

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



January 2026

New Year...New Priorities...New you!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

As we begin a new year, many of us look forward to fresh starts—new goals, new habits, and new opportunities. But the greatest new beginning we can ever experience is found in Jesus Christ. Through Him, we are not simply improved versions of ourselves; we are made completely new.

God’s Word reminds us that He is in the business of renewal. Revelation 21:5 declares, **“Behold, I am making all things new.”**

This promise isn’t just for the future—it’s for today. Our past mistakes and regrets do not define us. In Christ, we have forgiveness, hope, and a new identity.

I love my Lutheran faith and want to share its beauty and depth with you. Our liturgy, shaped over centuries, connects us to generations of believers. Its roots reach back to the early church and were preserved and reformed during the 16th century by Martin Luther, who emphasized worship centered on Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Gospel.

One of the most cherished parts of our service is the *Nunc Dimittis*, drawn from Luke 2:29–32. This Latin phrase means “Now let your servant depart in peace.” God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen God’s salvation. These words were first spoken by Simeon when he saw the infant Jesus in the temple, rejoicing that God had fulfilled His promise of salvation.

In our worship, the *Nunc Dimittis* is traditionally sung after receiving Holy Communion, expressing that we too have seen Christ—truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine as His body and blood, offering forgiveness and salvation. In that moment, we join Simeon and countless believers throughout history in rejoicing that our eyes have seen God’s salvation.

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In that moment, we join Simeon and countless believers throughout history in rejoicing that our eyes have seen God’s salvation. Departing from the Lord’s table, we go in peace, strengthened by Christ’s presence in Holy Communion.

When we worship, we join a timeless chorus of praise that spans centuries and unites us with the Holy Christian church globally and eternally.

Take the Next Step- Make the Divine worship service and Bible study a priority in the new year!

- **Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study** – Join us midweek for fellowship and study.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

Contact us:
princeofpeacefreedom.com

Office 724.728.3881

Preschool 724.728.2405

Fax 724.728.6708

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- **Second Saturday Evening Family Bible Study** – Bring the whole family for a time of learning and connection. (and dinner too)
- **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study** – Come early before worship to dive into Scripture.
- **Sunday School for Children** – Give your kids the gift of faith formation, *then stay together as a family for worship.*

As you enter this new year, reflect on what it means to be a new creation. Let go of the old things that weigh you down and embrace the life God has prepared for you. Trust Him to renew your heart, restore your joy, and guide your steps. **This year let's embrace the richness of our faith and the joy of being made new in Christ. Come, learn, worship, and grow with us!**

Angela Walters



- Jack Hogue ● Kristy, kidney failure ● Dee Phillips ● Edward Cramer ●
- Karol ● Bob Steigerwald ●
- Pepper, brain tumor ● Pat ● Beth Lehman's sister, Jill, cancer ● Vicki Pawlak ●
- Barb Wolf, Kathy Osten's mom ● Alice Dietrich ● George Volkov ● Sandy K's niece Pam ●
- Jodie ● Craig, Tammy's nephew ●



**Bible Study resumes
January 10 @ 5PM**

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.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

READING SCRIPTURE

Please sign up in the narthex area if you are able to help with the scripture readings during service



Do you ever wonder what Jesus is up to? Is He giving you a holy discontent with the status quo? If so, it's time to pay attention to what he is showing you and asking of you.

"In a remarkably short period of time, the U.S. has become one of the largest mission fields on the planet. We are no longer a church who is servicing a community filled with a variety of Christians. We are now a church who finds itself needing to be on mission in a mission field.

And we weren't trained for that".¹

The Buddy-Up program was set up to help us better understand how Jesus is messing with us and how we can be everyday missionaries in an unchurched society. The concept is simple, really.

It doesn't require us to change our worship style. It requires us to change our mindset when we go out as the Church to our neighborhoods and communities.

