

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



February 2023

A Day of Rest, Reflection, & Repentance

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Exodus 20:8-11

In the Third Commandment God commands and invites us to rest, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness in order to strengthen our faith in Him. I’ve heard people say, “you don’t have to go to church to worship God.” And this is a true statement. But the question is, if you’re not in church are you truly worshiping God? Are you reflecting on His Word & receiving His forgiveness? Or is it a day in which you focus on yourself? Is it all about what you want, what you feel like doing? So many people after the COVID lockdowns have yet to return to church. Their excuse is health & safety, yet they travel all around and interact with people at stores, restaurants, on vacations, and at parties. They subject their children to daycares, play dates, & parties. But these people draw the line at church. They don’t go to church for fear of their lives and their families lives. But is that really true?

Most people who haven’t returned to church after COVID discovered their life is exactly the same as when they went to church. They feel that nothing is missing in their life since they’ve stopped

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attending. The problem is not the attitude of people after COVID. The problem started way before COVID ever occurred. Before COVID many came to church out of a sense of duty. They really didn’t like having to sit through a boring sermon or a boring service, which contained hymns and music that they didn’t really like. They came to church empty and left empty because they received nothing from the Divine Service. All because there was nothing they wanted from worshipping God, except His blessings. And so the COVID shut-down gave them the perfect excuse to stop going.

In Catechism we learned that the Third Commandment means, “That we should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday: 10:15 AM

Contact us:

princeofpeacefreedom.com

Office 724.728.3881

Preschool 724.728.2405

Fax 724.728.6708

Email

Pr. Sean Walters
pastorseangw@gmail.com

Twila DeThomas
popluthsecy@comcast.net

Liz Shuttleworth
popreschool@comcast.net

and gladly hear and learn it.” (*Luther’s Small Catechism*, pg.74) The ***me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***” (Mt 11:28-30) The rest that Christ gives is, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Php 4:7) Jesus has carried all of our sins and sorrows to the cross. His presence in Word and Sacrament gives us forgiveness and lightens every load of anxiety that we have in this world. For those who haven’t returned to worship God in community, well, they unknowingly traded the freedom of the Gospel for the heavy yoke of the Law, thinking they’re good enough to be saved by their own works. The irony in all of this is their excuse for not coming to church, which is health and safety. When the truth is outside of Christ there is only uncertainty, fear and eternal death. There is truly no rest for the wicked. But in Christ our Lord and in the community of the Holy Christian Church there is always rest for your soul.

time has come for the Church to move forward and stop waiting for the wayward to return in order to keep the church doors open. As the body of Christ, the Church, we are mandated by Christ to “GO” and make disciples of all nations and not wait for them to come to us. There is a great need to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere, to do good to everyone. You don’t have to wait for the church to create a committee or develop some kind of program in order to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. Don’t wait for someone else to do what God has laid upon your heart to do. And when you get tired & your sins begin to weigh you down. Come to God’s house of worship to rest in Christ, reflect on God’s Word, and receive His forgiveness so that your faith is strengthened, and your spirit is restored. Jesus invited His disciples to, ***“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you***

will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Mt 11:28-30) The rest that Christ gives is, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Php 4:7) Jesus has carried all of our sins and sorrows to the cross. His presence in Word and Sacrament gives us forgiveness and lightens every load of anxiety that we have in this world. For those who haven’t returned to worship God in community, well, they unknowingly traded the freedom of the Gospel for the heavy yoke of the Law, thinking they’re good enough to be saved by their own works. The irony in all of this is their excuse for not coming to church, which is health and safety. When the truth is outside of Christ there is only uncertainty, fear and eternal death. There is truly no rest for the wicked. But in Christ our Lord and in the community of the Holy Christian Church there is always rest for your soul.

