

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



December 2022

The Shephard's Excitement

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things,

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

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pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:15-20

The God of the universe sent His angels to shepherds who were in the fields protecting sheep. Shepherds were considered the lowest of the low in Jewish society. Shepherds spent a lot of time in the fields with sheep. They even smelled like sheep. If a shepherd or shepherds witness a crime being committed, they were not allowed to testify in court as to what they had witnessed. Yet, God chose these outcasts to, not only hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but to see the Christ child. And after seeing the Christ child they left proclaiming the glory of God & giving Him praises for what He had revealed to them.

So many times, Christians feel as though they are not smart enough, eloquent enough, or Biblically knowledgeable enough to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to friends, family & loved ones. When you look at the shepherds in the Gospels you will see a group of people who society shunned & for the most part ignored, because they were dirty, smelly, uneducated workers who took care of sheep. God isn't looking for perfect people to proclaim the Gospel to nor is He looking for us to make people become Christian. The shepherds glorified God & praised He for what He had done in front of everyone they met on the way back to the fields. The shepherds didn't care if anyone believed them or even listened to what they were saying.

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The shepherds were so filled with joy over what they had heard & seen that they couldn't contain their excitement & joy. And I'm sure they told the story of the birth of the Christ child until they died & meet Jesus face to face in heaven.

We meet Christ every Sunday in Word & Sacrament, yet people don't leave church filled with excitement & joy over what they have heard & seen God do in the worship service. Oh how I long for people to be like the shepherds after seeing the Christ child when they are done communing with Christ. I wish people would leave churches glorifying God & praising Him for the pardon & peace that He has given them through the very real body & blood of Christ.

(cont...)

Oh how I pray for all those who have seen & tasted that God is good, yet no longer worship God, return to Him & once again give Him thanks & praise. I believe if the world could see the shepherds excitement & joy in us after worship, that more people would desire to feel the joy & excitement that God's people exhibit.

The shepherds were no bodies. The gospel writers don't even give us their names. But God knows them & He blessed them with the greatest news of all time, to proclaim it to people who were in darkness. God has given each one of us the same message to proclaim to the world, but He has blessed you with something more. God has poured out His Spirit upon you. You have not seen the face of Christ but you know that He came to save the world from sin & death, & one day you will get to see Him face to face in a world without end.

God has given you the greatest gifts in Word, Sacrament in His Son, Christ Jesus. God has given you pardon & peace in His Son's body & blood. And God has given you His Spirit to strengthen & sustain you until

until Christ comes again in the clouds. These gifts & many others that God has given you is cause for great joy & celebration. May you & your family find the joy & excitement of the shepherds in Christ Jesus & may your joy & excitement overflow so that others may see & give thanks & praise to God with you.

Pastor Sean



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

- Joan Bowen.
- Jillian (Tina's friend) Pancreatic cancer.
- Bonnie Nies, recovering after knee surgery.
- Benny, a former preschooler, recovering from neuro surgery.
- Gabby V.
- Skylar, health issues.
- Larry Weimer.
- Patrick Donnelly, stroke, friend of Hoby.
- Bill Hewlett, fractured pelvis. He is currently at Cranberry Place, Room 108

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Dietrich	1
Hoby Schweikert, V	20
Bonnie Keen	24
Jane Wilson	24
Don Wunnenberg	29
Noah Schweikert	29
Alice Dietrich	31
Joy Shibata	31
Jennifer Weedon	31

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Bill Hewlett	
Beau DeThomas, Jr.	3
Sarah Nuerge	5
Twila DeThomas	24
Stone Parker	25

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Charles & Susan Szabo	1
Willis & Kathy Voland	11



SERVANTS IN MINISTRY THIS MONTH**Readers**

12/04 George Mesing

12/11 Karl Borgman

12/18 Bob Licht

12/25 open

Acolytes

12/04 Noah Shweikert

12/11 Grace Shibata

12/18 Brooke Lehman

12/25 James Shibata

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer

LUTHERAN HOUR – DECEMBER SCHEDULE

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

December 4

"Paradise Restored"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

If God is love, what are we to make of His wrath?

(Isaiah 11:1-10)

December 11

"Beauty We Can't See"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

We often feel our need for God's presence only when we see what it looks like when He's absent.

(Isaiah 28:5)

December 18

"Gestures of Hope"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace.

(Isaiah 7:14)

December 25

"A Shoot from the Stump"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope--or a threat?

(Isaiah 11:1)

Mrs. Shuttleworth and Ms. Kayla'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. Kayla

PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

This month we started talking about the Journey to Bethlehem. We are looking forward to performing our program during service this year! 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. Kayla



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 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. Our four year old class dedicated a day to a FEAST. Each student brought one food item to share and we all sat down together to eat our preschool Thanksgiving Feast! Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's classes would like to say Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we will be planning our Christmas celebrations! The four year olds will do their program on Sunday December 18th, during church service. The three year olds will have their program during preschool hours leading up to Christmas break. We will also create some surprises for our parents to give as gifts!

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



Mission Accomplished!!



God has blessed us abundantly with our time, talents and treasures. And many of us chose share those blessings with others. At the beginning of the year, we set a goal of packing 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and we succeeded. Many of the children who will receive these shoeboxes may have never received a gift in their lives. We do this so that these children have a tangible reminder of Jesus' love for them. But, more importantly, because they will learn about Jesus through "The Greatest Journey", a 12-lesson program that teaches them how to follow Jesus and share Him with others.



Here's some interesting information about the Operation Christmas Child program. More than 9,000 year-round volunteers also get the word out about the Samaritan's Purse project across the U.S. In addition, some 80,000 short-term volunteers serve in more than 4,000 drop-off locations open across the country every year during National Collection Week, the third week in November. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of our processing centers to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by 90,000 volunteers. All of this is supported by the 30,000 volunteers in our prayer network.

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In 2021 alone, more than 10.5 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts were collected throughout Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States

By the time you read this article, our shoeboxes will have been delivered to a local collection center. Stay tuned for more information about where our shoeboxes ended up. In the meantime, please pray that the children who receive these shoeboxes and the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make it happen.

May God continue to bless you and your family,

Tammy Eckstrom, Deb Steigerwald and Craig and Emma Genser

Thank You

Jesus' famous words, "Let the little children come to me", is often used to underline the importance of **child evangelism**. They can be found in 3 Gospels, specifically in Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16. While this is a relatively simple phrase, it profoundly reveals God's affection for children.

**A special THANK YOU
to everyone who donated
towards the preschool Bibles.
Each student will be gifted a Bible
on their last day of school before
their Christmas Break!**

**God's Blessings,
Pam Licht**

DECEMBER 2022



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			30 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	1  <i>Choir</i> 7PM	2	3  5:30 – 7:00
4 2 ND Sunday in Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	5 	6	7 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	8  <i>Choir</i> 7PM	9	10
11 3 RD Sunday in Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service VOTERS MEETING	12 6:00 Elder's Meeting	13 6:00 Council Meeting	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	15  <i>Choir</i> 7PM	16	17 
18 4 TH Sunday in Advent 10:15 Preschool and Sunday School Program at beginning of service	19	20	21 7:00 Advent Service	22  <i>Choir</i> 7PM	23	24 Chistmas Eve Service 7PM
25 10:15 SERVICE <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26	27	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	29  <i>Choir</i> 7PM	30	31