

# The Bells

## WORSHIP WITH US

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

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## Birth, Death, Resurrection

Dear Friends in Christ,

What makes Christmas, Christmas? Is it the bright-shining lights? Is it the shimmering tinsel on the tree? Is it the endless songs of winter wonderlands and sleigh bells ringing? Is it the gathering of family around special feasts? The Christmas season is full of endearing entertainments, charming decorations, captivating music. Christmas cards and letters arrive from family and friends. And it seems like it starts early every year. But what makes Christmas, Christmas?

For us in the faith, you might think this is too obvious a question. Christmas is about the birth of Christ, of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. And it is. This is the celebration of the Word of God becoming incarnate. Christmas is about the one who made lame beggars walk and blind men see. Christmas is about the Son of God who became Immanuel – “Christ with us”. Christmas is about the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, Christmas. Christmas is about our Lord and Savior, coming into this world to save us from our sins, to restore us to a right relationship with God.

But why do we celebrate Christmas in December? Scripture doesn't record the birthday of Jesus. The early church, in the first centuries celebrated his birth on many different days; some celebrated in August, others June. So why do we celebrate

If you listen to the world, you'll hear many explanations. You might hear how Christians adopted pagan rituals that worshiped the sun, and therefore the birth of the Son occurs at the winter solstice when the sun begins to brighten. You might hear about a deity named Mithras, who despite coming after Christ somehow influenced the early Christians to adopt his birthday for Jesus. And it goes on.

The fact of the matter is, Christmas is in December not because of any pagan religious traditions, but rather because of his death. Christmas is in December not because we know for certain when Jesus was born, but when He died.

You see, we know that Jesus died on Friday, during Passover. In the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, a bishop of the church named Irenaeus calculated that date as March 25. So, how does that become Christmas? Well, an ancient Jewish tradition held that a prophet died on the day he was conceived. The early church adopted that tradition and since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, we have celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the day the angel Gabriel told Mary she would conceive and bear a son.

Nine months later, the Church celebrates our Lord's birth. Christmas is not tied to the winter solstice nor is it replacing a celebration of a pagan God. Christmas celebrates the birth of the Son of God, who came to die for us that we might be freed from our sins. Therefore his birthday is inescapably tied to his death and resurrection.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us always remember the reasons why he came to be born among us.

In Christ Jesus,  
Pr. Michael

## **UUMC Food Pantry**

As the holidays approach please remember to donate pantry items generously as we support Unionville United Methodist Church's food pantry. Quite often phone calls are made to our office requesting a helping hand in the form of a meal. We are so proud to be able to say that we are a collaborative partner in the effort to help local families put a meal on the table when they may have otherwise been unable to do just that. Thank you in advance for your giving spirit and your willingness to reach out to those in great need. Please consider donating the following items: Soup; canned pasta; toilet paper; toothpaste; cookies; canned fruit; mustard and ketchup. THANK YOU!

## **POP Annual Christmas Dinner**

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 21st, following the Sunday morning worship service. We will be having a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and rolls and pie for dessert. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan accordingly. Deadline for receiving your reservation is Sunday, December 14th. It will be a free will donation dinner. Unfortunately we **will not be able to accommodate walk-ins** on December 21st.

## **Christmas Poinsettia Sale**

Deadline: Saturday, December 13, 2014  
7-1/2" Pot of RED Poinsettias \$11.00

If you would like to order one of these lovely plants to beautify our sanctuary for the holidays in memory of a loved one or to thank Our Heavenly Father for his many blessings please obtain an order form from your mail slot and drop the payment along with the form in Kathy Volland or Sandi Morgan's mail box or place in offering plate. Remember to take your plant home after whatever Christmas service you attend.

## **2015 Altar Flowers**

The Altar Flower Calendar sign up sheet for 2015 is now posted on the bulletin board. There will be one arrangement allowing for one request per weekend and the cost is \$15.00.

