

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



December 2021
Volume 47, Issue 11

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Dear Members of
Prince of Peace,

How often did we hear as children "wait till Christmas" or "Christmas is coming" when we asked our parents for a big or special gift? I'm sure more than we would like. But we wanted that item NOW--we didn't want to wait. Loving parents provide for their children all year with food, housing, clothing, and gifts. They disciplined them when it's needed.

Parents love their children and do what's best for them.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised a Savior that would save all mankind. For hundreds of years, the Jewish people heard this promise and kept waiting and wondering when and if it would happen. God blessed them but there was also punishment along the way. Finally, the time arrived for the special gift -- the Savior was born. What should have been a joyous, wonderful time for all was received as a disappointment by many. It was not the gift they wanted, but it was the gift that they needed.

How often did that special gift lose its luster after we had it for a while? But there were a few we cherished for years. If you have lost the true joy of Christmas and are disillusioned with what is going on in the world, join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth at Prince of Peace and experience the gift that lasts forever.

*All Glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us
free,
With Father, Spirit,
ever one
Through all eternity.*

In addition to our regular worship services at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, we will be having Advent services at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m., and Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

Doug Eckstrom
President

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
11:30 AM

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- ❖ Dave (Twila's Stepfather), with recurring lung cancer.
 - ❖ Zachary Weldon for health concerns.
 - ❖ Tony Mannino (Sallie's son).
 - ❖ Joan Bowen.
 - ❖ Bill Hewlett, health concerns.
 - ❖ Betty.
 - ❖ Howard.
 - ❖ Nick.
 - ❖ Dave.
- ❖ Ian.
 - ❖ Karen.
 - ❖ John.
 - ❖ Sue.
 - ❖ Debbie.
 - ❖ Jen.
 - ❖ Bill Bowen (Joan Bowen's Son).
 - ❖ Sue Szabo.
 - ❖ Roland, (Tammy Eckstrom's cousin), battling cancer.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Dietrich	1
Stephan Fatschel	20
Derek Mengel	20
Tom Sigler	20
Jason Mengel	23
Bonnie Keen	24
Jane Wilson	24
Don Wunnenberg	29
Alice Dietrich	31
Jennifer Weedon	31

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Bill Hewlett	
Beau DeThomas, Jr.	3
Sarah Nuerge	5
Andreas Fatschel	18
Twila DeThomas	24
Carrick Skuse	24
Stone Parker	25

ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Susan Szabo	1
Craig & Lori Voland	6
Willis & Kathy Voland	11



LUTHERAN HOUR – DECEMBER SCHEDULE

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on channel 1320 WJAS On Sunday Mornings at 7:00 am

December 5

"Because We Belong"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's not how God sees us.

(Luke 1:5-25)

December 12

"When You're Expecting"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The season of Advent is about living in the middle of a story that is still unfolding, between what is already and what is yet to come.

(Luke 1:20-80)

December 19

"Charlie Brown Christmas Tree"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The drama surrounding the first airing of "The Charlie Brown Christmas Special" 56 years ago, against all odds, it gave viewers the true story of Christmas and doomed aluminum Christmas trees to near extinction.

(Luke 2:1-15)

December 26

"Rite of Passage"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Luke 2:21-40)



www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

"If I plan my estate or end of life decisions, it means that I accept that I will die, and I don't want to talk about such things."

That was Susan's response to a Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation. That counselor pointed her to the words of Jesus in John 11 when He said, *"I am the resurrection and life...whoever lives and believes in me will by no means die, forever."* Their conversation centered around the truth that because of Jesus and His death and resurrection, *"death no longer has mastery over us."* (Romans 6)

Whether here on earth or with the Lord in heaven, life continues. *"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."* (2 Corinthians 5)

Having this conversation gave Susan a sense of peace. She put her Lifetime Plan for Giving™ together with her LCMS Gift Planning Counselor. She was thankful that this process had finally enabled her to get beyond the fear of death and dying that had haunted her throughout her life.

Is it time for you to do the same? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.

History of Operation Christmas Child

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts.

Franklin asked his friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways.

Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Through these gifts, we communicated to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth: *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people"* (Luke 2:10, ESV).

Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than **188 million children** in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

Tens of thousands of volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

Operation Christmas Child at Prince of Peace

This year, for the first time, members of the Prince of Peace came together to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The goal was to fill 24 shoeboxes and get some experience with the program. But God works in mysterious ways and the outpouring of thankfulness from the congregation and preschool families was tremendous. In total, we packed 55 shoeboxes, prayed over the boxes and sent them on their way. Thank you to all those who donated items and/or money for postage, those who packed the boxes and those who offered their prayers that these boxes are a blessing to the children who receive them.

We're excited about continuing this project in the future. Please pray that God continues to bless our efforts to share the gospel with children around the world.

...see pictures on pages 5 and 6





Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Michelle's Preschool News

Four year olds

The four year old's 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.

Three year olds

The three year old's 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. Michelle

PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

This month we started talking about the Journey to Bethlehem. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Program this year due to Covid. We will continue to learn about the true meaning of Christmas with lots of stories, crafts, and fun!

God's Blessings,

Ms. Twila and Ms. Michelle

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 1st 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 would typically be planning for our Christmas celebrations but with Covid-19 any type of gathering with preschool families is almost impossible. We will create a video here during school to share with all of our friends and family in our best version of The Christmas Story! We still plan to create lots of goodies and surprises for our parents!

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 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 12:00 Midweek Bible Study	2	3	4
5 2 ND Sunday in Advent 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Service Call Meeting	6	7 7:00 Advent Service	8 12:00 Midweek Bible Study	9	10 6:30 Joining Jesus on His Missing Session 4	11 5:30– 7:00 Kidz Club
12 3 RD Sunday in Advent 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Christmas Program Luncheon	13 6:30 Council Meeting	14 7:00 Advent Service	15 12:00 Midweek Bible Study	16	17	18
19 4 TH Sunday in Advent 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Service Voter's Meeting	20	21 7:00 Advent Service	22 12:00 Midweek Bible Study	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 Service  <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 1 st Sunday after Christmas 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Service	27	28 7:00 Advent Service	29 12:00 Midweek Bible Study	30	31	