If this has piqued your curiosity and you're thirsting for more information, please join us on **February 15th** after church. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Yours in Christ,

Tammy Eckstrom

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 2025, we were blessed to deliver 120 boxes to the collection center--boxes full of school supplies, hygiene items and *FUN* items, like stuffed animals, musical instruments, dolls, cars and trucks.

Our boxes traveled to two South African countries this past year—Tanzania and South Africa. Tanzania, officially the United Republic of Tanzania, is a country in East Africa within the African Great Lakes region. Tanzania's population comprises about 120 ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Christianity is the largest religion in Tanzania, with substantial Muslim and Animist minorities. South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa. South Africa encompasses a variety of cultures, languages, and religions, and has been called the "rainbow nation", especially in the wake of apartheid, to describe its diversity. Since the end of apartheid, government accountability and quality of life have substantially improved for non-white citizens.



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.

Stay tuned for more information about the collection efforts for 2026!

January Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

1/04 Mark Shibata
 1/11 Leah Rachuba
 1/18 Brianna Dulski
 1/25 Jakob Lehman

READERS

1/04 open
 1/11 Paul Cwynar
 1/18 open
 1/25 open

ALTAR GUILD

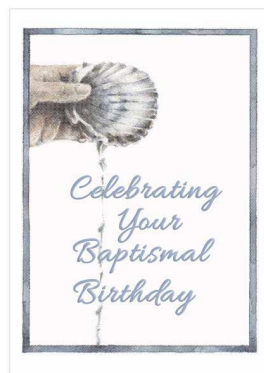
Linda Weimer

GREETERS

1/04 Allen Lee & Rich Clayton
 1/11 Larry & Dee Phillips
 1/18 Jaclyn & JJ Shibata
 1/25 open



Erich Borgman	1
Amy Wilson	2
Ethel Clayton	6
Sam Osten	6
Emma Genser	8
Brooke Lehman	10
Sandi Morgan	10
George Mesing	15
Hoby Scweikert, VI	15
Karen Meinert	17
Mary Nuerge	21
Joan Bowen	25
Judy McCready	25
Brianna Dulski	26
Bob Steigerwald	31



Joe Meinert	1
Beau DeThomas, Sr	2
Skylar DeThomas	8
Sam Osten	31



Bob & Deb Steigerwald 29





The Lutheran Hour is now available in many ways beyond traditional radio. Below are several options:

"Connected by LHM" Mobile App — Available for iPhone or Android devices,

Online at lutheranhour.org — Available online each week are the sermon text, audio player, and downloadable mp3. Subscribe to receive the sermons via email at lhm.org/subscribe.

Podcast — The Lutheran Hour can be listened to as a podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Alexa, iHeartRadio, Spreaker from iHeartRadio, YouTube, and YouTube Music.

American Forces Network — Visit lutheranhour.org/afn to hear a special weekly version produced for the American Forces Network.

Sirius XM Satellite Radio — The Lutheran Hour airs at 10 a.m. Eastern each Sunday on Family Talk Channel 131.

Dial in on Your Phone — Call LHM's main phone number (800-876-9880) and press option three to be forwarded to listen to The Lutheran Hour.

Or at WWNL 1080AM SATURDAYS @ 3:30PM

- January 4, 2026
"Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved.
 John 17:3
- January 11, 2026
"Solidarity"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes.
 Romans 6:5
- January 18, 2026
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 To be announced
 TBD
- January 25, 2026
"Cross Words--Words of Power"
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
 A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time.
 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

Mite Explanation and History

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national [mission grants](#) and implement the LWML program.

[Mite Boxes](#), available from the district, zone, or LWML office, are distributed to every woman in a society, and often to each member of the congregation. Local groups submit Mite Box offerings to the appointed district officer.

The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" ([Mark 12:41–43](#)).