Altar flowers can be purchased in celebration of a special occasion, in memory of someone, or to the "Glory of God and His love for us". Payment envelopes should be marked "Altar Flowers" and placed in Kathy Volland's mailbox. Please make checks payable to Prince of Peace. Thank you!

## **New Christmas Trees**

New Christmas trees have been purchased for our holiday decorating. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the trees please see Lynn Gunther.

**December Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

Bob Dietrich	1
Lynn Melberg	4
Kathy Osten	4
Terri Humphrey	5
Rachel Humphrey	8
Stephan Fatschel	20
Derek Mengel	20
Tom Sigler	20
Jason Mengel	23
Ross Shively	23
Bonnie Keen	24
Jane Wilson	24
Diane O’Palka	25
Don Wunnenberg	29
Alice Dietrich	31
Jennifer Weedon	31

**Baptismal Birthdays**

Eric Bendekovic	
Allison Bendekovic	
Darryl Gunther	1
Terri Humphrey	1
Beau DeThomas, Jr.	3
Zach Eckstrom	3
Sarah Nuerge	5
Kathleen Ormiston	9
Andreas Fatschel	18
Twila DeThomas	24
Carrick Skuse	24
Stone Parker	25

**Servants in Ministry**

**Greeter**

- 7-Rich/Ethel Clayton
- 14-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 21-Ed/Sandi Morgan
- 28-Ruth/Avis Miller

**Reader**

- 7-Ron Doerr
- 14-Tom Sigler
- 21-Darryl Gunther
- 28-Mary Nuerge

**Acolyte**

- 7-Carrick Skuse
- 14-Sophia Fatschel
- 21-Tyler Borgman
- 28-Cole Skuse

**Altar Guild**

Sandi Morgan

**HELP WANTED**

Looking for  
**GREETERS & READERS**  
 for our Sunday service. Please call  
 or email  
 Rose DeWeese if you are able to  
 volunteer.  
 Thank you!

**Anniversaries:**

Charles & Susan Szabo	1
Craig & Lori Voland	6
Willis & Kathy Voland	11
<b>Celebrating 60 years!!!!</b>	
Pr. Michael & Mary Podeszwa	22
Ed & Lynn Melberg	27

**Prayer Concerns:**

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- June Shively, back at Heritage Valley Hospital
- The Humphrey family for the loss of Terri’s grandmother
- Margie Swanson, neighbor of Ron and Karen Doerr
- Rich Clayton’s daughter in law, Beth and friend Dee
- Continued prayers of healing for Lawrie Borgman, Chuck Taylor, Sue Szabo, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks, Carol Helkowski and Willis Voland’s sister Betty Ann
- Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott, and Twila DeThomas’ step-father battling cancer.

**The Lutheran Hour—December Sermon Schedule**

December 7--"**We Need Something Stronger**"

Jesus exchanges our weakness for His strength. (Mark 1:1-8)

December 14--"**In Christ, Unbroken**"

God's grace restores those broken by sin and grief. (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

December 21--"**Surprised by Grace**"

God's grace comes as a surprise and blessing to those who deserve none of it. (Luke 1:26-38)

December 28--"**Monsters in Our Tomorrows**"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Unknown monsters lurk in the shadows of the new year but Christ will carry us through. (Romans 8:37-39)

**Ambit Energy**

**Members & Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,**

**SAVE MONEY.....DO GOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**You have an opportunity to help Prince of Peace save hundreds of dollars a year in electricity costs while saving money on your own utilities!**

**Help PoP earn Free Energy & the savings could be thousands of dollars a year!**

**There will be two informational meetings held at the church so everyone has a chance to help & save:**

**SATURDAY, DEC 6, 2014 AT 7 PM-8:30PM**

**SUNDAY, DEC 7, 2014 AFTER CHURCH**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC AND/OR GAS BILL TO THESE MEETINGS.**

**We will need them to check your rate and plan.**

**Deregulation has created a competitive energy market across the United States. This means you have a choice in who provides your utilities & a chance to enjoy competitive rates on your utilities. The only thing that changes is what you pay!**