Pastor Sean Walters



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

George Shibata, recently diagnosed with colon cancer, Simon Haynes, Joan Bowen. Bonnie Nies, Larry Weimer, Patrick Donnelly,

stroke, friend of Hoby. Kevin Mahoney, Bill Hewlett. Angie, friend of Pam & Tammy.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Roger Nuerge	2
Jean Taylor	4
Linda Volkov	7
Shane Parker	11
Joel Nuerge	12
Justin Nuerge	12
Zachary Walters	12
Skylar DeThomas	19
Rich Clayton	21
Kyle Borgman	29

George Mesing	2
Sallie Mannino	5
Jean Taylor	9
Mary Nuerge	15
Roger Nuerge	22
Brooke Lehman	22
Joel Nuerge	26
Justin Nuerge	26
Jane Wilson	28



Scott & Beth Lehman 19



February 5

"Your Time to Shine"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. John Nunes](#)

Light is necessary for life; God's light, even more so.

(Matthew 5:14-16)

February 12

"Shine Like Stars"

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

A social media star with a million followers can't possibly know all one million of them. However, there is one really famous Person with billions of followers Who knows--and loves--each one.

(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

February 19

"Table Manners"

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

(Exodus 24:11)

February 26

"It Begins with Who I Am"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy](#)

Our identity defines us. Every decision we make, every action we take, and every temptation we face begins with who we are. In Christ we receive an identity uncompromised and secure.

(Matthew 4:1-11)

**THIS MONTH'S SERVANTS
IN MINISTRY**

Altar Guild

Mary Nuerge

Acolytes

2/05 Grace Shibata

2/12 Brooke Lehman

2/19 James Shibata, Jr

2/26 Noah Schweikert

Readers

2/05 George Mesing

2/12 Karl Borgman

2/19 Bob Licht

2/26 OPEN

PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

"Making Disciples for Life."

This was the theme for Lutheran Schools Week this year. The kiddos in the 4 year old classes spent the month learning all about what it means to be one of Jesus' disciples! They learned of Philip helping the Ethiopian and enjoyed listening to the story of Paul & Silas being imprisoned. They were blown away to find out that even though they were in jail, they never stopped praising God, and with the earthquake they were set free! We ended the month with "I Want To Be Like Jesus" at Chapel!

The 3 year old classes focused on how Jesus loves all of the little children. They enjoyed singing Jesus Loves Even Me this month.

Next month we move on to John The Baptist, his clothes of camel hair, and diet of locusts and honey. The kids love that part!

Making
Disciples
for Life



NATIONAL
LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

God's Blessings,
Ms. Twila & Ms. Kayla



**Mrs. Shuttleworth and Ms. Kayla
PRESCHOOL NEWS**

January is here and our kiddos came back from their break itching for some snow fun! So while the weather outside wouldn't necessarily cooperate we gave them an inside snow ball fight and games of musical snowflakes! These activities help the kids' burn off their excess energy to help keep them focused during our lessons! Both classes have been working on their letters and numbers and have gotten to enjoy a PJ day of fun! However, the kid's most favorite part of the month has to be when they get to help decorate the classroom and hallways, this month's decorations were themed to: "Baby its cold outside!" Our four year class decorated hats, coats and gloves for our classroom and bulletin boards while our three year old class decorated mittens! As our four year olds waited patiently to make snowmen outside they also made some pretty ones to hang for everyone to enjoy in the hallway as well!

Three Year Old Class

Our three year old class has gotten to work on projects that are related to all the fun stories that we are teaching them! Our first week back we learned all about Penguins and read the cutest little book called "The Little Penguin and the Lollipop." We colored penguins and learned to count with different color goldfish that our own little penguins couldn't wait to chomp down on! Our second week; we read "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and our little stars made the cutest little Jar of Stars and then also decorated their own skylscapes where they were the diamond in the sky. The third week of school was a short but fun week with our PJ party day! Filled with snacks, movies and games galore! Our fourth week of school we read "Ten on the Sled" a cute story about all different winter animals; for this we colored the different animals and then glued them to a sled. After, this we painted with chalk on black colored paper and then glued it all together! They loved it and they might have loved gluing

the project even more! Our fifth week of school, we worked on matching mittens and started our Valentine's Day projects!

