

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



January 2023

“Therefore I Will Hope in Him”

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

The start of every new year brings with it a new hope of a better year than the one before. Some people try to start the new year off with some self-improvement or or “New Year’s Resolutions” to get healthier, lose weight, stop

smoking, get out of debt and a myriad of other things. But very few people are resolute enough to actually do what they said they would do. And so within the first few months of the new year their already disappointed and ready to move on to the next thing they think will bring them happiness. For most people the “New Year” ends up being just like the year before except for a few fleeting wonderful moment throughout the year.

The problem is that in order for a year to be better than the year before mankind has to be better. But we know man is sinful and incapable of being better. As time goes on mankind is progressively getting worse. The apostle Paul wrote, **“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness,**

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but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.” (2 Tim 3:1-7)
Theses are, in fact, the last days and if we focus one ourselves then we have already fallen pray to Satan’s schemes to discourage us. When we look around at the world today it seems perversion knows no bounds and the world seems to be upside down. But God has

WORSHIP WITH US

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10:15AM

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warned mankind already about this through His prophet Isaiah. God said, ***“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!”*** (Is 5:20-23) No one is getting away with anything. God is ever watchful and knows all things. Soon God will avenge His name as He pours out His wrath on the unrepentant. So we do good to remember, ***“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”*** (Rm 12:19) And God will repay all those who have traded the truth for a lie and live according to their passions. If you hope for a better year yet continue to place your

hope in man, your new year will be the same as the last one or even worse. Jeremiah writes, ***“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”*** (Lam 3:22-24) He writes this knowing that God is about to pronounce judgment on Judea for their many sins, as well as their injustice and perversions. We can't count on man, but we can count on God who is always loving and faithful towards His children. When we put our hope and trust into our Lord, it is never misplaced. God's mercies are new every morning because in Christ our sins are forgiven every day when we repent and drowned the old Adam in us.

God is always the same. Scripture says, ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be***

strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.” (Heb 13:8-9) The steadfast love of God doesn't expire or change. 2023 will be the best year yet if you put all your love, trust, and hope in the Lord our God. As the Holy Spirit begins to work in you, you will learn to lean on Him and you will learn the peace that surpasses all human understanding because it comes from God and not from man. It's in the true and lasting peace of God that we have true joy no matter what happens. We know God is good and He is always with us. When we learn to live in Him, we don't have to hope next year will be better, because we know eternity will be greater than anything we could ever imagine. Therefore I will put my hope in the Lord, because He is the rock of my salvation.

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. Gabby V. Skylar, health concerns, Larry Weimer, Patrick Donnelly, stroke, friend of Hoby.

Bill Hewlett, fractured pelvis. Bob Steigerwald, recovering from pneumonia. Michael Szabo, health issues. Olivia, friend of Liz, pregnant and hospitalized with RSV.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Amy Wilson	2
Ethel Clayton	6
Emma Genser	8
Brooke Lehman	10
Sandi Morgan	10
George Mesing	15
Hoby Schweikert, VI	15
Mary Nuerge	21
Kathy Volland	24
Joan Bowen	25
Brianna Dulski	26
Robert Steigerwald	31

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Ed Morgan	1
Skylar DeThomas	8
Matt Parker	18
Kaitlyn Schultz	21
Don Wunnenberg	22

ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Deborah Seigerwald 29



LUTHERAN HOUR – JANUARY SCHEDULE

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

January 1

"Out of Egypt"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

"Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today.

(Matthew 2:13-23)

January 8

"Gifted"

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

What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God?

(Colossians 1:16)

January 15

"Gifts to Share"

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

A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us.

(Colossians 1:29)

January 22

"Whatever You Do"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

(Colossians 3:17-21)

January 29

"Hopelessly Hopeful"

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

(Colossians 1:27)



2023 Shoebox Drive

Efforts are already underway to pack even more boxes in 2023. The OCC team has set the goal at 20 boxes per age group and gender. That means 120 boxes.

We've begun collecting items (more about that later) but would like to ask that you prayerfully consider joining the "10 for \$10 Group." If 10 people commit to giving \$10 per month for postage, that will cover the \$1,200 we need. And it's simple to give—checks payable to Prince of Peace with OCC Postage in the memo line can be put in the collection plate. Prefer giving cash? Let us know so Twila can get you marked envelopes to put in the collection plate!