**Ambit Energy is a third party provider of electricity & natural gas. We are 8 years old, have 1.5 million customers & an A+ rating with BBB. We offer guaranteed savings on Pennsylvania residential electricity & natural gas and a FREE Energy Program for everyone.**

**COME BE PART OF THE SAVINGS & HELP PRINCE OF PEACE SAVE TOO!**

**Holly Dawn Hewlett**

**Ambit Energy Independent Consultant**

## **Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Nikki's Preschool News**

Whoever said that time stands still? That is certainly not true for this preschool! We have been so busy that we need more time. Do you believe that the holidays are upon us? What a busy time! Both classes have started practicing for their Christmas programs. They are so precious! This is something definitely worth seeing! If you have a chance to come and see these little angels in action you will see why we love our jobs!

### **Four year olds**

The four year olds talked about the first Thanksgiving Feast. We are all thankful for the many great things God has given us. We practiced recognizing and drawing shapes and are still working hard on our letters and numbers. We made thankful turkeys and pilgrims. We have also started on printing our names in upper and lower case letters, not all capitals. Try to reinforce this at home. We have finished all the evaluations so please send them back as soon as possible. Thank you!

### **Three year olds**

The three year olds topic for the month was "Shapes" and we talked about what we were thankful for. What a lively group this is! They have a favorite time and its snack time of course. They are so cute and we are having fun with them! They keep us on our toes. We are still working on recognizing our names. Some do and about half still are having trouble so try to work on that over the holidays as well. I will try and send some ideas home over vacation. The threes are working hard on their alphabet books and they love getting stickers to put on their books.

**Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Nikki**

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

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*  
(Chronicles 16:34)

The month of November is always a time for us to reflect upon the things in life that we are truly thankful for. I personally use this time of year for reflection, and to thank God for my many blessings which include my two growing daughters and supportive husband at home. During the daily hustle and bustle of life, we sometimes take for granted the roof over our heads and the materialistic items we enjoy. Take all the extras away in life and we still have the love and support of our God.

November during preschool was a time for us to conduct a mid-year evaluation on each student. We are very pleased with the general consensus of how the children performed. Evaluations will be done again at the end of the year to check for next year readiness.

Once again, we added three new letters to our writing skills this month; L, P, and T. The letter L helped us focus on Love and Laughter while completing leaves with items we were most thankful for. The letter P coincided with the Pilgrims of the "1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving". Both classes enjoyed drawing and coloring Pilgrims and Indians to put on display as I read them a short story of The First Thanksgiving. The letter T most certainly stood for Thanksgiving and some ideas and things we should be thankful for.

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, our Christmas programs and activities are right around the corner. We will continue to plan for the class Christmas programs. The three year old program will be held on Thursday December 11, 2014. The four year old program will be held on Friday December 12, 2014. Both programs begin at 9 am and will commence with cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall immediately following.

As always, we are truly thankful that we get this opportunity to share class time with each and every student. We love all the willingness to learn. As the holiday season is quickly upon us, please have a safe journey through the hustle and bustle of the weeks leading up to Christmas.

**Blessings to you All,  
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila**

**December 2014**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	3 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	4 7:00 Choir	5	6 6:30 Holy Communion
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Voters' Meeting <i>Following service</i>	8 6:30 Council Mtg.	9 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	10 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	11 9:00 3 yr. old Christmas Program 7:00 Choir	12 9:00 4 yr. old Christmas Program	13 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion Christmas Poinsettia orders due!
14 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	15	16 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	17 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	18 7:00 Choir	19	20 6:30 Holy Communion
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Children's Program 10:15 Holy Communion POP Christmas Dinner Immediately following service	22	23 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	24 4:00 Worship Service 7:00 Worship Service	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service	26	27 6:30 Holy Communion
28 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 10:15 Holy Communion	29	30	31 7:00 New Years Eve Service			