Four Year Old Class

Our four year class really started back to work swinging! We started learning about hibernation, the five senses and rhyming. All these important lessons will be incorporated throughout the month in all of our projects and some of our games! Our first week back, we continued with the Penguin theme, but learned all about the Emperor Penguin and even protected some penguin babies! Our second week back we worked on the sense "hearing" by bringing in something that makes noise and they LOVED that! We played "Sound Bingo" and made a Listen & Do Snowman page! Our letter for this week was "L" so we made an "L" out of lights and a Ladybug out of an "L." Our third week back we learning all about hibernation and did a color-cut-glue worksheet of animals that either hibernate or don't. We really worked hard on rhyming with fun worksheet activities that they were able to cut out and match! Our letter this week was "M" and we focused on printing numbers "1-4." They are getting so good at their numbers! To end out the week we had our PJ day, where we watched "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" enjoyed some yummy snacks and super fun games! Our fourth week we continued with our five sense lessons with the egg full of sound activities. We also worked on "N" and the number 5!

Everyone is working so hard and learning so much, 2023 is off to a great start!

Mrs. Shuttleworth and Miss Kayla

Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's Preschool News

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone!! May this new year bring joy and happiness to you and your family! All preschool classes jumped back into school after a quick "show and tell". All the boys and girls were permitted to bring his or her favorite Christmas gift to show the class. Surprisingly, no two students brought the same gift to show. Typically, we have repeat items. We do this every year because the children love to talk about their homes and themselves.

It was nice during the month of January to have full weeks of instruction again since the holiday season is over. We learned four new letters during our writing skills lessons with the four-year-olds in January. We learned the letters; N, Y, D, and Z.

The four-year-olds also spent time doing a letter review of all the letters we have learned so far this school year. They are preparing for kindergarten so we spent some time writing our numbers too. The kids did a great job learning how to write numbers 1-5 so far. We will write up to 10 this year but count out loud to 30. Towards the end of the month, we focused on animals that hibernate. We talked about what it means to hibernate and which animals typically do so. We always had crafts that go with lessons and even our three-year-old class took home a book about hibernation. For all classes we even snuck in a day to watch a movie and wear pajamas to school. The three-year-olds watched Paw Patrol Movie, and the four-year-olds watched the movie, Sonic the Hedgehog. We all enjoyed some delicious snacks. We also started talking about our five senses and of course rounding out the end of the month we held chapel where we invited parents/guardians to attend.

January was a fun and exciting month during preschool. Our time with the four-year-olds is half over, which makes us push toward preschool graduation so that they can be ready to enter kindergarten. We are now accepting 2023-2024 registration for both three-year-old and four-year-old preschool classes. Referrals are always appreciated!

Until Next Month; God Bless,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Myths Busted!!

As you know, Samaritan's Purse is an organization that sends shoebox gifts to children overseas through its Operation Christmas Child program. They claim to have sent over 9 million shoeboxes to more than 100 countries for distribution at 80,000 tribal meetings and groups so that underprivileged kids can have nice Christmas gifts.

But can we really believe these claims? Do the boxes really get to children in need? Can we trust them? So many non-profits these days are taking advantage of your money and the top dogs are the ones who prosper.

I'm here to bust some myths about Operation Christmas Child. Let's get started...

Myth #1 – Distribution Centers don't actually exist.

There are multiple distribution centers throughout the country. Volunteers drive for hours to help process shoeboxes. They open them up to look for liquids and contraband items to make sure the boxes get through customs. They even use dogs to sniff out harmful items.

Myth #2 – The list of appropriate items is not important.

The list of appropriate items is designed to ensure that the boxes arrive at the intended destination. The best boxes include items that are both useful and fun. The website contains a list of many age-appropriate items. But the best (and probably easiest) way is to ask a kid in the same age group and gender for suggestions. They are usually more than happy to help.



Myth #3 – Anybody can get a job with Operation Christmas Child.

Inspectors are hired to train and coach volunteers. The hiring process for OCC is one of the most rigorous as they desire to have believers in Jesus at every interval of the process. They ask how a potential hire would share the Gospel. They care about integrity and want volunteers who care about the process on both an emotional and a spiritual level. They pause periodically to pray over the shoeboxes. Many volunteers are shocked to see the care with which these boxes are packed.

Myth #4 – All shoeboxes are delivered at Christmas.

Operation Christmas Child works year around and the gifts are shipped year around. It takes many months to deliver that many boxes. Boxes are shipped by boat, camel and donkey to get to remote places where children are in need.

