

# Prince of Peace

## THE BELLS



December 2016

Volume 42, Issue 11

### For Everything There Is A Season

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Halloween ends, there's a few things that we can count on. Days will get shorter and nights longer. Christmas decorations will go up in the stores. The weather will get turn colder and wetter. And calendars will start arriving at the church. We get calendars from local businesses, from charities like Easter Seals and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We get them from Thrivent and Food for the Poor. Both seminaries send calendars as well. I don't think I would be exaggerating if I said that we get enough calendars to wallpaper my office.

Calendars help us to "number our days." They help us to mark the seasons and years. Calendars help us to remember events of the past and plan for future days. By the will of God we're able to prepare for things to come. The Church also has a calendar; its seasons don't mark the weather and times to plant and harvest, rather its seasons showcase the life of Christ.

The Church's calendar begins in November, on the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is a season which directs our focus on the coming of the King. We look back to the times leading to His birth, and forwards to the great and awesome Day of Lord when He returns. Advent is followed by Christmas, a short season in the Church that is only a few weeks long. Christmas celebrates the King who has come.

Next in line is Epiphany and Lent. Epiphany is the season in which the Church focuses on Jesus as the revealed Christ, the Son of God. It ends with the transfiguration of Jesus which marks the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. That journey is the center of our worship during the season of Lent. Lent is followed by Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter and then Pentecost – the season in which the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Church.

It's no surprise that each year we follow this calendar. But would you be surprised to learn that each Sunday we follow this calendar as well?

In days past, when a king would visit his people it was expected that he would bring gifts. As he passed by, the people would cry out, "Lord have mercy," hoping to receive those gifts. Having received the forgiveness of sins in the Absolution, we cry out "Lord have mercy" as the King comes to His people (Advent). We are seeking the blessings only He can give.

The Kyrie is followed by the Gloria, the song of the angels at the birth of the King (Christmas). The Creed confesses who Christ is (Epiphany) and what He came to do (Lent). The Creed is followed by the Sanctus, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna to the Highest." This is the cry of Palm Sunday. The Agnus Dei finishes the calendar as we point to Good Friday and Easter and to the Lamb who came to take away the sins of the world.

The Kyrie, the Gloria, the Creed, the Sanctus, and the Agnus Dei are call the five pillars of divine worship.

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Although there is some variation (Nicene vs. Apostle's Creed, or "This is the Feast" vs. "Gloria"), they remain the foundation on which the divine service is built upon.

Each week, we remember all that Christ has done for us. He showers us with blessings through Word and Sacrament. And before we depart, He pours out His Spirit upon us in the blessing. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." (Num 6:24-26 ESV)

May we all continue to remember what God has done for us, the blessings He gives, and give Him all glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ's Name,  
Pastor Michael

#### WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM

Sunday: 10:15 AM

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## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

Bob Dietrich	1
Kathy Osten	4
Terri Humphrey	5
Rachel Humphrey	8
Stephan Fatschel	20
Derek Mengel	20
Tom Sigler	20
Jason Mengel	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	
Bill Hewlett	
Darryl Gunther	1
Terri Humphrey	1
Beau DeThomas, Jr.	3
Zach Eckstrom	3
Sarah Nuerge	5
Andreas Fatschel	18
Twila DeThomas	24
Carrick Skuse	24
Stone Parker	25

### ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Susan Szabo	1
Craig & Lori Volland	6
Willis & Kathy Volland	11
Pr. Michael & Mary Podeszwa	22

### HELP WANTED

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

## Servants In Ministry

### Greeter

4- Eric/Luke Bendekovic  
11- Ed/Sandi Morgan  
18- Ruth Miller  
25- Rich/Ethel Clayton

### Reader

4- Kathy Osten  
11- Mary Nuerge  
18- Joshua Humphrey  
25- Christie Scott

### Altar Guild

Sandi Morgan/Jean Taylor

### Acolyte

4- Nikolai Podeszwa  
11- Ethan Bendekovic  
18- Skylar DeThomas  
25- Sierrah Altenburg

### Audio Visual

4- Darryl Gunther/  
Mike Gremer  
11- Stephan Fatschel/  
Doug Eckstrom  
18- Matthew Muto/  
Doug Eckstrom  
25- ???

*"But be sure to fear  
the LORD and serve  
him faithfully with  
all your heart;  
consider what great  
things he has done  
for you."*

## Prayer Concerns

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

- ❖ Rachel Humphrey for chronic back pain.
- ❖ Continued prayers of healing for Willis Volland's sister; Betty Ann and Terry McCall.
- ❖ Edith Mallary recovering from a heart attack.
- ❖ Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Bob Greer (youth leader at Darryl Gunther's former church), Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Milt Scott, Erica Davids and Joan Doerr.
- ❖ Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- ❖ Layana (Granddaughter of Karen & Joe Meinert) for her mental health.
- ❖ Thomas Haffely who was hospitalized for cardiac arrest.
- ❖ Blaise Fischer, son of friend of Liz Shuttleworth, heart issues.
- ❖ Jennifer, mother of Terri Humphrey, who underwent surgery.
- ❖ Milt Scott recovering from pneumonia.
- ❖ Christian Pierotti, grandson of Bill and Becky Mallary, blood pressure issues.

