

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



January 2024

A Time of Reflection & Repentance

"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

Mark 1:14-15

Another season of Lent will soon be upon us. Ash Wednesday begins with a reminder of cold, dark reality. God said to the man after his fall into sin, ***"for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*** (Gen 3:19) With the advent of sin, man was destined to die and return to the earth for which he was created. Adam's DNA contained sin which was passed down

to all mankind. This defect in our DNA is the cause of everything that leads to death, as well as eternal death in hell. During the season of Lent, we're to examine ourselves and realize this truth. Lent is a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. As it says in the Ash Wednesday address, ***"Lent is a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance borne of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope."*** (LSB) And ***"Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ."*** (LSB)

The entire Lenten season can be summed up in what Mark recorded Jesus saying in V15, ***"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** (Mk 1:15) The Kingdom has come in the advent of Jesus. And the verb ***"is"*** emphasizes the completed action, even though Jesus says this early on in Mark's gospel account. Jesus came to fulfill all of God's promises about the salvation of the world. Though "Good Friday" was a long way off, throughout Jesus' ministry, He invited people to enjoy God's kind rule by living under His grace and righteousness. The preaching of the Gospel, in its proper sense, doesn't mean the preaching of repentance, but only the preaching of God's grace, which follows directly after the preaching of repentance. It's in our penitential reflection that we realize our tremendous need for forgiveness and a Savior. But prayerful and penitential reflection shouldn't be

Inside this issue:

Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Servants in Ministry	3
The Lutheran Hour	4
Calendar	12

relegated to the season of Lent only. "Humble repentance borne of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word" (LSB), should take place each and every time before receiving the "Lord's Supper." Every Divine Service is a mini-Easter celebration, in which we begin with confession, a mini-Lent. And then we hear God's Word read and preached. It's the hearing of God's Law and Gospel proclaimed, in true doctrine, which is true worship. This leads us to true repentance and only then do we receive forgiveness, pardon and peace in the Lord's Supper, which we draw life and hope from. And so, we're doing as Christ commanded, we're repenting and believing in His Gospel. But the season of Lent ***"is a time of special devotion."*** Lent is a holy season in which we take time out during the week and our busy schedules to worship God, in Christ Jesus, on Wednesday evening, so that

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

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

preschool@princeofpeacefreedom.com

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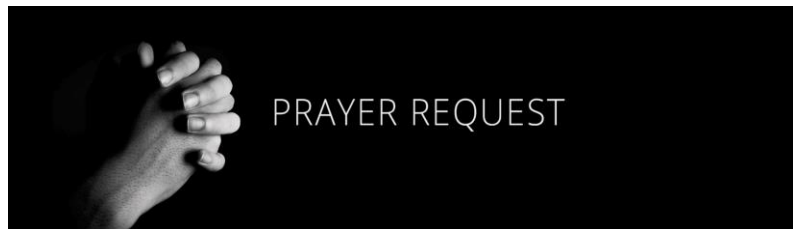
“Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

People are really big on giving up something for Lent. They don't do it to draw closer to Christ. They do it so they can say they've given something up in order to be and sound holy. But giving something up for Lent doesn't make you holy, it just makes you more sinful because it becomes works righteousness. What we need to give up during the season of Lent is time spent in the world and give in to spending time with God in personal devotions & worship. Let Jesus' words of ***“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*** (Mk 1:15) to resonate within you, as your attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ during this Lententide season. And may you come to Easter with a different appreciation for Christ's redeeming work.

Pastor Sean



Lent 2024 begins February 14. Midweek services will be held on Wednesdays at 7PM. A Meager Meal will be held prior to the Ash Wednesday service.



†Allen's cousin, Ima Gene

†John H.

†Kristy Elkin

†Patrick

†Joan

†Larry

†Joan Gee & sister

†Genevieve

†John H.

