

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS

Pray for All Those in Authority

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1-2

For the last three years I have prayed for our nation's leaders during the "Prayers of the Church" in our worship services, regardless of the political affiliation. I prayed for Joe Biden when he was the acting president, and I pray for our current President Donald Trump. I pray for our governor, and for our state and federal government officials. No

matter what political party they belong to, because they all need our prayers. It has been brought to my attention a few times that some parishioners don't like me praying for our presidents or our government officials. But I assure you that it's not only the Will of God, but He commands us to pray for them. Paul wrote to Timothy who served as a pastor during the time of Christian persecution by Roman emperors. He tells Timothy, *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (1 Tm 2:1-2) Paul knows firsthand the Christian persecution that was taking place. Yet he urges Christians to for all people, our enemies, our government officials, whether they're kings, emperors, governors, and even tax collectors. Paul urged the heavily persecuted Christians in Rome, *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."* (Rm 13:1) Whether our president is a republican, democrat, or an independent, God has put them in office. And God controls their hearts and minds as Solomon wrote, *"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."* (Pr 21:1)

February 2026

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It doesn't matter if you like those in authority or not, they are God's representatives. This is a Fourth Commandment issue. The Fourth Commandment is, *"Honor your father and mother."* And we learned in Catechism that it means: *"We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them."* (LSC p 74) When those who are in authority over us, command or make laws the contradict God's Word, we can respectfully disobey them. The book of Daniel is an excellent example of God's children respectfully disobeying the king. They were very respectful when addressing the king and they gave the reason as to why they could not obey the king. They were also willing to die rather than disobey God.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

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Paul also wrote, *"Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."* (Rm 13:2) Peter in his first letter makes it very clear as to how a Christian lives in this world in regard to civil authority. He wrote, *"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God."* (1 Pt 2:13-20) When you can't or find it hard to pray for those in authority over you, repent. Ask God for forgiveness and help to honor those who are in authority over you. God will forgive you and give you the strength and ability to earnestly pray for all people including your enemies and politicians, regardless of their political affiliation. Remember,

God is always in control, and He works through government officials to do His Will. At times we may feel as though evil people are in control over us, but God's Will is still being carried out, and God is shaping history to bring about the return of Christ. So, pray for our nation's leaders. They all need our prayers. And if you don't know where to begin or what to say, start with this prayer. **God of the universe and Savior of the nations, may we your people enjoy peace among the nations; that we may know the gift of good and faithful leaders in our land; and that justice may be served in every place, for the good of all people and for the protection of the unborn and the weak, Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.*

Pastor Sean



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

February Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

2/1 Joy Shibata
 2/8 Jackson Dietrich
 2/15 Lily Rachuba
 2/22 Mark Shibata

ALTAR GUILD

Emma Genser

READERS

2/1 Linda Weimer
 2/8 Bob Licht
 2/15 open
 2/22 Paul Cwynar

GREETERS

2/1 Tara & Brianna Dulski
 2/8 Roger & Mary Nuerge
 2/15 Jaclyn & Mark Shibata
 2/22 Allen Lee / Rich Clayton



2 Roger Nuerge
 4 Jean Taylor
 7 Linda Volkov
 12 Joel Nuerge
 12 Zachary Walters
 19 Skylar DeThomas
 21 Rich Clayton
 21 Ernestine Dietrich
 25 Sarah Steigerwald
 26 Nicolas Schweikert
 29 Kyle Borgman



19 Scott & Beth Lehman

Baptismal Birthdays

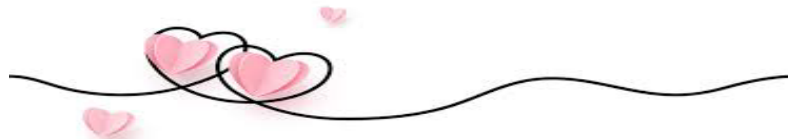


1 Emma Genser
 1 Judy McCready
 2 George Messing
 5 Sarah Mannino
 7 Luke Schroeder
 8 Bill Mallary
 9 Jean Taylor
 15 Mary Nuerge
 22 Brooke Lehman
 22 Roger Nuerge
 25 Becky Mallary
 26 Joel Nuerge
 28 Karen Meinert