For January, we plan to focus our efforts on collecting Barbie Dolls and / or clothing and accessories, washcloths and small cars (such as Matchbox). Please deposit your items in the bins set up on the OCC table in the hallway.

If you'd like to be part of the team, please join us in the POP fellowship hall on January 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. We welcome new ideas and can always use more help as we sort, unpack and organize items. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our members:

Tammy Eckstrom, Debbie Steigerwald, Craig & Emma Genser



A special THANK YOU to everyone who helped out from moving tables to cooking food for the Preschool Christmas Program! ~Pam Licht~



Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's Preschool News

Glory to God in the Highest, Peace and Goodwill toward Men.

The month of December was spent worshiping God and preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This Bible concept is what we focused on with both the three-year-old and four-year-old classes,

The full Christmas programs were back this year for all preschool classes. December 18th was a

special day as we celebrated the four-year old's during Church as they began our day with their "Christmas Story" program for parishioners, friends, and families. Thank you to the church members in attendance and for the support.

The three-year old's invited their families to preschool on Tuesday December 20th to show them

the songs they had been practicing. The program was adorable!!

Instruction time was limited this month due to the short three weeks leading up to Christmas break. We did have time to fit in some holiday decorations in addition to lots of arts and crafts as we presented parents with gifts that their preschoolers made for them.

We also made time to refresh our memories with colors, shapes, and coloring. The preschoolers enjoyed reading a story in class which was about the state of Pennsylvania. There was actually a great deal of geography in the book, Santa's coming to Pennsylvania.

The children laughed

when they recognized some of the historical landmarks through Pennsylvania that Santa would make a stop at on Christmas Eve. The four-year old's even had a Grinch Day where everyone could wear their favorite Grinch color or character. We gave the boys and girls a special treat of green Rice Krispie Treats! Yummy!!!

December is a very special month for multiple reasons. Let us not get caught up in all the tinsel and lights; and remember the true meaning of the season. We hope this year left you with precious memories with your loved ones young and old; and this coming New Year will be filled with continued blessings of health and happiness for your friends and family. On behalf of

myself and Miss Twila we would like to wish everyone a

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We Welcome 2023!!!

Blessings to you and yours,

Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila



PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

**The last two months the kids were learning all about the Journey to Bethlehem and practicing for their Christmas Programs! As most of you know, the four year olds performed during church service on the 18th. Our three year olds performed their program for their families on December 20th. We are so incredibly proud of the kiddos! They all know that Christmas isn't about presents and Santa....
it's all about Baby Jesus!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 15th THERE WILL BE A REVERSE DECORATING PARTY:

There will be a potluck lunch that Sunday after church. Then we'll take down the Christmas decorations and put them away until next year. Please bring a dish to share. We have lots to do, but it shouldn't take long. Thank you in advance for your help! Please contact Linda Weimer with any questions at 2xlweimer@gmail.com or 724-584-7327.

January 22nd is the Winterfest/Congregation Dinner Please be sure to sign up and fill in all the boxes on the sign up sheet in the Narthex area.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The sign-up sheet for 2023 is in the hallway. Please consider sponsoring a week, to give glory to God, honor a loved one, or for a special occasion (anniversary, birthday, etc.) There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. The cost is \$20 a week. Make checks payable to Prince of Peace and place the payment and info in the Altar Guild mailbox. Thank you. Contact Linda Weimer at 2xlweimer@gmail.com or 724-584-7327 with any questions. The flowers are yours to take after the service.

ALTAR GUILD needs your help. We need 2 or 3 more people to help set up communion. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. It takes a little time before and after church. Please consider helping us. We're happy to work with you until you feel comfortable. Contact Linda Weimer with any questions at 724-584-7327.



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 1st Sunday After Christmas 10:15 Service	2	3	4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	5 CHOIR <i>Practice</i>	6	7 5:30– 7:00 Kidz Club
8 The Baptism of Our Lord 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	9 6PM Elders Meeting	10 6PM Council Meeting	11 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	12 CHOIR <i>Practice</i>	13	14 
15 2 ND Sunday After the Epiphany 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service Reverse Decorating Party & Potluck	16	17	18 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	19 CHOIR <i>Practice</i>	20	21
22 3 RD Sunday After the Epiphany 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service WINTERFEST DINNER	23	24	25 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	26 CHOIR <i>Practice</i>	27	28
29 4 TH Sunday After the Epiphany 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	30	31				