

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS

The Greatest Gift Giver

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

The older I get, the more fascinated I have become with gift giving, especially around Christmas. Everyone seems to agree that Christmas has become to commercialized. Yet, people are buying gifts for others far in advance of the traditional Christmas purchasing season. Some people, Christmas shop all year long. Let's face it everyone is looking for the perfect gift at the lowest price. My problem is, if I bought someone a Christmas gift in July, I

would hide it and end up forgetting about it. And the three years later I find it and try to figure out what to do with it because it's no longer needed or out of style, and I'm way to embarrassed to give it to them now. But the greatest embarrassment is when there is a White Elephant gift game at a Christmas party, and you see your friend or family member trying to get rid of an unwanted gift that you gave them last year. I've actually received a gift from someone who regifted the gift I gave them.

The sad reality of gift giving is that a gift will be either returned, never used, given away, broken, worn out, thrown in the trash, or for sale at garage sale, on Facebook marketplace or eBay. The things of this world were never meant to last, bring us joy, or satisfy the longing in our heart. But the gifts that God gives are eternal, filling us until we're overflowing with joy, love, and peace. James wrote, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (Jas 1:17) God is a good and gracious gift giver. He loves to give us good gifts. Gifts that we need for true life and salvation. And gifts that reveal His love and glory. The gifts that God gives are eternal, indestructible, and can never be taken away.

Paul told the Ephesians, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* (Eph 11:13) The Holy Spirit supplies the faith in Christ Jesus & God the Father supplies the grace through the

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redemptive work of His Son, Christ Jesus. So, if God supplies both grace & faith, given to us as a gift, which saves us, then what part of our salvation do we contribute to? The answer is nothing. No one works to get others to give them a gift. Gifts maybe given to others out of obligation or personal gain. God blesses us with good gift out of love. Jesus gave up His life for us because of His tremendous love for us. Jesus said, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."* (Jn 15:12-14) Jesus commands us to love one another and we can love one another by showing everyone the love of Christ. And the best way to show the love of God is by proclaiming the Gospel in what we do and speak.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

Contact us:

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All that we have comes from God's good and gracious hand. And on Christmas it was God who gave the world the greatest gift of all, His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. And the One who defeated death by rising from the grave on our behalf, that on the Last Day we too will experience our very own resurrection to everlasting life. I guarantee you that you will never receive a greater gift from anyone that even comes close to the gifts that God gives. We're not to focus on the temporal thing, but on the eternal gifts of God. Amen.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Sean Walters



A signup sheet is hung up in the narthex area for help with Altar Guild for 2026. 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.



- Jack Hogue ● Kristy, kidney failure ● Dee Phillips ● Edward Cramer ●
- Karol ● Dan ● Bob Steigerwald ●
- Pepper, brain tumor ● Pat, leukemia ● Beth Lehman's sister, Jill, cancer ● Vicki Pawlak ● Hoby, healing prayers ●
- Sandi Morgan ● Barb Wolf, Kathy Osten's mom ● Alice Dietrich ● George Volkov ● Pastor Sean ● Sandy K's niece Pam ●

DECEMBER Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

12/7 Joy Shibata
12/14 Jackson Dietrich
12/21 Shelby Schweikert
12/28 Lilly Rachuba

READERS

12/7 Matt Claus
12/14 open
12/21 open
12/28 open

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Weimer

GREETERS

12/7 Judy McCreedy & Marsha Bischoff
12/14 Tara & Brianna Dulski
12/21 Jaclyn & Grace Shibata
12/28 Roger & Mary Nuerge



Luke Schroeder 12/02
Kathy Osten 12/04
Bonnie Keen 12/24
Noah Schweikert 12/29
Alice Dietrich 12/31
Joy Shibata 12/31
Jennifer Weedon 12/31

Charles & Susan Szabo 12/01

Beau DeThomas Jr 12/03
Sarah Nuerge 12/05
Amy Rachuba 12/06
James Shibata Jr. 12/09
Craig Genser 12/20
James Shibata Sr. 12/22
Twila DeThomas 12/24





<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 2025

December 7

"Chosen for What?"

