

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



January 2017
Volume 43, Issue 1

Welcome 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,
The beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We consider what happened in the past year. We remember our pains, regrets, sorrows, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. And we contemplate the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this undeniable fact that our lives here will end. Our time here is finite. It has a limit. As Solomon so eloquently stated, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." (Ecc 3:1-8 ESV)

There is one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to his believers Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish." (John 10:28 ESV). If there is "a time" for everything, and in view of our knowledge and experience of the limited life in this world, what is eternal life?

Jesus explains, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." (Joh 5:24 ESV) Scripturally speaking, life is being connected to God and His blessings. Death, on the other hand is separation from God and His goodness. All people are born dead, estranged from God because by nature, we are all sinners. As a result, we are condemned already, our final fate is eternal death, an eternal separation from God in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed Himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

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Through Jesus God has forgiven the world's sin which separated people from Him, and He gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and believe in God who sent Him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation we have crossed over from eternal death to eternal life. We never again have to face the fear of separation from God, rather we can rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with Him now and forever.

What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

WORSHIP WITH US

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

Contact us:

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January Birthdays and Anniversaries

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 Volland	24
Joan Bowen	25
Brianna Dulski	26

Matt Parker	18
Kaitlyn Schultz	21
Don Wunnenberg	22
Mike Gremer	29
Sam Osten	31

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Charles Coe	1
Peter Humphrey	1
Bill Mallary	1
Joseph Meinert	1
Skylar DeThomas	8
Dustin Parker	11
Brendan Doerr	17



Servants In Ministry

Greeter

- 1- Milt/Christie Scott
- 8- Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 15- Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
- 22- Tom/Colleen Sigler
- 29- Doug/Tammy Eckstrom

Reader

- 1- George Mesing
- 8- Mary Podeszwa
- 15- Milt Scott
- 22- Tammy Eckstrom
- 29- Sam Osten

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer/Amy Wilson

Acolyte

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

"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.
- ❖ Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Bob Greer, Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Milt Scott and Erica Davids.

- ❖ Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- ❖ Edith Mallary recovering from a heart attack.
- ❖ 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 is undergoing surgery.
- ❖ Christian Pierotti, grandson of Bill and Becky Mallary, blood pressure issues.
- ❖ Dave Stump, concussion.
- ❖ Orie Edmunson (friend of the Volland's), health issues.
- ❖ Barb Bishop, leukemia.
- ❖ Prayers for the Doerr family for the death of Joan.

LUTHERAN HOUR – JANUARY SCHEDULE

January 1

"Right on Time, Just When We Need His Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

It's the right time to repent, turn to God, ask for His help, and trust in the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Galatians 4:4-7)

January 8

"God's Real Promise of Righteousness and Justice"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Jesus brings us righteousness and justice to restore bruised reeds and reignite faintly burning wicks.

(Isaiah 42:1-9)

January 15

"Looking For God? Look to the Lamb"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Jesus' love, suffering, sacrifice, and triumph are all expressed in that most precious of titles: the Lamb of God.

(John 1:29-42)

January 22

"The Word of the Cross - Power for Life"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

To the world, Jesus seemed to be a loser. He suffered what all would consider defeat in order to win new life for you.

(1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

January 29

"Our Foolishness, His Faithfulness"

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

Many consider Christ's cross to be just so much foolishness. That is the worst foolishness of all.

(1 Corinthians 1:18-31)



www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912

Newness

It's the time of year when people's frame of mind to start again is prevalent. A new year heightens the sense of hope that things will be different, things will be new.

God established the Jubilee laws in Israel's early history. This provided a time when all things would be made NEW again. In the Lord's appointed time, slaves were set free, debts were forgiven and land was restored to the original family. The land was to sit fallow for a year to regenerate. All people would be amply provided for. God wanted His people to remember that freedom, liberation and abundant newness is God's desire!

Newness encourages accomplishment and overcomes despair. Newness causes excitement. Newness is discovered when new responsibilities are given with confidence in one's ability to handle them.

We are all born with our fists' clenched. This grasp reflex is a first sign of vitality that doctors identify in a newborn. Sadly, natural sin causes that criterion of health to enslave us as we navigate life. Never certain if we might need it all, we gather and accumulate wealth until we die. Luther once noted that, "The desire for riches stays glued to our nature all the way to the grave." Most don't even think about, much less plan, to transfer these blessings.

Yet, as God brings a sense of Jubilee to His people, so He also creates an understanding that, *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation . . .'* (2 Cor. 5:17). Faith recognizes that the Jubilee has been ours throughout our whole life . . . that *"the old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.

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 \$20.00.

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THANK YOU NOTE:

I want to thank everyone who helped serve cookies and punch after the preschool Christmas program.

I always know I can count on this congregation for volunteers and you are so important to us. I thank you for your time and hard work.

The Christmas program went well. It is a really difficult time for the students as they are so wound up, but they always manage to come through with some Christmas entertainment for their families and anyone from the congregation who may be in the church at the time. And if it is a difficult time for the students, you can only imagine how much work it is for our teachers and aides. Just getting these children to settle down enough to sing is a challenge, but they do make it work.

I also want to thank Allen Lee and Ethel Clayton for appearing at the class parties as Santa and Mrs. Claus. It's so nice of them to take the time to do that. And the students really enjoy it. And then, I can't forget our very own prince of peace elf, Alice Davis. She has been showing up with Santa, as his elf, for a few years now. And I mean only to compliment her when I say no one could play the part better than she does! Thank you, Alice.

There is an African proverb, which, when loosely translated says, "It takes a village to raise a child"

Perhaps it takes a congregation to assure some children the happiness of childhood and the promise of the very beginnings of a Christian education. I like to think that is part of what we are working for here at Prince of peace Lutheran church and preschool.

Please keep our preschool in your prayers.

God Bless you all,
Sandi Morgan
Director of Christian Education

LWML

A huge thank you for giving \$630.00 in 2016. Every little bit adds up to reach the 2 million needed for the mission grants due in June.

Mission Goal: \$2,000,000/ 2015-2017

• Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry	\$ 50,000 *
• Disaster Response Trailers	\$ 80,000 *
• Cancer Care Packages – Phil's Friends	\$ 50,000 *
• Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings	\$120,000
• Redeeming Life Maternity Home	\$100,000 +
• Hope and Healing to the Navajo People	\$ 75,000 +
• Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon	\$ 72,000 *
• Healthy Families	\$ 60,000
• LCMS Global Seminary Initiative	\$100,000 *
• Training Teachers and Leaders	\$100,000 *
• Opportunities in Uganda	\$100,000 +
• "In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts"	\$ 50,000 *
• "We Are God's Workmanship"	\$ 32,500 *
• Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel	\$100,000
• Helping Hands Initiative	\$100,000 *
• Deaconess Training	\$ 90,000 *
• Lutheran Youth Corps	\$ 25,000
• Providing Hope for Detroit	\$100,000 +
• Rosa Young Academies	\$ 25,000 *

Key: * - grant paid in full + - grant partially paid

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: When is the last time the two of you did something to enrich and revitalize your marriage? Make 2017 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday around 3 PM and have been enriching marriages for over 40 years! There is a \$100 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included.

The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

- **March 24-26, 2017** at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.
- **April 28-30, 2017** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- **September 15-17, 2017** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.
- **October 6-8, 2017** at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.

To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the \$100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net. Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Jill'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 and Ms. Jill

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 2017!

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

January 2017

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