

# Prince of Peace

## THE BELLS

December 2023



### "Hear the Angels Sing"

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and*

*and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

*Luke 2:8-14*

One of the most poetic sections of St. Luke's Gospel are the seven verses (8-14) in chapter 2. I remember as a child having to memorize these seven verses for our church's Christmas program. And while reciting it during the play, I can remember seeing my mother mouthing the words right along with me as though it were a duet that we were singing. Unfortunately, I can't sing well, I can sing, but it's not good, but my mother had a beautiful voice and as they say, "She sang like an angel." But as wonderful as I thought my mother's singing was, I doubt very highly that she could have matched an angel in that heavenly choir on the day of Christ's birth.

Scripture calls the angelic choir "A multitude of the heavenly host." The word "host" means an "army." John Albert Bengel wrote in his book, *"The Gnomon of the New Testament,"* **"Paradoxically an Army that announces peace."** After delivering the message to the shepherds, the angels first sing **"Glory to God,"** which is a preliminary necessity for real peace on earth. And the angels continue their song by singing that God **will** bring peace **'for men on whom His favor rests.'** The emphasis here is on God, not man. It's those for whom God had chosen from before the foundations of the earth were set, rather than those who believe they choose God now in their lifetime. And so at the Christ child's birth the angels celebrate with a

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song that honors God for what He has done & will do through His promised Christ.

And the peace of course means peace between God & people, which is the healing of the estrangement caused by Adam & Eve's fall into sin, which has infected all mankind. But in order for this reconciliation to take place the Christ had to be sacrificed to pay for the sins of the world, which will please God & sanctify mankind for whom God's favor rests upon. But the glory of God & the cause for the angelic song stems from the "Good news of great joy." The swaddling cloths will be turned into burial cloths that will be left in an empty tomb. And the Christ child was placed in a feeding trough that will later be an altar. An altar in which Christ's body & blood in bread & wine will feed the multitudes on earth as it is in heaven.

(cont.on page 2)

#### WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:  
10:15AM

Contact us:  
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Office 724.728.3881

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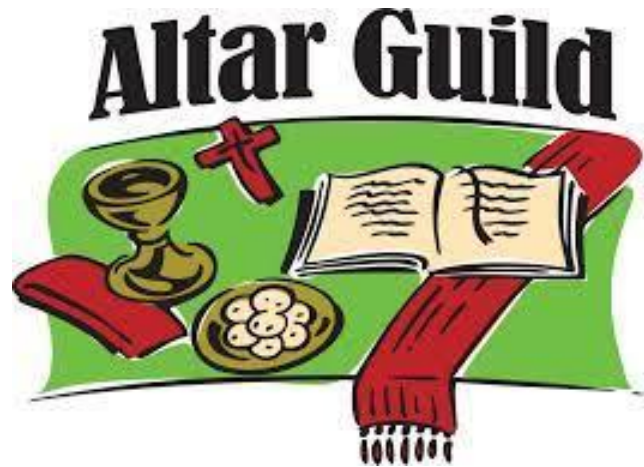
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(cont from page 1...)

And so, the militarized angelic choir sings God's praises for what He has done long before it occurred. The angels celebrate the death, resurrection & ascension of Christ at His birth, because if there wasn't a Good Friday & an Easter Sunday then there wouldn't be a Christmas to celebrate. The focus on Christmas shouldn't be on the birth of Jesus, but on what the birth of Christ means, which is God keeping His promise through the prophet Isaiah to save the world. ***"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*** (Is 7:14)  
Amen.

Pastor Sean



A signup sheet is hung up in the narthex area for help with Altar Guild for 2024. If you are able to sign up for a month or two worth of Sundays please do so!

We are happy to work with you. It just takes a little time each week to set up and clean up.

Please contact Linda Weimer at 724-584-7327 if you can help us.

**There are dates available for 2024 to put flowers on the altar.**

Please consider placing flowers on the altar in memory of loved ones or to the glory of God.

**The sign-up sheets are in the preschool hallway. The cost is \$25.**

Money can be put in the altar guild mailbox. The flowers are yours after the service.

