacrament that is CHRIST REACHING OUT TO YOU.

Having been fed on the body and blood of our Lord, having been strengthened by His Word, we are able to bring Christ to people during our daily lives. We refer to this as “outreach” for we go outside the church walls to reach the unchurched. But “outreach” can be a negative term because it says that “people are more valuable when they are on the outside than on the inside.” Outreach makes it seem like our only goal is to increase the number of people on the “inside”, without dealing with the cares and concerns of people.

Can you imagine a shepherd who gathers his sheep into a pen and then never feeds them, waters them, or cares for them? What happens to the sheep?

Instead of outreach, we need to focus on evangelism. To “evangelize” simply means to bring good news. Evangelism is the work of sharing the good news of Jesus with all those who have not heard of Him. But it’s also the work of carrying the grace and comfort to those within the church.

Evangelism succeeds when we pray for those outside the church. Evangelism succeeds when we help them in their physical needs AND speak to them about the love of Christ. Evangelism succeeds when we notice those missing from worship and we call them, “where were you today? I missed you.”

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On the weekend of Sept. 15th, the leadership of Prince of Peace is going to be the re:Vitality program. “Vital” is the key component of “revitalization.” Wherever the Word is proclaimed in its purity and God’s Sacraments are rightly administered, there is spiritual vitality. But is spiritual vitality enough for a congregation to be vital? Congregational vitality begins with spiritual vitality, but it also includes factors that affect its ability to begin, increase or continue activities that convey the spiritual vitality of Word and Sacrament ministry. The re: Vitality program will help us to determine where we’re at in our stage of vitality and the most effective ways to preserve, increase, or restore vitality to Prince of Peace.

Please pray for us as we go through the program and as we bring to you, the result of it.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
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

Wendy Liston
secretarypop@
princeofpeacefreedom.com

Liz Shuttleworth
preschool@princeofpeacefreedom.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Lawrie Borgman	2
Joseph Meinert	4
Betty Wunnenberg	4
Lynn Gunther	17
Alice Davis	22
Joslyn Mesing	25
Larry Weimer	25
Ron Doerr	27



Baptismal Birthdays

Faye Brockmiller	
Carol Helkowski	
Edna Gaertner	1
Erik Doerr	3
Linda Weimer	8
Brittany Rodman	13
Ruth Rose	14
Trevor Mesing	15
Ed Morgan	21
Sandi Morgan	21
Heather Nuerge	21
Andrew Kostelnik	22
Betty Wunnenberg	22

Anniversaries

Mike & Joanie Gremer	3
James & Helen Nord	20
Ed & Sandi Morgan	28

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.
- Jean Taylor who suffered multiple serious injuries after a fall.
- The family of Barb Bishop for her recent passing.

SEPTEMBER SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Altar Guild –Linda Weimer/ Amy Wilson

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

- 3 – Don/Betty Wunnenberg
- 10 – Milt/Christie Scott
- 17 – Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 24 – Stephan/Mirka Fatschel

Readers

- 3 – Christie Scott
- 10 – George Mesing
- 17 – Mary Podeszwa
- 24 – Tammy Eckstrom

Acolytes

- 3 – Skylar DeThomas
- 10 – Hannah Bendekovic
- 17 – Nikolai Podeszwa
- 24 – Ethan Bendekovic

LUTHERAN HOUR – SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

September 3

"Finding Life in Jesus' Steps"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Take joy in the gift of being a follower of Christ who is willing to take His lead and be ordered by His steps.
(Matthew 16:24-25)

September 10

"Who's the Greatest?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Jesus redefined greatness. He came, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
(Matthew 18:1-20)

September 17

"Unleash the Power of Forgiveness in Your Life "

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Life with God is not about keeping score; it's about living for others in the grace Jesus earned for us.
(Matthew 18:21-35)

September 24

"The Latest Polls"

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

Believing the latest public opinion poll is not the same thing as believing the truth.
(Matthew 21:8-11 and Luke 23:23-25)

PRINCE OF PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be starting on September 10th this year.

The Preschool/Kindergarten class is open to **potty trained** 3 year olds and all children of preschool and kindergarten age. And then of course there are classes for **all ages** from first grade to those of us who have been out of school for decades.

Please pass this information along to any Lutheran friends you might have who are seeking Christian Education for their children or themselves.