†Betty

†Bonnie

†Family of Margaret Rombold

February Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

02/04 Joy Shibata
 02/11 Grace Russler
 02/18 James Shibata
 02/25 Noah Schweikert

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Weimer

READERS

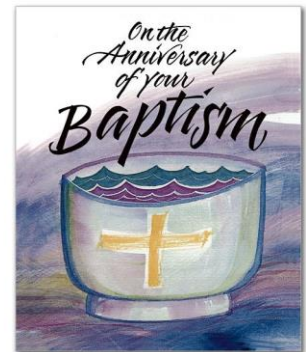
02/04 Bob Licht
 02/11 Tammy Eckstrom
 02/18 Noah Schweikert
 02/25 OPEN



Roger Nuerge	02
Jean Taylor	04
Linda Volkov	07
Joel Nuerge	12
Justin Nuerge	12
Zachary Walters	12
Skylar DeThomas	19
Rich Clayton	21
Ernestine Dietrich	21
Megan Steigerwald	25
Sarah Steigerwald	25
Nicolas Schweikert	26
Kyle Borgman	29



Scott & Beth Lehman
 (30 years)



Judy McCready	01
George Mesing	02
Sarah Mannino	05
Elizabeth Russler	06
Jean Taylor	09
Mary Nuerge	15
Brooke Lehman	22
Roger Nuerge	22
Joel Nuerge	26
Justin Nuerge	26
Jane Wilson	26



<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

February 2024

February 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

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

What fills the heart that has no room to forgive?
(Ephesians 4:32)

February 11

"What Is Evangelism?"

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

How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about.
(Mark 9:7-8)

February 18

"Redeeming DIY"

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

(Mark 1:12-13)

February 25

"When Winning Is Losing"

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

(Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27)



Mrs. Smith'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.

We do this every year because the children love to talk about their holiday 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 2024-2025 registration for both three-year-old and four-year-old preschool classes. Next year we plan to hold the four year old class a half hour longer due to some Covid deficit. The kiddos need a little bit more time and attention to prepare for kindergarten. Referrals are always appreciated!

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



This month we got to discuss The Ten Commandments! Some of the commandments really puzzled the kiddos, but they were able to understand most of them. Each student got to take home a laminated list of “God’s Rules” to hang on their fridge. I have had parents message me laughing that their child is telling them that they aren’t keeping God’s commandments

when they do something like using the Lord’s name in vain. 😊

Our 3 year old class sang “The Lord’s Army” at Chapel. Our 4 year olds sang a Prince of Peace favorite, “Big Bold Powerful God” The kids always love that one!

Blessings,
Ms. Twila

Ash Wednesday

MEAGER MEAL BEFORE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024
6PM



FEBRUARY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to

bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!

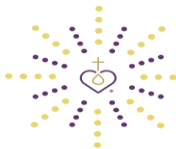
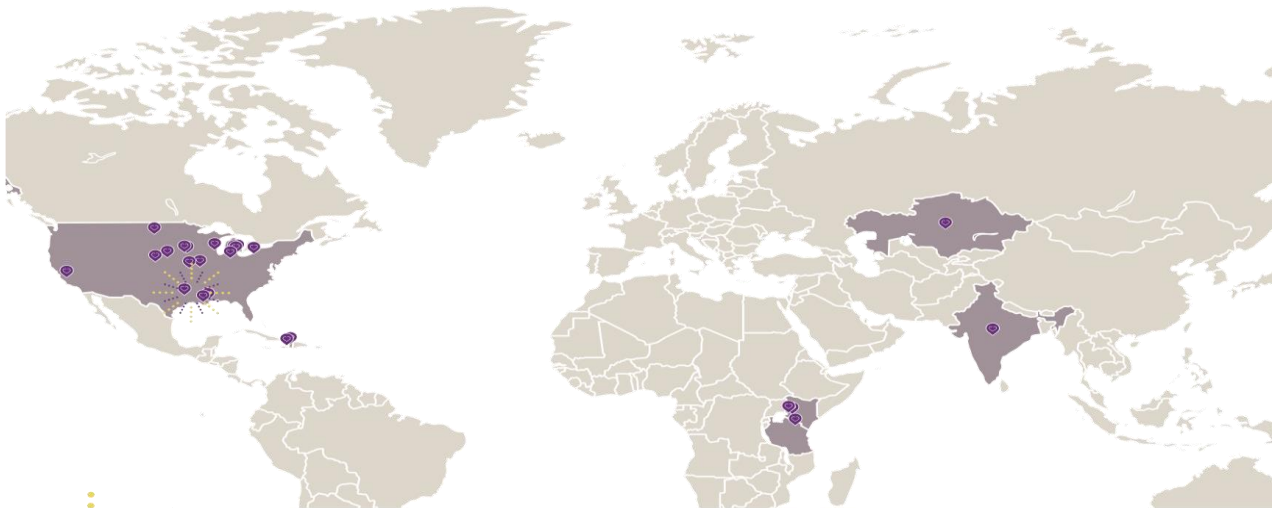
1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

