

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

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

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Here There Be Monsters!

Dear Friends in Christ,

During a recent episode of "The Walking Dead", I had the thought that they get monsters right. – I suppose I should explain that. During my lifetime, monsters, which use to be creatures of evil, things to be feared, to be hunted down and destroyed, are now our fluffy, misunderstood friends. You can see this all over our popular culture. For children, Sesame Street has had fluffy, cuddly monsters like Grover, the Count, and Cookie monster for 46 years. Cartoons once had a teenage Frankenstein, Dracula and Wolfman solving crimes. And of course, two of the biggest Pixar animated films in recent years were Monsters Inc. and Monsters U. It seems that contemporary monsters have all been created by toy companies rather than archetypes of the universal unconscious.

It's not different for adults. In the last decade we've seen Dracula assume the powers of evil in order to protect his family and nation. Frankenstein is no longer a monster, but a defender of humanity against demons throughout the world. Maleficent, the "Mistress of All Evil" from Sleeping Beauty has become protector of the fairy lands and heroine of the story. Even the totally human Dexter, a serial killer, kills only those who have escaped the justice system, using his desire to kill for the good of all.

Monsters, who were once defined as a person or animal that deviates from normal or acceptable behavior, full of wickedness or cruelty, are now simply misunderstood, they're the good guys.

And that's why I like "The Walking Dead". They get monsters right. I'm not speaking of the zombies, the creatures who attack any living thing. They're like a force of nature, like a hurricane or an earthquake, they do what they do. If you deny their nature, they will kill you, just as a hurricane will if you think it's just a windy day. Zombies are not the monsters; they're not "the Walking Dead."

The Monsters in The Walking Dead, are the people who still live. In order to survive in this new world, the main cast wrestles with doing or not doing monstrous things to other living people. They kill, they steal, and they hide so they don't have to share their limited resources with others who have less. And they meet others who don't wrestle with these moral issues that face them, who have either given up all sense of right and wrong or have simply redefined these issues for their own benefit.

The Walking Dead are sinners, just like you and me. Over the doors to our church we ought to hang signs that say, "HERE THERE BE MONSTERS!" because we are. We wrestle with the moral laws that God has given to us, with our anger, with our unwillingness to share the blessings God has given us, with our reluctance to forgive the sins of other monsters. And when we leave church, we ought to post a warning "HERE THERE BE MONSTERS" at the ends of the driveways, because as we go out into the world, who doesn't struggle with God's law because they have either given up or have simple redefined it for their own benefit.

And yet, we should not be afraid of the monster within or without. Jesus Christ died on a cross to forgive our monstrous ways. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit upon to change us from monsters to princes and princesses of light, just as Beauty changed the Beast back into a prince. And as the Royal Priesthood, we carry this marvelous cure on God's behalf out into the world of monsters that they too might become royalty as well.

By the power of God's grace, and the forgiveness of our sins, may we all become monster hunters until none are left and all are children of His Kingdom.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Luke Mesing	2
Tanner Mesing	2
Margaret Rombold	4
Jason Blank	7
Paul Nord	8
Matt Sigler	8
Milan Fatschel	9
Cora Harris	10
<i>Celebrating her 100th birthday!</i>	
Christopher Taylor	10
Zelda Parks	11
Beth Lehman	12
Allen Lee	14
Connor Ciccone	15
Matthew Gunther	20
Michael Podeszwa	24
Ed Melberg	25
Ron Lehocky	27
Brad Lehocky	28
Bob Licht	28
Dana Hankinson	30
Trevor Mesing	31

Baptismal Birthdays

Rich Clayton	1
Dean Parker	5
Doug Eckstrom	11
Jeff Doerr	12
Pam Licht	12
Bethany Parker	15
Marcy Dietrich	16
Kathy Dietrich	18
Ben Davis	28
Ross Shively	30
Connor Ciccone	30
Christopher Taylor	31

Anniversaries

Dan & Carol Helkowski	1
<i>Celebrating 50 years!</i>	
Larry & Linda Weimer	2
Allen & Shirley Lee	4
Twila & Beau DeThomas	10
Darryl & Lynn Gunther	12
<i>Celebrating 25 years!</i>	
Amy & Bob Wilson	13
Joseph & Karen Meinert	18
Dan & Pat Bretheim	21
John & Betty Hamara	26
Jeff & Joan Doerr	30

