

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Happy New Year (again)!

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas celebration in church and with your families. Attendance was good at each of the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! It was great to see so many of you that I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet. It was great to see Pastor Michael in church, too. I hope you were blessed by the music and the messages, and I hope to see you all again SOON. Thanks to Wendy for getting all the bulletins done in a timely fashion and to all who helped to lead the music. Thanks to the Ostens and the Gunthers for their hospitality to me between the services. Also thanks to everyone who sent me a card or thoughtful gift.

We begin the new calendar year with the month of January, named after the "god" Janus, who in Greek mythology had two heads so he could look forward and backward in time. We certainly don't put any faith in the mythology, but it's a good concept for the beginning of a new year. In the churches that I have served previously, we always put together some kind of Annual Report to thoughtfully review the previous year, including all of its ups and downs. The purpose is to remember all God's blessings and to refocus on His mission and His purpose for us as His Church in the year ahead. I am not sure what your practice has been here at Prince of Peace, but it has always been a helpful exercise for the churches I've served both as a pastor and before that as a lay leader.

Of course, the single biggest issue at Prince of Peace in 2015 has been the diagnosis of cancer and the difficult course of treatments for Pastor Michael, which is the reason that I am here. We continue to earnestly pray for good test results from his follow-up PET scan early this month.

Beyond that, it is not my role to lead you into some kind of new direction for the future. Nevertheless, I don't believe it is God's will for Prince of Peace to put God's mission "on hold" indefinitely, either.

The founding pastor of the LCMS, Dr. C.F.W. Walther always emphasized the proper balance between the Clergy and what the Bible refers to as "the priesthood of all believers." That is you! You are all missionaries in this mission-field in which we live. It is no secret that the world around us is changing rapidly, and in many respects not in good ways. We all need to have a sense of urgency about reaching the lost, while there is still time.

As your "intentional interim associate pastor," if you so desire, I would be happy to facilitate a process of mission refocus and renewal in partnership with Pastor Michael. I will be discussing this with the Elders and Council this month. God willing, by the time of the newsletter for next month, He will provide some clearer direction for Pastor Michael and his family, and for us all.

See you in church AND BIBLE STUDY! Bring a friend!—*Pastor Fred*

President's Word

Happy New Year! This new year let's be more joyful, our oneness in spirit with all humankind.

This very moment is the perfect time to renew our sense of oneness with all humankind. We begin by closing our eyes and seeing a neighbor in times of need. We envision children laughing and playing together in perfect harmony. We picture caring people from every nation holding hands, encircling the earth. We see each person allowing God to speak through him or her so that love and compassion reign.

We give thanks for the opportunity to be a loving person to those closest to us as well as to those in the farthest reaches of the world. We know there is no separation between us, no boundary that the love of god cannot overcome.

Renewed in spirit and filled with thoughts of love, I declare my oneness in spirit with humankind. Let's be more loving and joyful in this coming new year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

I am here for you.

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

The Lutheran Hour—January Sermon Schedule

January 3

"Life in Context"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Life is not up for grabs or out of control. Find real life in the context of Christ's cross and resurrection.
(Ephesians 1:3-14)

January 10

"What's Running Your Life?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

When Christ runs your life, beauty and blessing flow to you and through you to others.
(6:1-11)

January 17

"Not What You'd Expect"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus turns water into wine and challenges our notions of what God should or shouldn't do.
(John 2:1-11)

January 24

"Real Freedom"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus brings the jarring message that real freedom can only be received from Him and real freedom is following Him in all things.
(Luke 4:16-21)

January 31

"If Jesus Had Stayed"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God wants us to love Him in response to His love for us.
(Luke 4:42b-43)

January Birthdays

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

- 3- Milt/Christie Scott
- 10- Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 17- Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
- 24- Mary Nuerge/Tara Dulski
- 31 – Tom/Colleen Sigler

Reader

- 3- Mary Podeszwa
- 10- Tammy Eckstrom
- 17- George Mesing
- 24- Jeff Doerr
- 31 – Milt Scott

Acolyte

- 3- Noah Weedon
- 10- Hannah Bendekovic
- 17- Tyler Borgman
- 24- Nikolai Podeszwa
- 31 – Cade Skuse

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer/Amy Wilson



Prayer Concerns:

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- ❖ Kathy Voland for recovery after a fall.
- ❖ Lawrie Borgman’s father.
- ❖ Joyce Hewlett for healing after foot surgery.
- ❖ Bill Hewlett for recovery.
- ❖ Gene Reddel.
- ❖ Continued prayers of healing for Twila DeThomas’s stepfather and niece and Willis Voland’s sister; Betty Ann.
- ❖ Terry McCall who is at an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility recovering.
- ❖ Tom Lumley (friend of Willis and Kathy Voland) who had heart surgery and is recovering at home.
- ❖ Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Rich Kardos (Tom & Colleen Sigler’s nephew), Bob Greer (youth leader at Darryl Gunther’s former church), Mary Guthrie (wife of Darryl’s co-worker), Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott and Joan Doerr.

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Kristina's Preschool News

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 three year olds worked very hard on our new Christmas program. They were all such cute little Frostys!

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 & Miss Kristina

Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's Preschool News

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

The month of December was spent worshiping 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 having a little bit of fun dressing up in a costume as Frosty the Snowman! We even showed the audience a surprise after singing by throwing indoor snowballs. It was a blast! Let us not leave out our four year old class.

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 with songs that coincided with the journey to Jesus' birth. All the four year old girls were dressed in white angel costumes. Try to imagine the sanctuary darkened while the children were singing *Silent Night*, only by the light of their candles. Oh, what a sight! The boys were a combination of Kings, Shepherds, and animals from the nativity. 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.

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 2016!

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

JANUARY 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 2 nd Sunday After Christmas 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	4	5	6 11:00 Bible Study	7 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	8	9 9:00 Men's Club
10 1 st Sunday After Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	11	12	13 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Council Mtg	14 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	15	16
17 2 nd Sunday After Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	18	19	20 11:00 Bible Study	21 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	22	23
24 3 rd Sunday After Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	25	26	27 11:00 Bible Study	28 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	29	30
31 4 th Sunday After Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion Special Voter's Mtg on budget						