I would like to thank everyone who donated mites for the LWML missions. You gave \$582.00 for the year of 2023. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helped complete the \$2,150,000 grant goal. Praise God! Keep it coming in 2024 to fulfill 31 new grants for the new mission goal of \$2,350,000.00. Every penny adds up. To To God be the Glory! Thanks again, Mary Lehocky



2023–2025 MISSION GRANT DISTRIBUTIONS

For more information call 1-800-252-5965 or visit lwml.org/mission-grants



MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT

SHINING CHRIST'S LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF DISASTER



Disaster Response Team Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas | \$100,000

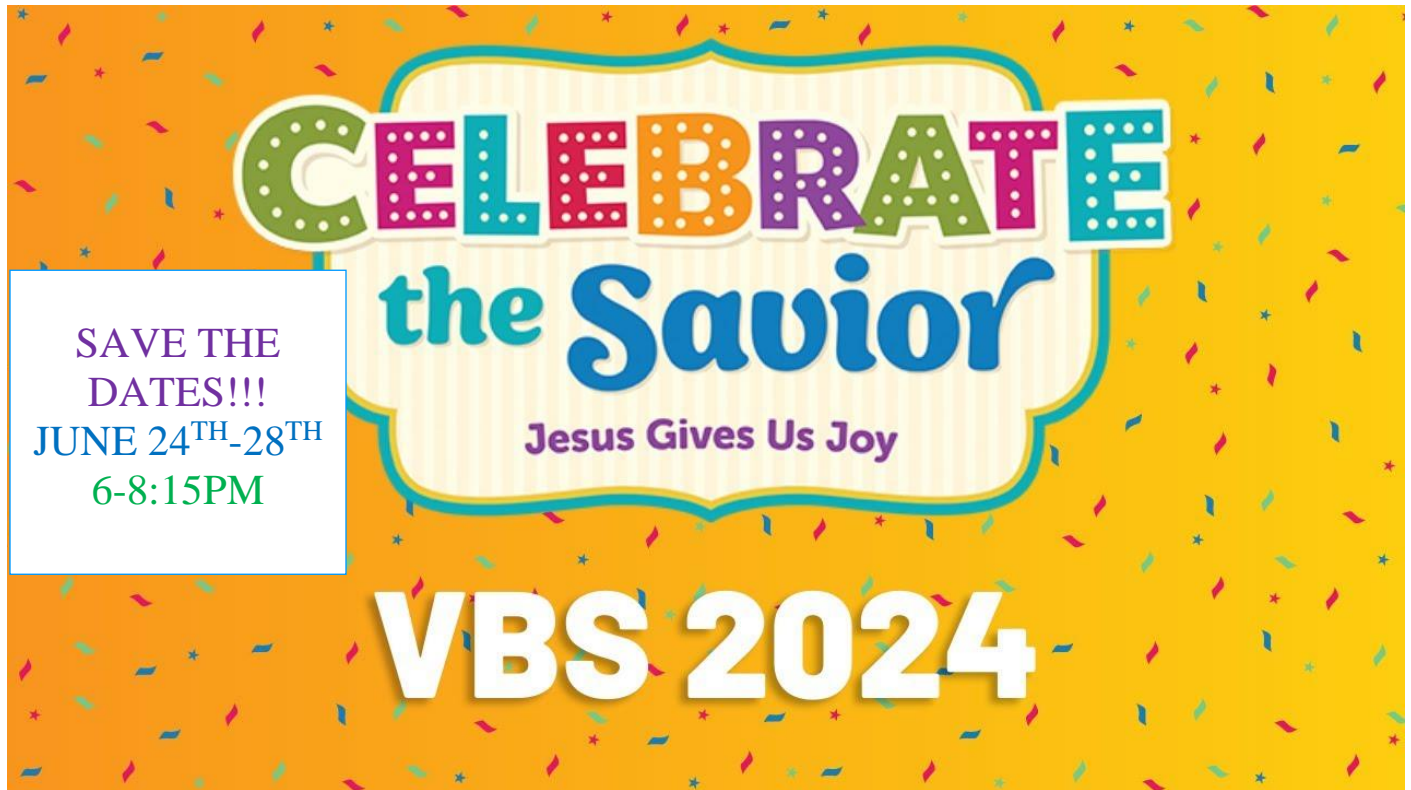
The Disaster Response Team responds to help victims of natural disasters. They are called to serve, have a presence on the ground, and assist with cleanup. While providing help, they listen to the victims and share the love of Jesus and bring hope, encouragement, and healing through God's Word and prayer.