Servants in Ministry

Greeter

3-Milt/Christie Scott
10-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
17-Stephan/Mirka Fatschel
24-Beau/Twila DeThomas
31-George/Joleen Mesing

Reader

3-Christie Scott
10-Doug Eckstrom
17-Tammy Eckstrom
24-Milt Scott
31-Diane O’Palka

Acolyte

3-Noah Weedon
10-Matt Osten
17-Jase Wilson
24-Carrick Skuse
31-Sophia Fatschel

Audio Visual

3-D. Gunther/D. Eckstrom
10-S. Fatschel/M. Gremer
17-Lynn & Darryl Gunther
24-D. Gunther/M. Gremer
31-M. Muto/J.Doerr & D. Eckstrom

Altar Guild

Sandi Morgan & Joyce Hewlett

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- The family of Michael Grumski (Kathy Osten’s cousin), who passed away unexpectedly
- Ed & Sandi Morgan for the passing of Ed’s mother
- Lynn Melberg, recently diagnosed with terminal cancer and is palliative hospice care
- Sandi Morgan’s Godchild, Authmn Barbary, who is six months pregnant in a high risk pregnancy
- Continue to pray for Anthony, Terri Humphrey’s nephew who collapsed in school
- Sue Szabo’s mother, Delores Ober, recovering from recent surgery for Paget’s disease
- Pr. Michael recovering from recent surgery
- Edna Gaertner for turned ankle
- Twila DeThomas’s stepfather recovering from surgery her 12 year old niece, Khia, who is scheduled for surgery
- Continued prayers of healing for Chuck Taylor, Sue Szabo, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks, and Willis Volland’s sister Betty Ann
- Carol Helkowski, Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott, and Twila DeThomas’ stepfather battling cancer

The President's Word "HEALING"

It is time to heal our church, our members and friends. The love of God heals us and we are well and whole with God's love. God heals not only the physical life of the body, but the emotional pain of the heart and mind as well. We give thanks for God's healing love which is in our heart at this very moment, cleansing and removing all sense of injury and hurt.

In order to help God help us, we need to stop nurturing hurt feelings. If we should be reminded of a past hurt, we should tell ourselves that this is causing our suffering. We should no longer give it a place in our life, our church, love and thinking. The love of God sets us free from this experience and from the memory of it. We then fill our minds with the blessings that are with us from this moment on.

The love of God heals every cell of our being. Our heart is filled with thanksgiving for the peace and serenity we experience.

I am not alone, nor will I ever be alone. In the heights and depths of healing experiences, God is with me. Let God be with you. I am here for you.

"You...are in me and I am in you." John 17:21

The Lutheran Hour—MAY Sermon Schedule

May 3 **"You Can Live a Meaningful Life"**

A life that is meaningful is one that is connected to Jesus. (John 15:1-8)

May 10 **"Relentless Compassion"**

God's love excludes no one. (Acts 10:34-38)

May 17 **"Without a Fight or a Prayer"**

Jesus prays for us because He knows we are vulnerable and need protection from a world that seeks to steal us away from God. (John 17:11-19)

May 24 **"Power Connection"**

Pentecost is a day to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit as Counselor and Comforter, sent by Jesus to bless you! (John 15:26-27, 16:14-15)

May 31 **"Enough Is Enough"**

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

God shows grace to sinners but His patience has its limits. (2 Peter 3:9-10)

50 + Dinner

50+ dinners have resumed. We will be meeting at Atria's on Friday, May 15th at 6:00. If you would like to join us please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, May 10th. If you have any questions you can call Joyce at (724) 591-5475 or Sandy at (724) 846- 9238.

Clean Up Day at Prince of Peace

Please help out on Saturday, May 16th at 9:00 am. Please see bulletin board for details and sign up. Thank you! Bill Hewlett



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 15-19, 2015
6:00 – 8:15 pm
Ages 4 & UP!!!!**

**\$5.00 Donation will be collected on Monday, June 15th
Register Now!**

Forms located in Narthex or call 724.728.3881

**Sing upbeat songs
Create crafts
Play games
Participate in Bible lessons**

**Still looking for volunteers.
If you can lend a hand please contact Twila DeThomas at
twiladethomas@yahoo.com**

April Preschool News ... Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

Time is sure flying! It is hard to believe that our year is coming to an end! What an amazing group of children we have! We are so proud of each and every one of them. They have grown in so many ways since they first walked through our doors, way back in September! We have had such a wonderful time with them and are very sad to see them go. Look out Kindergarten, here they come! Although we are very happy because our three year olds will be returning for another year with us! We have started getting ready for graduation and our Mother's Day Brunch. The children love the new songs they are learning and they just love to sing!