The bottom line is this – Samaritan's Purse is paying it forward. The shocking truth is that there is no dirt or scandal with this organization. But don't take my word for it. Do your research. Check them out online. They have a lot of stories to share on their website.

A small gift given through this ministry will be a blessing to a child in need. So why not get involved? Encourage kids to give something that they would like to receive. Pack a few (or a lot) of shoeboxes. Volunteer at one of the facilities. Pray for the children and the volunteers. You may find that you're just as blessed as those kids who receives the boxes.

For more information see Tammy Eckstrom, Debbie Steigerwald, Craig or Emma Genser

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Invites you to the

40th *Biennial Convention*

June 22–25, 2023

Wisconsin Center — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13).

Convention Goal

As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

Convention Objectives

Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

Convention Logo Explanation

The 2023 LWML Convention logo features a wooden cross, reminding us of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus who takes away the sin of the world. Wrapped around and draped over the cross is a long banner with the flags of many countries. The cross supports the banner as Christ delivers life and salvation to all the children of man. The banner waves symbolizing our life by the Holy Spirit and the movement and proclamation of the Word of God into all nations.





Thank You for giving \$ 452.01 In 2022. Awesome!! Use this calendar with your Mite Box! Then bring it to church & empty it into the big box. The mite challenge calendar is a resource designed to focus daily on LWML Gospel Outreach. This is a suggested mite donation, but that is mainly to remind you that even little amounts can make a big impact when coupled with prayer, mission service, a Bible verse, a song, or recognition and praise for what God is providing in your life. Use the calendar during family devotions, as inspiration during the week, or as a visible reminder of God's faithfulness and our possible responses. It's no accident that the acronym for Gospel Outreach is "GO." Look at all the Missions that already have been paid in FULL, thanks to YOU!! Keep it up in 2023 to fulfill the rest needed.



January 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar						
MY CUP OVERFLOWS: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (Psalm 23:5).						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Thank the Lord for another year. Donate 23¢	2 Walk extra steps today. Donate 95¢	3 Read Matthew 11:28-29. Donate 50¢	4 Pray for the Braille ministry. Donate 25¢	5 Watch for birds of the air and praise the Lord for them. Donate 10¢	6 It's Epiphany. Jesus came to save us. Share that News! Donate 90¢	7 Recite Psalm 23. Donate 70¢
8 Call and visit with a shut-in today. Donate 75¢	9 Pray for law enforcement officers. Donate 60¢	10 Sing "The Lord's My Shepherd" LSB 710. Donate 95¢	11 Share how your "cup overflows" with a friend. Donate 65¢	12 Buy a cup of tea or coffee for someone. Donate 35¢	13 Pray for the LWML mission grants. Donate 45¢	14 Thank the Lord for the vocation to which you are called. Donate 10¢
15 Find a hat to donate. Donate 40¢	16 Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:1-10). Donate 90¢	17 Donate to a food pantry. Donate 30¢	18 Recite The Lord's Prayer. Donate 50¢	19 Enjoy some popcorn today. Donate 45¢	20 Read through the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. Donate 80¢	21 Give extra hugs today. Donate 35¢
22 Pray for your pastor, his wife, and family. Donate 10¢	23 Handwrite and mail a "thinking of you" card. Donate 45¢	24 Compliment those you see doing a good job. Donate 30¢	25 Read Ephesians 1:3. Donate 75¢	26 Praise the Lord for your spouse or dear friends. Donate 80¢	27 Share a piece of chocolate cake. Donate 50¢	28 Donate to a quilting group. Donate 20¢
29 Lift up the young women of LWML in prayer. Donate 50¢	30 Praise the Lord for winter precipitation. Donate 60¢	31 Pray over your District Mission Grants. Donate 35¢				

God's Blessings,
Mary Lehocky



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 	2 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 	3	4 5:30 Kidz Club
5 5 TH Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Holy Communion	6	7	8 No Midweek Bible Study	9 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 	10	11
12 6 TH Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Holy Communion	13	14 	15 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	16 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 	17 	18
19 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Holy Communion	20	21 6:30 Council	22 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 	23 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 	24	25
26 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Holy Communion	27	28	1 Midweek Service 7pm			