For those of you who were confirmed this year, there are still classes available to you. Please don't just wander away from learning more about The Word of our Lord. No matter how old you are YOU CAN NEVER LEARN ENOUGH OR TOO MUCH.

There will be registration forms for classes on the table in the hall, please use them and leave them in the Christian Education mail slot.

THE NEW "ARK ENCOUNTER" TOUR:

Some of the members of Prince of Peace are planning a bus trip to Cincinnati to see the full-size replica of Noah's Ark and to visit the Creation Museum. The Ark is actually built to the dimensions given in the bible. Imagine.... seeing The Ark as Noah and his family saw it! This should be an amazing experience and has been described by some as "life-changing".

This trip is planned for September 11th – 13th. The total cost is \$639 (single). A deposit of \$150 is required.

Of course, there is so much more to this trip. There will be some shopping and more importantly there will be fellowship, and when the members of Prince of Peace get together the word fellowship takes on a whole new meaning. There is love and laughter and lots of fun.

The more of us we can get to join this trip, the more of us there will be to come back and share the experience with our congregation. All are welcome to attend.

Please consider joining us. There is information out on the table in the narthex. Be sure to take a look. Don't miss this opportunity!

If you have any questions please contact Linda Weimer, 724.776.5542

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 Volland 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 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

The Impact of Charitable Planning

It might seem difficult to quantify the impact of charitable planning, but when you think about generosity there are many benefits that come about when people seek to make the world better by giving of their blessings to benefit others.

Without charitable planning, hospitals wouldn't be able to continue their quest for healing by making use of the best technology or latest research. Without the gifts of generous people, the social service apparatus of our democratic society would leave untold numbers of people destitute and unable to receive sustaining care.

Without generous people who plan their gifts, Christian churches across the nation and the world would be less effective in proclaiming the good news of eternal life in Jesus. If there were no proclamation of the Gospel, people would live without hope.

How is the benefit of charitable planning measured? The impact of charitable planning is equivalent to the hand of God moving across the void to create a universe beyond comprehension. This is evidence that the true God has equipped the 'crown of His creation' to function as the very 'hands of God' within the world.

Charitable gifts, especially those planned to ministry organizations, boost the spread and power of the Word of God in an increasingly godless world. Such gifts overflow from God's Spirit residing in the giver's heart.

Not only will generosity make the world better, but charitable plans will forge redemptive history planned from eternity to immortality as all things are made new.

Have you thought about the spiritual impact of your own **Lifetime Plan for Giving**? The LCMS Foundation can help! *For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.*

Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl D. Naumann
Care of: Nigel Naumann
782 15th Street
Oakmont, PA 15139

Pastor Podeszwa, treasurer Bob Licht, and members of
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
60 Rochester Rd.
Freedom, PA 15042-9364

August 15, 2017

Dear Pastor Podeszwa, treasurer Licht, and members of Prince of Peace,

We were so delighted to receive notice from St. Louis today, that your congregation has become a Together in Mission partner with us, in support of God's work through us in the Dominican Republic and Latin America. Thank you!

Our arrival and adjustment to living in the DR has gone quite smoothly, thanks be to God. Regarding prayer for us, our biggest challenge so far has probably been our health and recovering from various unique incidences. Cheryl spent the first three weeks suffering from allergies, which have flared up from time to time. Interestingly, eating the local honey - made from pollen from the trees to which I'm allergic - has helped with her immunity and has reduced my allergy symptoms! She also broke the tip of her right ring finger after slamming it in a door, and that has healed well. Pastor Jonathan took a bad fall on a wet street, but the sprained ankle is now fine, and last week was attacked and bitten by a street dog, and that has turned out ok too. All this since our arrival on May 23. So we have these types of smaller challenges to deal with. We pray that God will protect us from any other hindrances to our work!

We did have a wonderful region missionary retreat this week, worshipping and praying together, studying God's Word, and enjoying rest with all of the LCMS missionaries who serve in Latin America, before returning to our various places of service.

It is the congregations and people who hold us in prayer and encourage us, that make a great difference to our life on the field. It just makes a huge difference, knowing that others are speaking to the Lord on our behalf, are with us in spirit and moral support, and in agreement with the mission of bringing Christ to all the nations.

We will send you our newsletter and also have a FaceBook page: *Naumanns in Latin America*.

Thank you again for your financial support. May the Lord bless all that you do in His name, both as individuals and as a congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God' (2 Corinthians 9:11)

September 2017

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