

# The Bells

## WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday: 10:15 AM

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## *Cultivating Lifestyles of Reconciliation*

We are already almost half way through the penitential season of Lent. Last month we announced our plans to present a sermon series and Bible study on the topic of Biblical peacemaking or reconciliation. The goal is to learn what God's Word has to teach us about responding to conflict in our lives in ways that are pleasing to God and bring glory to Him. We want the Holy Spirit to work through God's Word to make reconciliation a natural part of our lifestyle.

The sermon series employs PowerPoint slides from the *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* Bible study by Ted Kober with additional input from Ken Sande's book, *The Peacemaker*. The Bible studies provide opportunity to discuss the Bible verses and apply them to our lives.

The topic fits well with the basic themes of Lent. One of the Epistle readings is from Romans 5:1-8, where we are reminded by St. Paul that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Since Jesus was willing to die for the forgiveness of our sins, how can we (who have been forgiven) refuse to forgive those who have sinned against us?

Paul also wrote to the church at Corinth, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." That is what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. ...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal through us." (2 Cor 5:18-21)

Think about that last sentence. Isn't it another way of saying the Great Commission? Isn't that who Jesus is calling us to be? Isn't that our mission as a church? We are His ambassadors to whom He has given the message of reconciliation so that God can make His appeal to the lost and broken world through us.

Come and hear the rest of this informative sermon series and learn how we all can be peacemakers in our families, in our community, in our church, and in our jobs. We sing "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me," or "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

As we emerge from another long winter, the days are getting longer. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13, so don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night. The spring flowers will soon be blooming, and we are reminded that the Good News about Jesus didn't end with His sacrifice on Good Friday. We know that Easter is coming, too! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Happy Resurrection Day! See you in church! Bring a friend!—*Pastor Fred*

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Jim Nord	2
Katrina Podeszwa	2
Jeremy Osten	3
Christie Scott	6
Jeff Kerr	7
Ben Davis	10
Mirka Fatschel	11
Mary Podeszwa	16
Karen McCracken	17
Colton Blank	18
Jeff Doerr	18
Chuck Szabo	18
Nathan Taylor	19
Doug Eckstrom	20
Jase Wilson	23
Matthew Muto	23
Joshua Humphrey	26
Sophia Fatschel	28
Linda Bruce	30
Sandy Parker	31

### Baptismal Birthdays

Amber Pushak	5
Rachel Humphrey	5
Joan Bowen	8
Ariana Gloeckner	8
Briana Dulski	10
Justin Veloski	10
Amy Wilson	12
Ron Nowry	15
Katrina Podeszwa	18
Bonnie Keen	20
Joleen Mesing	20
Jeremy Osten	21
Sierrah Altenburg	22
Ben Forsyth	22
Ethel Clayton	25
Mary Dietrich	26
Patrick Jena	28
Bob Licht	28
Carole Alberts	29
Justin Mengel	30

### Servants in Ministry

#### Greeter

6 – Rich/Ethel Clayton  
13 – Beau/Twila DeThomas  
20 – Bill/Becky Mallary  
27 – Don/Betty Wunnenberg

#### Reader

6 – Peter Humphrey  
13 – Darryl Gunther  
20 – Doug Eckstrom  
27 – Tom Sigler

#### Acolyte

6 – Nikolai Podeszwa  
13 – Cade Skuse  
20 – Cole Skuse  
27 – Noah Weedon

#### Audio Visual

6 – Darryl Gunther/  
Mike Gremer  
13 – Stephan Fatschel/  
Doug Eckstrom  
20 – Matthew Muto/  
Doug Eckstrom  
27 – Lynn/Darryl Gunther

#### Altar Guild

Linda Weimer/Mary Nuerge

### Anniversaries

Tracy & Linda Bruce 15  
Brad & Jennifer Weedon 23



## Prayer Concerns

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

- ❖ Kathy Voland for recovery after shoulder 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 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.