## LUTHERAN HOUR – DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 4

### "Wait Until He Comes!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

A broken world waits, yearns, and hopes for restoration. Jesus has already done everything to make that restoration a reality.  
(Isaiah 11:1-10)

December 11

### "Let the Adventure Begin"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, all of life is an adventure, one that is full of His promise and hope.  
(Isaiah 35:1-10)

December 18

### "Peace On Earth, Peace That Lasts"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

What is the key to real and lasting peace on earth?  
Jesus, God with us.  
(Matthew 1:18-25)

December 25

### "What We Really Want"

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

What do you want this Christmas? Jesus is God's greatest gift to a sinful world.  
(Galatians 4:4-5)



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

## God's Generosity in Us

The tabernacle fashioned by Moses included three compartments, which Martin Luther compared to three parts of a human being.

The holy of holies, God's dwelling place, was first. In it was no light. Just as God exists in the darkness of our faith, Christians believe that which we don't see, feel or comprehend.

Although pride and self-sufficiency is the human heart's natural path, faith regards us as unworthy of the honor of God's gifts. Like Mary, we should pay attention to what God does for us, rather than all the works we do for others. We are saved only by what God has done for us. Believing is a gift of God!

The second compartment, was the holy place where the candlestick and seven arms and seven lamps stood, like all manner of reason, discrimination, knowledge, and understanding of visible and bodily things.

Adam and Eve didn't necessarily see different things after the Fall. Moses says their eyes were opened and they saw that they were naked, though they had been naked before and were not aware of it. (Genesis 3:7).

Mary understood God's work as great. She highly exalts, or esteems God's power, knowledge and desire to save His people. God is magnified in our knowledge especially as His grace and goodness is experienced.

The third temple compartment was called the outer courts; this lay under the open sky and in the full light of the sun. Our body, like the outer courts is open to all, so that people may see our works and manner of life.

Dependent on faith, we possess the whole inheritance. Through faith, soul and body are able to remain without error and evil works.

*For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ [robert.wirth@lfnd.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfnd.org) or 716-863-4427.*



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POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

Once again we have lovely **POINSETTIA PLANTS** for sale! To adorn our altar and to take home at Christmas to decorate your homes. Why not purchase one in memory of a loved one or in honor of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We have the 7 inch Red Poinsettia (8-12 flowers) for **\$12.00.**

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, **December 11th.**

Please give your order and your payment to Sandi Morgan or Kathy Voland or leave them in their mail slots.

Remember that deadline....**DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>.**

Thank You and God Bless You

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NAME	#PLANTS	\$TOTAL	IN MEMORY



The Prince of Peace fellowship committee invites you to our  
*Christmas Luncheon*

December 18, 2016 after church service  
In the Fellowship Hall

#### Menu

- Ham
- Lettuce Salad
- Green Beans
- Rolls
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Dessert
- Beverages

#### Additional info

Adults are \$8, children ages 12 - 3 are \$5, and children 2 and under are free. Please fill out the form below and place in the fellowship mailbox by December 11, 2016. Make checks payable to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Please contact Linda Weimer at 724-776-5542 with questions.

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_\_

Children ages 12 - 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Children 2 and under \_\_\_\_\_

## 2017 Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar signup sheet for 2017 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 Sandi Morgan's mailbox. Please make checks payable to Prince of Peace. Thank you!

## **Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Jill'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! The bible lesson was about giving thanks to God for all the wonderful things he has given us.

### **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 and Ms. Jill*



## 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 but are not limited to 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 you still have the love and support of our God!

Continuing with our letter and writing skills, this month we added three new letters 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 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! We read the book “*Thanks for Thanksgiving*” by Julie Markes. This was a perfect book to read during the week of Thanksgiving because of its language directly explaining to children what they should be thankful for. Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's classes would like to say Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we will be continuing to plan for the class Christmas programs. The three year old program will be held on Tuesday December 20th at 9am. The four year old program will be held on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am. Refreshments will follow both programs for the children and their families in the fellowship hall. The Christmas programs will be the last day of school until after the New Year. All of the classes will also be participating in a Christmas classroom party with the parents. Oh what fun! We may even have a special visitor from the big guy, “Santa”.

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 this 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 and Yours,  
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

# December 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	2	3
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	5	6	7  11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	8  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	9	10  9:00 Men's Club
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	12	13	14  11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	15  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	16	17
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion POP Christmas Dinner Immediately following service	19	20  9:00 3 yr. old Christmas Program	21  9:00 4 yr. old Christmas Program 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Advent Service	22	23	24  6:30 Christmas Eve Worship Service
25 The Nativity of Our Lord 10:15 Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	31