<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 1, 2026
"Rotten Tomatoes"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 Boasting gone wrong—it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved.
 1 Corinthians 1: 30-31
- February 8, 2026
"Type C"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God.
 1 Corinthians 2:12
- February 15, 2026
"Up and Down the Mountain"
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz
 Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you.
 Matthew 17:1-9
- February 22, 2026
"As Through Fire"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
 To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter.
 1 Corinthians 3:13





In his book, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, Greg Finke describes how “He (Jesus) is on a grand adventure to redeem and restore human lives to the kingdom of His Father.” Greg goes on to describe how Jesus is on a mission in your neighborhood. “A ‘neighborhood’ is described as any network of people to which we have regular access.”¹ A neighborhood is not limited to where we live. It includes all of those places where we find ourselves in touch with the same people on a regular basis.

Jesus reminds us that He is on a mission with His Word, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...” John 3:16

People are in different stages—“some are resisting, some are ignoring, some are oblivious, and some are almost ready.”¹ And Jesus invites us to come on His mission with Him, to be His hands and feet. The good news is that we aren’t going it alone. If people are not ready, it’s almost impossible to talk to them. But, if you develop the relationship, they will come looking for you when they’re ready. It’s that simple.

“If we listen, they will tell us. They may not use the literal words, ‘Will you tell me about hope?’ But as they share their questions and worry and struggles, in essence they are asking us that very question. And when they ask us such a question, they are ready for us to be a friend – not a friend who is nervous and trying to remember the right answers, but a friend who is ready for a conversation...a conversation which may occur over weeks or even months.”¹

If this has piqued your curiosity and you’re thirsting for more information, please join us in the fellowship hall after church on February 8th. I promise you won’t be disappointed.

Yours in Christ,

Tammy Eckstrom

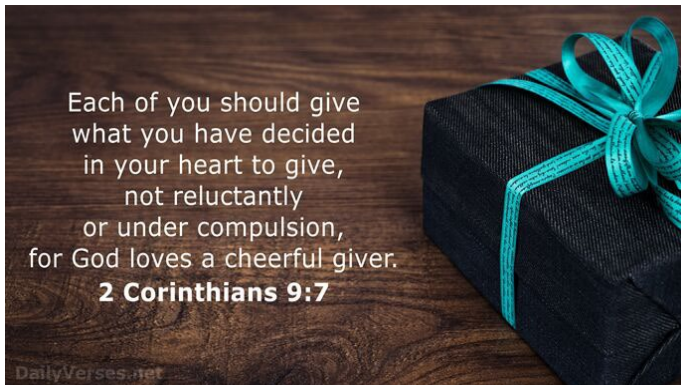


SAVE THE DATE!!

“Invite-a-Friend Sunday”

After church on February 22, 2026

Stay tuned for more details



Each of you should give
what you have decided
in your heart to give,
not reluctantly
or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

DailyVerses.net

What a blessing it is to have the resources to support this important ministry! Did you know that, on average, we spend about \$25 to include a lot of fun and useful items in each shoebox? Add to that the cost of the materials for *The Greatest Journey*, a 12-lesson discipleship program, and postage, and the per box total comes to \$35. Now that 2025 is behind us, it's time to look forward to our 2026 shoebox collection.

The goal for the month of February is to collect enough personal care items for 100 boxes. While it's more cost-effective to buy some items in bulk (like toothbrush holders and fingernail clippers), other items can be purchased individually from discount stores (think Dollar Tree, Target, etc.) at a great price:

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Water bottles

We thank you for your continued support and ask that you help in one (or more) of the following ways:

- Pray for the children who receive the shoeboxes
- Purchase items mentioned above and place them in the bins on the OCC table in the church hallway
- Use the contribution envelopes to financially support the ministry