## **Evangelism Team Update**

### ***With God All Things Are Possible***

This was evident at the spaghetti dinner, bake sale and Chinese auction held on January 30th. We set out to help Terry McCall (a family member of one of our preschoolers) with medical costs associated with his recent illness. Our goal was to serve 100 people and earn \$1,000. More than 30 volunteers donated time and talents to make this project a success. We formed a Thrivent Action team and received \$250 in seed money to support the project. Generous donors from the church and community provided food, baked goods, money and items to be included in the Chinese Auction:

Thrivent Financial ([www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com))

Kristy Altvatter

Jen Fessler and Halo Salon ([www.halosalonandspawexford.com](http://www.halosalonandspawexford.com))

Skybacher Ministries ([www.skybacherministries.org](http://www.skybacherministries.org))

Mary White Photography ([www.marywhitephotography.net](http://www.marywhitephotography.net))

Katie Delon

Amanda Chousey

Fun Fore All ([www.funforeall.net](http://www.funforeall.net))

Monte Cello's ([www.montecellos.com](http://www.montecellos.com))

Quaker Steak ([www.thelube.com](http://www.thelube.com))

Buffalo Wild Wings ([www.buffalowildwings.com](http://www.buffalowildwings.com))

BRGR ([www.brgrpgh.com](http://www.brgrpgh.com))

Cranberry Cinemas ([www.goldenstartheaters.com/cranberry-cinemas](http://www.goldenstartheaters.com/cranberry-cinemas))

Ice Box Creamery and Cafe ([www.iceboxcreamerycafe.com](http://www.iceboxcreamerycafe.com))

Edible Arrangements ([www.ediblearrangements.com](http://www.ediblearrangements.com))

9 Round Fitness ([www.9round.com/fitness/pittsburgh\\_cranberry](http://www.9round.com/fitness/pittsburgh_cranberry))

Jaime Sawyer

The Meadows Creamery ([www.meadowsfrozencustard.com](http://www.meadowsfrozencustard.com))

La Quinta ([www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com))

International B (Shop 'n' Save) ([www.shopnsavefood.com](http://www.shopnsavefood.com))

McDonalds ([www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com))

Nellie Pisor – Money Basket

As Seen by Susan Photography ([www.asseenbysusan.com](http://www.asseenbysusan.com))

Baubles and Beads – Custom made Jewelry ([beadingbaby1962@gmail.com](mailto:beadingbaby1962@gmail.com))

Allen Lee

Sandy Parker

The response was overwhelming. We served 200 guests from the church, preschool and community. Through the generosity of all who participated, we were able to present Terry and his family a check for over \$2,300. We're thankful that God provided this opportunity and the resources to make this such an awesome event.

## The Lutheran Hour—March Sermon Schedule

March 6

### "Reconciled Reconcilers"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Through forgiveness, God gives us another way to deal with people who have hurt us. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

March 13

### "It's Worth the Sacrifice"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

God calls us to be the right people in the wrong place, for the sake of others. (Philippians 3:8-14)

March 20

### "Strive for What You Already Have"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Christianity is about putting to work what God has already given us, in Christ. (Philippians 2:5-11)

March 27

### "An Unbeliever's Sermon"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Pastor Ken Klaus asked several non-believing friends to help him write his Easter sermon. Hear what they said. (Luke 24:5-6)



[www.lcmsfoundation.org](http://www.lcmsfoundation.org) 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

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## Provisions, Protection and Providence

Christians seek to follow God's will in their lives. We aren't promised earthly provisions or protection; yet God's providence is assured to us through faith.

The Magnificat captures in one breath Mary's song of all that God had done for her and us. Her song oozes with the spirit of humility, gratitude and trust.

Our Lord's mother, inspired by the Holy Spirit, sings, *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on (regarded) the humble (low) estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation..."* Luke 1:46-50ff

Martin Luther notes that "Mary observes the proper order in putting God's 'regard' (looking on her) in the first and highest place rather than first saying 'All generations will call me blessed, because He has done great things for me.'"

God's good things are merely gifts which last for a season; **but His grace and 'regard' are the inheritance which lasts forever**, as St. Paul says in Romans 6:23; "The grace of God is eternal life."