Three year olds

The three year old lessons for the month included: The Easter Story, dinosaurs and farm animals. We made some dinosaur eggs, they loved this! We talked about the different farm animals and how some baby farm animals have different names than their mom's. We matched baby farm animals to their moms. We have also been working hard on cutting and pasting and they are doing a very great job! The children have finished their alphabet books and are so ready for the four year old class next year!

Four year olds

The four year old lessons for the month included: We learned how Jesus died and rose again for our sins. We also learned some interesting facts about dinosaurs, made dinosaur eggs, put a T-Rex's skeleton together, and matched dinosaur's with their skeletons. We even compared an ostrich egg with a dinosaur egg. Alphabet books are finished and we have started reviewing all our letters.

The four year olds took their annual trip to Big Knob Elementary School to tour the kindergarten. They even got to ride on the big yellow school bus. This is one of my favorite field trips! It is so much fun watching them! The kids are excited about starting a new adventure next year, but we are really going to miss them!

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

April Preschool News ... Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila

He is Risen, Let us Rejoice and be Glad

Spring has FINALLY sprung! We welcome all the warmer weather and the gift of new life in our neighborhoods. The month of April held a very important holiday this year. All the preschool classes prepared to celebrate the Easter holiday with Bible lesson, song, and décor. Both classes focused on the days leading up to the death of our Savior Jesus Christ. We taught that he was buried only to rise again on the third day. What a MIRACLE! We celebrated during Chapel by singing Mighty Resurrection Day. Thank you to all of our parents, friends, and neighbors who attended Chapel this month. With Easter being the last major holiday we celebrate during the school year we of course held a classroom party. The Easter party run by the parents was a huge success. Thank you to all involved in planning and executing the activities. We even had a special visit from the Easter Bunny, herself (wink wink).

This month we finished learning the last three letters needed to complete our alphabet. The students learned the letters Q, X, and M. In following with our class tradition both classes were asked to bring an item for show and tell. We told the parents "Good Luck" finding an item that begins with letter X. Much to our surprise the children brought in a wide variety of show and tell items. Great Job Parents!

All of our preschool classes participated in our spring fundraiser the Hop-a-thon. All donations benefit Prince of Peace Preschool as we rebuild our fundraising account for graduation, graduate yearbooks, and next year's activities. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Now that the weather is warmer we have had a little bit of time to go outside to play. The boys and girls sure do love getting out onto the playground. During a few of the rainy days we decided to have sensory stations. We used play-doh, played board games, puzzles, chalk board activities, plus much more. If we had any free time, we prepared for Mother's Day; since it is quickly approaching.

Rounding out the month of April we administered our spring evaluations. Each student was tested on material we have completed throughout this school year. We even compared their progress to the beginning of the year. Overall, we are very pleased with the students' progress since early fall.

The end of the school year is so bitter sweet! We look forward to watching yet another class graduate from Prince of Peace ready to embark on their next thirteen years of schooling. We can only hope we have prepared them for kindergarten and many more years of becoming a lifelong learner.

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

May 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 6:30 Holy Communion
3 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Voters' Meeting & President's Dinner	4	5 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 God Connects Bible Study	6 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Vespers Bible Study	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
10 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion God Connects Bible Study <i>Following service</i>	11	12 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 God Connects Bible Study	13 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council Meeting	14 7:00 Choir	15 6:00 50+ Dinner @ Atria's	16 9:00 Clean Up Day 6:30 Holy Communion
17 7th Sunday of Easter – Confirmation Sunday 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion <i>Cupcake Reception following service</i>	18	19 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ 7:00 God Connects Bible Study	20 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Vespers Bible Study	21 9:00 Preschool Graduation (3 year old) 7:00 Choir	22 9:00 Preschool Graduation (4 year old)	23 6:30 Holy Communion
24 Day of Pentecost 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion God Connects Bible Study <i>Following service</i>	25	26 7:00 God Connects Bible Study	27 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	28 7:00 Choir	29	30 6:30 Holy Communion
31 The Holy Trinity 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion God Connects Bible Study <i>Following service</i>						