Mrs. Smith's Preschool News

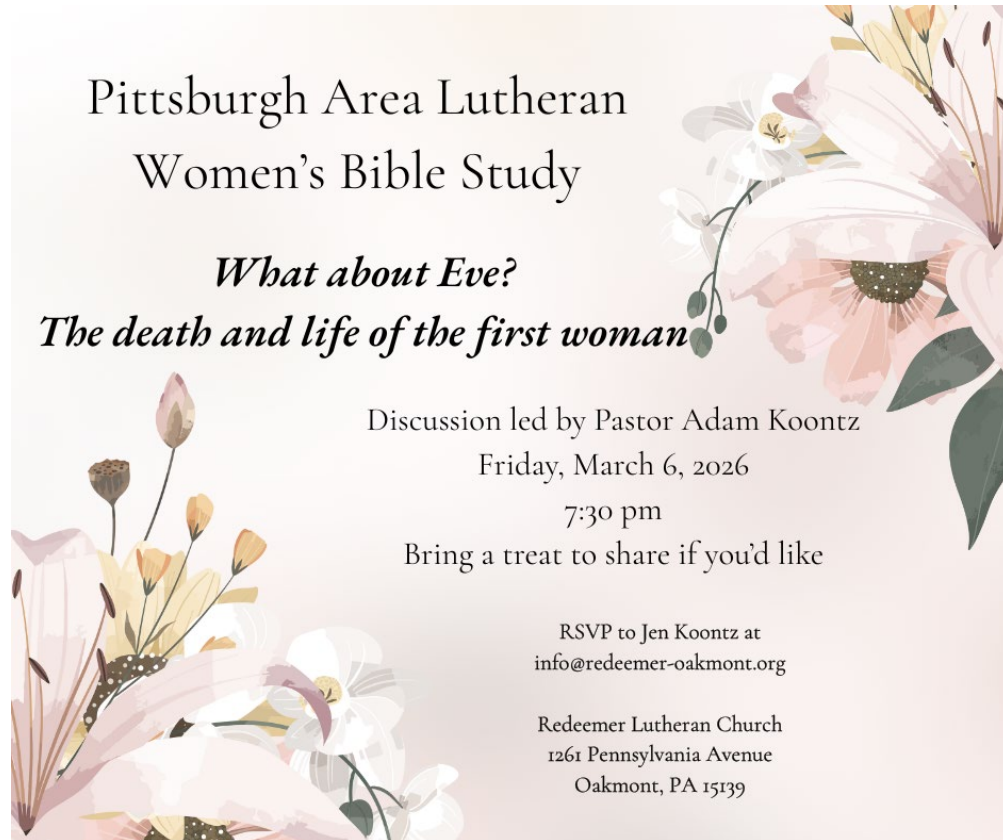
WELCOME 2026!!! May this new year bring joy and happiness to you and your family!
All preschool classes jumped back into school after a nice long holiday break!

January proved to be an arctic blast of weather late in the month. Preschool had to close for two days due to a winter storm called Fern. Our area got over a foot of snow in a two day span. I think families were happy to wait patiently in their warm homes while we cleared the parking lot and instead of coming out in the negative temperatures. We learned four new letters during our writing skills lessons with the four-year-olds. 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. Some of the children learn and can count to 100! 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, Mario the movie. We all enjoyed some delicious snacks. We also started talking about our five senses; one day we taste tested something sour, sweet, bitter, and salty. Some of the children are reluctant to try the sour lemon but we always tell them to try it and spit it out if they do not like it. Rounding out the end of the month we held chapel where we invited parents/guardians to attend. January was about John the Baptist. Ms. Twila always does a great job incorporating the monthly Bible lesson with both classes.

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 2026-2027 registration for both three-year-old and four-year-old preschool classes. We will continue pre-k classes from 9-noon. That extra half an hour is helpful in us getting our work done. 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, Miss Twila & Miss Michelle



**If you have placed
someone on the
prayer list, please
update Pastor Sean
or Twila on how
they are doing!
Thank you!**



	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Epiphany 4 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	2 	3	4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	5  Choir 7PM	6	7 Revelation Bible Study & Kidz Club 5PM
8 Epiphany 5 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service BUDDY UP MEETING	9 6:30 Council Meeting	10	11 NO Bible Study	12  Choir 7PM	13 	14 
15 Transfiguration 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service LWML Mite Collection	16 	17	18 11:00 Midweek Bible Study ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM	19  Choir 7PM	20	21
22 Lent 1 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	23	24	25 11:00 Midweek Bible Study LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE 7PM	26  Choir 7PM	27	28
1 Lent 2 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	2	3	4 LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE 7PM	5	6	7