In giving us gifts God gives only what is His, but in His grace and His 'regard of us' He gives His very self. In the gifts, we touch His hand; but in His gracious 'regard' we receive His heart, spirit, mind and will."

According to Luther, "God would not have us put our trust in His goods and gifts, spiritual or temporal (provision and protection) however great they be, but in His grace and in Himself (providence), yet without despising the gifts."

Will you give your children the "whole inheritance", as Abraham did to Isaac? *For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ [robert.wirth@lfn.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfn.org) or 716-863-4427.*

## **In the News**

POP members Noah Weedon and Cade and Cole Skuse competed in the Beaver County Mathcounts competition held on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Penn State Beaver Campus in Monaca. These young men and 69 other students from eight schools participated in this intense competition. After completing the written portion of the competition, the top 10 finishers took part in the oral Countdown Round going head-to-head against another student and solving problems without the aid of a calculator.

Cade and Cole finished in first and second place and will advance to the state competition that will be held in Harrisburg March 18-19. The top four students in the state will advance to the national competition in Washington DC in May.

Please congratulate these guys and keep Cade and Cole in your prayers as they move forward in the competition.

**The LWML 36th Biennial Eastern District Convention** will be held on June 10-12, 2016 in Binghamton, NY., hosted by the Central NY South Zone. The theme is "Take My Hand and Lead Me" Ps. 25:4-5. The keynote speaker is Past National President ---Kay Kreklau. We will focus on our Lord and share worship, Bible study, enrichment opportunities, go on a Mite Walk, have convention business, fellowship with our sisters in Christ, eat banquet meals with entertainment, and join our hearts and hands as the Lord leads us! Anyone interested in going, the information is on the bulletin board or contact Mary Lehocky. 7247281301. Registration deadline is April 30th.

Also; The LWML Spring Rally and Joy Shop will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Accident, MD on April 30th from 10:00-2:00. Anyone interested in going may carpool with Mary Lehocky.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** Have you registered for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed to allow married couples of all ages to take time off from daily pressures and responsibilities to search out and discover a warmer, closer, more joyful marital relationship. **The 2016 Pennsylvania Spring Weekends are:**

- **April 8-10, 2016** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's"
- **April 22-24, 2016** at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA, Happy Valley's premier conference center located on a quiet hillside with views of Nittany Mountain

Registrations are also being accepted for the September 16-18, 2016 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA, in the Poconos and the October 21-23, 2016 Weekend at the beautiful Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee plus a contribution of whatever amount you wish to make near the end of the Weekend toward the continuation of the program.

**Sign up for your weekend today!** Please make time for this most important relationship in your life! Registrations are limited, so go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) today to sign up. If you have questions, contact Fred & Julie Schamber, PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter at: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or phone 724-325-3166.



# Many Hands, One Mission

Part 1 of a series

## Member churches play an important role at Concordia locations

In 1882, Margaretha Oertel donated her farm to become a home for orphans and the aged, deeding the land to the pastors of three German Evangelical Lutheran churches. Ever since those first three pastor-trustees founded Concordia, member churches have been helping and shaping the organization by supplying delegates for the Board of Directors, making donations, volunteering and much more.

To honor all that our 33 current partner churches do at our senior communities, we will be featuring a selection of them in this and upcoming issues of Faith in Caring to show how their congregations interact with Concordia's residents. This issue will highlight Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freedom, Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Oakmont

and Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glenshaw.

The Prince of Peace praise team (pictured below), led by Tammy Eckstrom, sings at Concordia at Rebecca Residence in Allison Park about once a month. Members include Mike Gremer, Dana Hankinson, Jamie Macaluso and Willis Volland, as well as accompanist Helen Nord and audio visual technician Kathleen Ormiston.

Tammy, a Cranberry Township resident, has been attending services at Prince of Peace for 18 years. Even though the praise team has only been going to Rebecca since the beginning of 2015, the team members and residents all enjoy the experience.