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

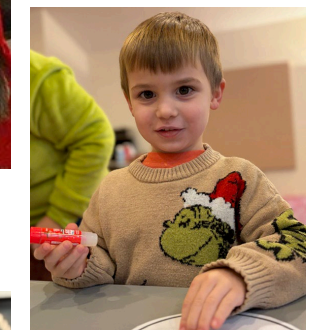
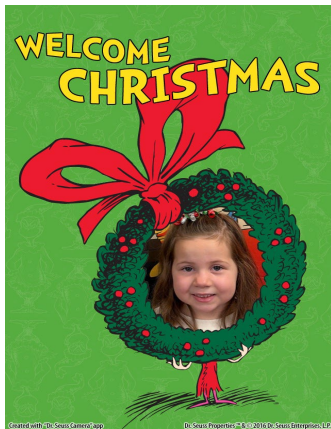


*Mite Collection
is the 3RD
Sunday of each
month*

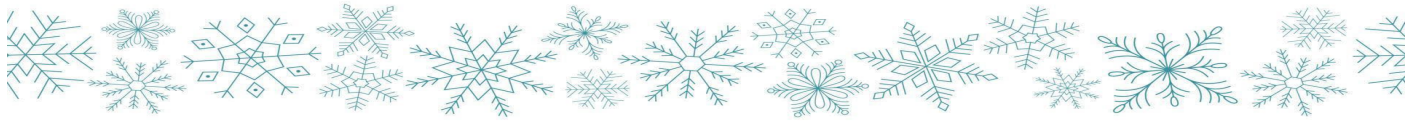


**JANUARY 4TH
FOLLOWING
SERVICE**

Christmas Time at Prince of Peace Preschool



A **HUGE** THANK YOU TO
Bob, Linda, Charlene, Cindy, & Mary
for handling the cookies and refreshments
after our Christmas programs!



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. During letter Jj week we taught the children that Jesus is the reason for the season!

The Christmas programs this year for both preschool classes took hours of preparation and practice from the children. December 19th was a special day as we held the 4 year old show during preschool hours, entitled "Christmas Story", we welcomed many friends, and families.

The three-year old's invited their families to preschool on Tuesday December 23rd to show them the songs they had been practicing. The program was adorable!! The preschool would like to thank all the church ladies for always offering to help display the cookies and juice for the preschool families after our shows! Everyone's willingness to help is greatly appreciated!

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 shirt or hair style. To wrap up the days before break the classes had a parent run Christmas party where our generous volunteer parents came in and hosted a variety of fun for the children. It takes a special person to volunteer their time and entertain children. We thank them kindly!!

December is a very special month for multiple reasons. 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 Mrs.

Smith, Miss Twila, and Miss Michelle, we would like to wish everyone a

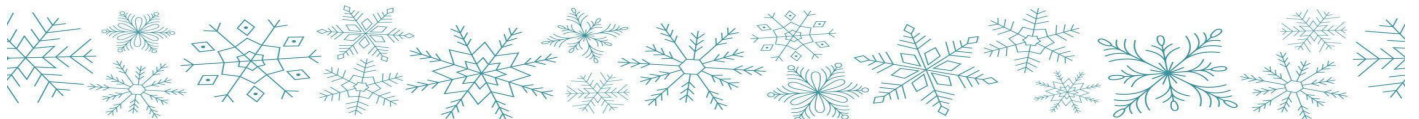
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming 2026!!! Preschool classes will resume Monday January 5th

Blessings to you and yours,

Preschool Staff

Kelly, Twila & Michelle



JANUARY

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			NO Midweek Bible Study			
4 2 nd Sunday after Christmas 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service Undecorating & Potluck Lunch	5	6	7 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	8  7PM	9	10 KIDZ CLUB & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 5:00
11 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service Congregation Holiday Meal	12 6:30 Council Meeting	13	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	15  7PM	16 	17
18 Epiphany 2 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service Mite collection	19	20 	21 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	22  7PM	23	24 
25 Epiphany 3 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	26 	27	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	29  7PM	30	31 