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

God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what?

(Romans 15:7)

December 14

"Pictures of Patience"

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

Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ.

(James 5:7-8)

December 21

"Everybody Is Somebody"

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

God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise.

(Romans 1:7)

December 28

"Get Ready for the Best"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros

Christ will return--maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year.

(Luke 12:36-37)

Thank you so very much for all of your donations & support to help fulfill all of these mission grants. We collected \$518.50 towards the \$2,622,270.00 this year. 1/2 of the money goes to the National District & the other half goes to the Eastern District. Every little Penny counts, and all of your prayers are needed for these ministries to share the good news of our Lord Jesus. Thanks again & God's Blessings,

Mary Lehocky



2024-2026 Mission Grant Goal of \$32,500

- Grant H - The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia (BEE Liberia) - \$5,000
- Grant C - Lutheran Braille Workers - \$5,000
- Grant A - Blessing Bag Ministry - \$2,000
- Grant B - Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$2,000
- Grant E - Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND - \$3,000
- Grant D - Tiemann Chapel @ Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY - \$4,900
- Grant F Lunch & Learn Program, Holy Cross, Clarence, NY - \$3,550
- Grant G - Glorify Performing Arts, West Chester, PA - \$2,500



“Buddy Up”date

The Buddy-Up group is dedicated to supporting Pastor and the Elders with the care of our brothers and sisters in Christ. One area of focus is to reach out to those who have been away from church for a time to identify any needs and/or pray with and for them. A second area of focus is to ensure that newer members feel comfortable and are made aware of opportunities to participate in the ministries of Prince of Peace. A third area of focus is to ensure that our college students feel more connected to the congregation by sending care packages and notes of encouragement throughout the year.

This is an inclusive group and we welcome anyone who is interested in being an everyday missionary. If you are interested in participating in any capacity, we would be happy to see you at our next meeting after church on Sunday, December 7th.

Yours in Christ,

Tammy Eckstrom



Operation Christmas Child Update

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 232 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

In 2024, Samaritan's Purse collected 11.9 million shoebox gifts globally.

With your help and financial support, we packed 120 boxes and delivered them to the collection center where they began the journey that will put them in the hands of a child who will have an opportunity to learn about Jesus. In a few weeks, we'll find out where they ended up. In the meantime, please keep the children who will receive these boxes in your prayers.

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, my two daughters and my supportive husband at home. I am also thankful for my "work family" as we spend five days a week together shaping our students! 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. 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 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.

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. Michelle





ADVENT SERVICES



12/3

MIDWEEK SERVICE 7PM

12/10

MIDWEEK SERVICE 7PM

12/17

MIDWEEK SERVICE 7PM

12/24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM

12/25

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:15AM



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
SERVICE (BUDGET MEETING)**

Annual Live Nativity

St. John's Lutheran Church - Ambridge



SATURDAY DECEMBER 6th

**LIFE NATIVITY
5 pm. till 7:30**

**GERMAN FOOD INSIDE
3 pm. till 7:30**

**Christmas Cookie Sale
3 pm. till 7:30**

*Congregation
Holiday
Meal
January 11, 2026*



December

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
30 1 ST Sunday in Advent 10:15 Service NO Sunday School	1	2 	3 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	4  7PM	5	6 
7 2 nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service BUDDY UP MEETING	8 6:30 Council Meeting	9	10 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	11  7PM	12	13
14 3 rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service VOTERS MEETING	15 	16	17 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Advent Service	18  7PM	19	20
21 4 th Sunday in Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	22	23 	24 Christmas Eve Service 7PM	 10:15 Service The Nativity of Our Lord	26	27 
28 1 ST Sundry after Christmas NO Sunday School 10:15 Service	29	30	31	1 	2	3