"We play contemporary music and 'golden oldies' too," Tammy said. "The residents are entertained by what we do."

During its January visit to Rebecca, the praise team sang Christmas hymns for residents, including a special rendition of "Silent Night" accompanied by Jamie on the viola, and the audience was led in worship by Willis.

"All the residents thoroughly

enjoyed all aspects of the program," said Suzanne Chelko, Activities Aide at Rebecca.

Redeemer Lutheran Church and School also serves residents through music. Redeemer Lutheran School visited more Concordia locations than ever before on its annual Christmas visits, sending students to Concordia of Fox Chapel, Concordia at Rebecca Residence, Concordia at Ridgewood Place, Concordia of Monroeville and Harmony Physical Rehabilitation.

"The students from Redeemer Lutheran School sang Christmas carols and then interviewed residents who attended the program," said Cheryl Sopcak, Activities Coordinator at Concordia at Ridgewood Place.

Some of the students even made Christmas crafts with the residents at the other Concordia locations. Redeemer's music and presence always bring joy and Christmas cheer to the Concordia locations they visit.

"Both the students and the residents enjoyed the interaction," Cheryl said. "The residents shared about their life, jobs, lifestyles, holidays and family, etc. The students seemed amazed hearing about how some things have changed over the years."

A group from Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church



delivers an annual Christmas "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service and an Easter "Stations of the Resurrection" program at Rebecca Residence. They performed their "Festival" for the third consecutive year on Sunday, Dec. 20. The festival is co-directed by Donna Heintz and included Bible readings, a bell choir, lutes, strings and many solos – including one by Bethel's pastor, Rev. Art Litke.

The Swanson family – Dr. Gary, his wife and seven of their nine children – participated in this year's Festival. The family played a wide variety of musical instruments, including the cello, violin, viola and bells as well as doing some of the readings.

"We've talked before in our church about how many people at

Rebecca Residence might not have many visitors or a church connection," said Dr. Gary. "I think it makes sense for us as a congregation to reach out to nursing homes, because it can be isolating sometimes for people."

He and his congregation believe the message they have is important for people at that stage of life. "Some are comforted, and some might not have heard it before," he said. "It occurred to us that there are probably people from both groups there, so we decided to spread the Word."



Part of the group from Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church.

Volunteering at a Concordia senior community can be very rewarding, and we welcome volunteers at 12 of our locations. To get in touch with a Concordia location near you, take a look at the contact info in the bar below, or check out our Locations Map online at [www.concordialm.org/locations](http://www.concordialm.org/locations). ☛

## COME VOLUNTEER WITH US

Call one of the following facilities for information on how you or your group can volunteer with us!

Concordia at Cabot  
724-352-1571  
Director of Activities Personal Care Jaime White ext. 8302  
Director of Activities Skilled Nursing Roberta Breninghouse ext. 8241  
Haven Retirement Living – Haven II Activities Vicki Duttry ext. 8273

Concordia of Cranberry  
Activities & Volunteer Coordinator Ashleigh McClelland 724-779-4300, ext. 3116

Concordia of Fox Chapel  
Activities Coordinator Kelly Elena 412-767-5808, ext. 2210

Concordia of Franklin Park  
Activities Director – Veronica Guerrini 724-935-1075, ext. 3923

Concordia of Monroeville  
Activities Director Joan Santora 412-373-3900, ext. 3413

Concordia at the Orchard  
Activities Coordinator Jodi Macko 724-285-4490

Concordia at Rebecca Residence  
Recreation Director Sarah Campbell-Walowen 724-444-0600, ext. 3052

Concordia at Ridgewood Place  
Activities Coordinator Cheryl Sopcak 412-798-1855, ext. 114

Concordia of the South Hills  
Director of Activities for Home Care and Personal Care Vicky Clemens 412-294-1357

Concordia at Sumner  
Campus Program Director Nan DeMoss 330-664-1229

Concordia of Wexford  
Activities Coordinator Michelle Moan 724-935-1266, ext. 3806

Good Samaritan Hospice  
Volunteer Coordinator Erin Middleton 724-963-8888



## **February Preschool News . . . Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Kristina**

Well it's that time of year when spring fever hits and we all are ready for warmer weather!! The children are having a lot of fun and everyone seems to enjoy coming to school!