Mobile Kitchen Forged by Fire Services | \$85,000



Mite collection will be the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Please see Mary Lehocky with any questions



**We are in need of people willing to help out with AV
during services!
If you are able to help, please see Doug.**

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thank you to the many members and friends of Prince of Peace who have supported the Shoebox Ministry in the past. In 2024, we were blessed to deliver 126 boxes to the collection center-boxes full of school supplies, hygiene items and *FUN* items, like stuffed animals, musical instruments, dolls, cars and trucks.

We tracked our boxes all the way to Botswana, a landlocked country in the center of Southern Africa. The territory is roughly triangular—approximately 600 miles (965 km) from north to south and 600 miles from east to west. Within the confines of Botswana's borders is a rich variety of wildlife, including many species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

A country of slightly over 2.3 million people, Botswana is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world.



Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the children who received the boxes and participate in the Greatest Journey discipleship course.

Collection efforts for 2024 are already underway. There are many ways to help:

- Pray for this ministry.
- Donate funds to pay for shipping and purchase shoebox items by placing your donation in an envelope you will find on the collection table or a check made payable to Prince of Peace with OCC in the memo line.
- Purchase items such as socks for boys and girls in age groups 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14), washcloths, Hot Wheels cars, toothbrushes, to name a few.
- Purchase items on the Amazon wish list (see Craig Genser, Emma Genser, Debbie Steigerwald or Tammy Eckstrom for details).

**Concordia Lutheran Ministries needs help.**

What is needed are people to help residents get to church. All of these church services are in the facility in which these residents live. Many residents are in wheel chairs and getting to and from church services is a struggle and in some cases an impossibility for them to do on their own. The activity department staff helps as do a few other staff as they are able, but often the need is greater than what they can provide. Anyone who has an interest in helping others get to church, helping them get to a place that is comfortable for them in church, possibly giving a hand with the church service and making sure residents get back to their room could really be a valuable and helpful presence. Doing this for residents would also be a way of serving the Lord.

Here are facilities you could contact and some contact information that can help. Arriving about 20 minutes before church starts, staying for the church service and helping residents who might need some help and then helping escort them back to their room would be a big help.

Here are facilities nearby to contact:

Concordia of Cranberry – 10 Adams Ridge Boulevard, Mars, PA 16046

724-779-4300 ask for Amber, the Activities Director – Church Service on Thursday 3:30

Concordia of Franklin Park – 1600 Georgetown Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143 742-935-1075
ask for Veronica, the Activities Director – Church Service on Tuesday 10:30

Concordia at Villa St. Joseph – 1030 State Street, Baden, PA 15005 724-869-6300 ask for Chris the Activities Director - Church services on Tuesday 1:45 at skilled care and 3:00 at Personal Care

February

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3  5:30 – 7:00
4 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service Elder's Meeting	5 6:30 Council Meeting	6	7 No Bible Study	8  Choir 7PM	9	10
11 Transfiguration 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	12	13	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study Meager Meal 6PM Ash Wednesday Service 7PM	15  Choir 7PM	16	17
18 Lent 1 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	19	20	21 11:00 Midweek Bible Study Midweek Service 7 pm	22  Choir 7PM	23	24
25 Lent 2 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	26	27	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study Midweek Service 7 pm	29  Choir 7PM		