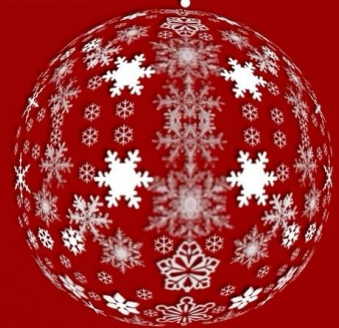


✝ Bob Licht and family,  
loss of Pam  
✝ Joyce Hewlett and family,  
loss of Bill  
✝ Steigerwald family,  
loss of Sarah's mother  
✝ Allen's cousin, Ima Gene  
✝ John H.  
✝ Kristy Elkin  
✝ Hillary  
✝ Patrick  
✝ Theodore  
✝ Joan  
✝ Larry

✝ Carmie  
✝ Louise Gulmantovicz,  
Bill's sister  
✝ Genevieve  
✝ Hoby's Father  
✝ Hoby's Father-in-Law,  
Bob  
✝ Bonnie  
✝ Vanessa  
✝ Don & Betty  
✝ Paul Palmer, recovering  
from stroke  
✝ Craig's dad, Ron  
✝ Edward Woods, addiction

## *Snowflake Mingle Holiday Luncheon*

*Sunday January 14th after Church*



Sign up sheet up in the Narthex

## December Servants in Ministry

### ACOLYTES

12/03 Noah Schweikert  
 12/10 Grace Shibata  
 12/17 Brooke Lehman  
 12/24 Joy Shibata  
 12/31 Grace Russler

### ALTAR GUILD

Linda Weimer

### READERS

12/03 Bob Licht  
 12/10 Karl Borgman  
 12/17 open  
 12/24 open  
 12/31 open



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



Chuck and Sue Szabo	1
(50 years)	
Willis & Kathy Volland	11
(69 years)	



Beau DeThomas, Jr	3
Amy Rachuba	6
James Shibata, Jr	9
Craig Genser	20
James Shibata, Sr	22
Twila DeThomas	24

# NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 31  
 Christmas Break





<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WWCH	Clarion, PA	1300	AM	Sun	7:30 AM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	103.9	FM	Sun	3:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	103.9	FM	Tue	12:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	1080	AM	Sat	3:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	1080	AM	Tue	12:30 PM

## December 2023

December 3

### "Before They Call"

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

SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!"  
(Isaiah 64:4)

December 10

### "A-T Walker"

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

A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost.  
(Isaiah 40:3)

December 17

### "Life After Landing"

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

What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save.  
(Isaiah 61:1-2)

December 24

### "Community and Conversation"

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

(John 1:1)

December 31

### "Of Entrances and Exits"

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

(Luke 2:27-28)





## Mrs. Smith's Classroom 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 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 feathers with items we were most thankful for. The letter P coincided with Perky Turkeys in the three year old class and we used coffee filters to stain colors as feathers. 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! Happy Thanksgiving to you all!!!

As always, we are truly thankful that we get this opportunity to share class time with each and every student. We are seeing the effects of Covid in ways we did not think of. Some children are having difficulty with social and emotional times. We are working on this as a whole class and seeing growth in our students. We love all the willingness to learn. Sometimes students need to practice school lessons at home so that we can move forward in class from month to month. Our preschool families are wonderful!

Rounding out the month of November we asked all the students what they were thankful for and discussed our blessings. Some students said they were thankful for their teachers. :) and also, their friends, pets, Moms and Dads. A variety that we wanted to get them to think about how much we have. The teachers and staff at Prince of Peace Preschool are super THANKFUL for YOU...

Blessings until next month,  
Mrs. Smith, Ms. Twila, & Ms. Kayla



### **PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON**

This month we started talking about the Journey to Bethlehem. We are looking forward to performing our program! We will continue to learn about the true meaning of Christmas with lots of stories, crafts, and fun!

God's Blessings,

Ms. Twila



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped us reach our goal this year! All donations, prayers, and volunteer time are much appreciated!

Tammy Eckstrom, Deb Steigerwald and Craig and Emma Genser

# DECEMBER 2023



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2  5:30 – 7:00
3 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  9:00 Sunday School  10:15 Service	4 	5	6 11:00 Midweek Bible Study  7:00 Advent Service	7  Choir 7PM	8	9  Bill Hewlett Memorial Service 11AM
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  9:00 Sunday School  10:15 Service VOTERS MEETING	11  6:00 Council Meeting	12	13 11:00 Midweek Bible Study  7:00 Advent Service	14  Choir 7PM	15	16 
17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  10:15 Sunday School Program & service	18	19 	20 11:00 Midweek Bible Study  7:00 Advent Service	21  Choir 7PM	22	23
24 10:15 Service  Christmas Eve Service 7PM	25 10:15 Service  Merry Christmas 	26	27 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	28  Choir 7PM	29	30
31 10:15 Service						