Both classes had a pajama party and we all came to school in our jammies! We watched movies, played games and ate some popcorn. A good time was had by all!!!!

During the month of February we finished up the Bible lesson about Daniel in the Lion's Den and then will begin Jesus' baptism.

### **Three year olds**

Our lessons for the month were: Counting, Valentine's Day, and Shadows. We did some shadow matching and shadow dancing! We had so much fun dancing around with our shadows! We counted just about everything we could and they loved coming in to see what we were counting that day! We made some Valentines for our families. They are working hard and some of the things they say are so funny.

### **Four year olds**

The lesson this month was about the five senses! We had so much fun with this and the children really enjoyed it! We played a game called "egg full of sounds". I placed twelve different sounds in a dozen of plastic eggs and they had to guess the sound. Then they brought in their own "egg full of sound"! We had so much fun with this! We also played sound bingo, where they only used their ears to listen. They are doing a great job and we are enjoying them!

The four year olds went on a field trip too this month. We visited Monte Cellos in Cranberry! The kids had a blast and so did the parents and teachers! We ate pizza and subs for breakfast!!!

Each child got to make their very own pizza! We got a tour of the restaurant and saw how a pizza is made. The children loved it and Joe and Vicki Savage, the owners, were so good with the children!

We also took a field trip to Excel Gymnastics! This was a blast!! A good time was had by all, even the teachers!

**Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Kristina**



## **February Preschool News . . . Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila**

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above –James 1:17***

February weather has been confusing this year! Please pray that our boys and girls in preschool have the opportunity to continue to come to school and not miss class time due to delays and cancellations. Springtime is a much-anticipated break from the crazy, mixed up weather this year. The first delay or cancellation is exciting, but by the end of winter we are ready for a bit of a warm up. BRRR.....

During the month of February we finished up the Bible lesson about Daniel and the Lion's Den.

The second half of February was spent learning about the story of Jesus' baptism. We are preparing for an early Easter with the children therefore we will continue to talk about the suffering Jesus lived through for our sins. Closer to Easter we will finally discuss the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We learned four new letters this month during writing skills. We learned the letters; D, Z, E, V. During letter D week we touched on the different kinds of dinosaurs kids enjoy. During letter Z week we drew and colored a zebra. The kids thought it was funny when Mrs. Smith acted like a zebra. During letter E week we learned to address an ENVELOPE and send "someone special" a Valentine. Wrapping up the month was letter V week. Valentine's Day was a perfect way to introduce the letter V.

Both four year old classes took a very special field trip to Monte Cello's Restaurant in Cranberry Twp. We had a wonderful time making our very own personal pizzas, taking a tour of the many part kitchen, and learning how they make the pizza dough and even grind the cheese.

Both four year old classes also had the opportunity in February to visit X-Cel gymnastics center also located in Cranberry Twp. The children had over an hour of physical activity designed for their age group and the parents were permitted to attend with them. All who participated had a blast. I bet all the children took a nap after school that day.

Just a reminder: we are now accepting OPEN enrollment for the 2016-2017 preschool year for both the three year old and the four year old classes. Please contact one of us at preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Let's hope spring comes in like a LAMB and goes out like a LAMB too!!

Until Next Month, Many Blessings,  
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

# March 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2  11:00 Midweek Bible Study	3  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	4	5
6 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	7	8	9  11:00 Midweek Bible Study	10  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	11	12
13 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	14	15	16  11:00 Midweek Bible Study	17  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	18	19
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	21	22	23  11:00 Midweek Bible Study	24  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir 7:00 Maundy Thursday Svc.	25  7:00 Good Friday Service	26
27 <b>Resurrection of Our Lord</b> 6:30 Cemetery Svc. 7:00 Easter Dawn 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	28	29	30  11:00 Midweek Bible Study	31  6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir		