

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS

MARCH 2026



Our Greatest Hope

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

1 Corinthians 15:17-19

The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands at the very center of the Christian faith. For the LCMS, this is not merely one doctrine among many; it’s the beating heart of everything we believe, teach, and confess. Without the resurrection,

the cross would be a tragedy rather than a triumph, faith would collapse into wishful thinking, and hope would be nothing more than a fragile sentiment. But because Christ is risen, everything is different. His resurrection is the foundation of our faith, the guarantee of our forgiveness, and the sure promise of our own resurrection and eternal life. The apostle Paul states this with striking clarity: *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins”* (1 Cor 15:17). Paul does not treat the resurrection as a metaphor or a spiritual symbol. He insists on its historical, bodily reality. The LCMS confesses the same: Jesus truly died, and Jesus truly rose in His body on the third day. This is not an optional belief. It’s the very truth on which salvation rests. If Christ remained in the grave, then sin would still reign, death would still hold dominion, and the devil would still have the final word. But Christ is risen, and therefore sin, death, and the devil have lost their hold on us.

The resurrection is essential to our faith because it’s God’s public declaration that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross accomplished exactly what He said it would. On

Good Friday, Jesus cried out, *“It is finished.”* On Easter morning, the Father answered with a resounding “Amen.” The empty tomb is the divine confirmation that Christ’s atoning work is complete. Our sins are forgiven—not hypothetically, not potentially, but truly and fully. The resurrection is the receipt that the payment for sin has been accepted. As the LCMS teaches, justification is grounded in Christ’s completed work, and the resurrection is the seal of that justification. But the resurrection is not only the foundation of our faith; it’s also the source of our hope. In a world marked by suffering, decay, and death, hope can feel fragile. Human optimism fades quickly when confronted with the realities of illness, grief, and the grave. Yet Christian hope is not optimism. It’s not based on our feelings or

WORSHIP WITH US

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10:15AM

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circumstances. It's anchored in the risen Christ, who has already passed through death and emerged victorious. Because He lives, we have a living hope (1 Pt 1:3). Our hope is not a wish—it's a certainty grounded in the historical reality of Easter.

This hope is deeply personal. Christ's resurrection is not merely an event that happened long ago; it's a promise that reaches into our lives today. In Holy Baptism we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rm 6:3–5). Baptism is not a symbol of our commitment to God. It's God's act, joining us to Jesus so that His victory becomes ours. Because we are united to the risen Christ, death no longer has the final word over us. Even as our bodies age and weaken, even as we face the reality of our mortality, we do so with confidence. Christ's empty tomb guarantees our own resurrection. This hope also

shapes how we live. The resurrection means that our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58). Our acts of love, our vocations, our worship, our prayers—all of it matters because Christ is alive and at work in His Church. The resurrection frees us from fear and empowers us to live in joyful service. We don't cling to this world as if it were our only home. We live as people who know the end of the story: Christ will return, the dead will be raised, and creation will be restored. Ultimately, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the anchor of our faith and the source of our hope because it reveals the heart of God. The Father didn't abandon His Son to the grave, and He will not abandon us either. The risen Christ is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. His resurrection is the promise of ours. In Him, death has been defeated, sin has been forgiven, and eternal life has been secured. This is why the LCMS proclaims with confidence and joy: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Sean Walters



MARCH Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

- 3/01 Leah Rachuba
- 3/08 Brianna Dulski
- 3/15 Jakob Lehman
- 3/22 Joy Shibata
- 3/29 Jackson Dietrich

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Lehocky

READERS

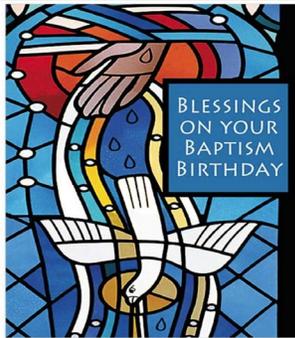
- 3/01 Matt Claus
- 3/08 Paul Cwynar
- 3/15 open
- 3/22 Bob Licht
- 3/29 open

GREETERS

- 3/01 open
- 3/08 open
- 3/15 Jaclyn & Joy Shibata
- 3/22 open
- 3/29 open

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Bonnie Nies 2
- James Nord 2
- Jacob Schroeder 3
- Joyce Hewlett 4
- Anita Schroeder 10
- Karen McCracken 17
- Charles Szabo 18
- Jaclyn Shibata 19
- Doug Eckstrom 20
- Paul Cwynar 23
- Matthew Muto 23
- Sandra Parker 31



- Angela Walters 1
- Sandra Morgan 1
- Joan Bowen 8
- Brianna Dulski 10
- Zachary Walters 12
- Amy Wilson 12
- Bonnie Keen 20
- Sarah Steigerwald 20
- Ethel Clayton 25
- Robert Licht 28



- William & Anita Schroeder 11
- Brad & Jennifer Weedon 23



*Jack Hogue, Kristy, kidney failure, Edward Cramer, Karol,
 Bob Steigerwald, Pepper, brain tumor, Pat, leukemia, Alice Dietrich,
 Beth Lehman's sister, Jill, cancer, Vicki Pawlak, George Volkov, Barb Wolf,
 Tammy's nephew Craig, Shane, brain cancer*

Save the Date

The Third Annual Pamela Beglin Licht Memorial Horse Show will be held on Saturday, September 12th at Brady's Run Horse Arena. Proceeds will benefit Hidden Hills Horse Farm in Rochester, PA.

The mission of Hidden Hill Horse Farm is to promote safety and aid in individuals overcoming their physical, cognitive, behavioral, mental, and emotional challenges. We strive to help everyone find strength and independence through equine assisted services. In addition to therapeutic riding, our center offers therapeutic equine-related activities including groundwork, stable management, and human growth and development. We strongly believe in our educational purpose to develop leadership, team building, and other human capacity enhancement skills that may be displayed in various areas of daily routine.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

<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

November 2025

November 2

"The Way Out"Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus alone is the Way out, rescuing us from sin, despair, and death. He calls us to live as people "on the way."

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

November 9

"The Lead of Life"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

The lead (or 'lede') of a news story conveys the most essential information. What is the lead of the Good News, the Gospel?

(Luke 20:27-40)

November 16

"The Name on the Front"Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Mercy is an others-focused attitude because God is an others-first God.

(Romans 12:5-6)

November 23

"An Unlikely King"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic.

(Philippians 2:5-11)

November 30

"Rise and Shine"Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It's a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down.

(Romans 13:11)



Hope's Road The Art of Healing

Bereavement Event

Saturday, March 14

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Steele's Brushes and Ceramics Studio

(1631 N Main St. Ext, Butler, PA 16001)

This FREE event will be an artistic workshop open to bereaved children, teens and young adults, as well as their caregivers.

Attendees will be invited to pray and create pottery and paint in memory of a loved one to express emotions and form

bonds with other families facing grief. Artistic activities will be facilitated by Steele's Brushes and Ceramics.

Lunch will be provided for all guests, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. While our bereavement programs are rooted in the Christian faith, they offer a supportive environment that welcomes individuals of all faiths or backgrounds. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Registration is strongly encouraged by March 9, but walk-ins are welcome. To RSVP, call 1-800-720-2557.



PRINCE OF PEACE VBS 2026
Tuesday June 23- Friday June 26
6-8:15 PM



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Please sign up in the narthex or see Twila with any questions

Bring-a-Friend Sunday



Jazz Warriors Big Band

A volunteer organization made up of roughly 25 musicians primarily from the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh, the group started in January 2018 and play a wide variety of music from popular Big Band and Jazz Standards to Swing, Latin, Funk and even a few Jazz Rock favorites.

All proceeds will be donated to Zion's Organ Fund.

A Spaghetti Dinner will follow. Free-will Offering.

RSVP 412/621-2720 by March 20

Sunday, March 29 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
237-37th St., Lawrenceville**

On February 22, 2026, we celebrated Bring-a-Friend Sunday. Three of our members invited friends and we had two visitors as well. After church, we enjoyed a time of fellowship with a light lunch. Many thanks to those who provided items for lunch – Kathy Osten, Jaclyn Shibata, Doug Eckstrom, Judy McCreedy and Tara Dulski.



Tammy & Dineen

Riley & JJ

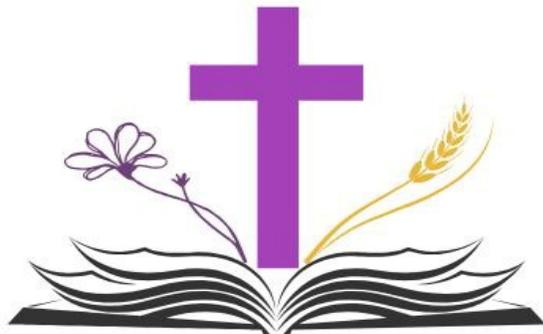


Lilly & Kia



LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

**The Word of the Lord
Remains Forever**



1 Peter 1:24-25

HOSTED BY THE
ANTHRACITE AND
PHILADELPHIA ZONES

June 12-14
2026

DoubleTree
Resort by
Hilton Hotel
Lancaster



2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Some of you might remember a meeting after church at the end of September 2025 concerning our Prince of Peace cemetery. It is located on Rt 989 about half a mile north of Prince of Peace, the site of the former St. Peter Lutheran Church, a founding congregation of Prince of Peace.

The purpose of the September meeting was to discuss how we could repair and restore some of the grave stones. Some of the really old grave stones have fallen and some are leaning.

Dave McElroy was here to talk about how they can be reset and restored with special tools that he uses. Many of these fallen and leaning stones are also in need of cleaning as well.

As well as older upright and leaning grave stones there are also some rows of newer ground surface grave stones that can use some cleaning and restoring as well.

After our September several expressed interest in helping with cleaning and restoring. This update is to inform all who are interested that **the five Saturdays of May from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** a group of volunteers will gather for our cleaning and restoring. After that we will take a break to determine what is next.

If you are interested, bring yourself and as many others as you can on as many Saturdays as you can. You can bring also old toothbrushes and some old towels and rags. It is really good to bring your own rubber gloves as well.

If you are interested you can go to the internet and look up "How to clean grave stones." That can be helpful.

Thank you,
Roger Nuerge



**THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON
APRIL 12
FOLLOWING SERVICE**



Classroom Preschool News

To begin the month, on February 2nd we celebrated Ground Hogs Day and learned what it meant if Phil saw his shadow. We each made a hypothesis and charted our results to see how many students believed we would have six more weeks of winter. About half the class thought we would have an early Spring. Unfortunately, Phil says we are looking at SIX MORE WEEKS of WINTER! Boo!

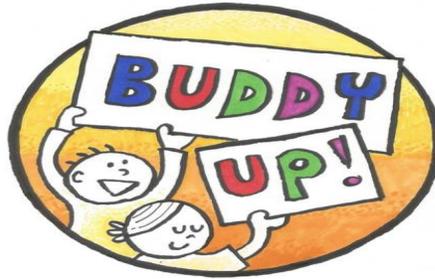
We learned three new letters this month during writing skills. We learned the letters; E, V and I. For Valentine's Day we focused on creating a Valentine for someone special and even mailed them. During letter I, week we talked about the many different flavors of ice cream. During class we went over lessons about our five senses. We taught the students about their five senses and what makes them all special! We are lucky to have all of our senses. Towards the end of the lesson we talked about how our tongue tastes different foods. We did a taste test where the students ate something salty, sweet, sour, and bitter! They had a salty pretzel, a piece of a lemon, a piece of sugary candy, and finally a taste of dark chocolate, which was super bitter. They were all good sports and tried the different items. The lemon was not a popular flavor!

February is dental health month. We all practiced brushing our teeth with a toy kit which mimics our mouth and quizzed the kids about good and bad foods for our teeth. We even worked during class in a packet of worksheets to match up good and bad things for our teeth. The children seem to love fruit snacks but we discussed they are bad for our teeth because they are sticky and can stay in our teeth creating cavities. We discussed if they eat them, they should brush their teeth afterwards.

Our four-year-old classes are really getting ready to head off to kindergarten in the fall. We have really been brushing up on our number skills. Kindergarten expects the students to verbally count to 30, and recognize and write numbers 1-20. The students did a math lesson using valentine conversation hearts. They come in a variety of colors. We each got a heaping handful of hearts and had to count them and chart the colors they received. At the end of the lesson, they had a special treat and were allowed to eat them. Yummy!!

We are now accepting registrations for next school year, 2026-27. If you know anyone with young children, send them our way! Spots are filling up fast!

Until Next Month,
Mrs. Smith, Ms. Twila, & Ms. Michelle



Buddy-Up is here to support and encourage members of the Prince of Peace family as we strive to be intentional about sharing the Gospel with the church and community. Although we initially started out meeting every other month, participants agree that it's beneficial to meet more frequently to share stories and exchange ideas. And we are making an impact in small but significant ways:

Valentine Dinner

At the end of January, with Valentine's Day coming and being on a Saturday, my dearest husband, Jon (married 61 years in May), and I had an idea how we would celebrate. We invited our good friends, Dee and Larry Philips (married 62 years in May), and who became members of Prince of Peace when I did, and another dear couple, Lorrie and Tom, married 37 years. We were going to celebrate our amazing blessed marriages and really spend quality time with each other.

The evening was wonderful with flowers, wine, good home cooking and conversation seated around our lovely decorated dining room table. We learned about each other's childhood experiences growing up in Beaver County, fun facts about each other, and common interests. Dee and Larry had known Tom and Lorrie for many years and still learned many things about each other. The evening reinforced what I have always tried to do, as my precious parents did, to just take time to be with others.

Please take the time to connect or reconnect with others you may be thinking about by bringing them into your life and, possibly, our church family at Prince of Peace.

--Judy McCready

Making Visitors Feel Welcome

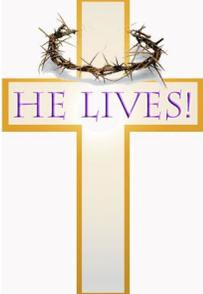
Recently a young couple visited our church. We delivered cookies and a thank you note to their home. Here's what they had to say, "thank you so much for the cookies. Those will definitely be enjoyed by the two of us and our family who we are seeing tomorrow! That was incredibly kind and thoughtful. It was nice talking to you at church and other members of the congregation. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming."

--Tammy Eckstrom

Our next meeting will be in the fellowship hall after church on Sunday, March 8th. All are welcome and we pray that you will join us.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

MARCH

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	2	3	4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7PM MIDWEEK SERVICE	5  7PM	6	7
8 3rd Sunday in Lent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service Buddy up meeting	9 6:30 Council Meeting	10	11 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7PM MIDWEEK SERVICE	12  7PM	13	14 ADULT GROUP & KIDZ CLUB 5:30
15 4th Sunday in Lent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service VOTERS MEETING MITE COLLECTION	16	17 	18 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7PM MIDWEEK SERVICE	19  7PM	20	21
22 5th Sunday in Lent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service		24	25 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7PM MIDWEEK SERVICE	26  7PM	27	28
29  9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	30	31	1 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	2 Holy Thursday Service 7PM	3 Good Friday Service 7 PM	4 
5 9AM EASTER BREAKFAST  10:15 SERVICE						



**PLEASE
SIGN UP IN
THE
NARTHEX IF
YOU PLAN
TO ATTEND**

Easter Flowers



Order deadline March 22,2026. Place orders in Altar Guild mailbox.

This year we have:

White Easter Lilies (4-6 flowers),

6-inch pots of Daffodils, and red or pink Tulips.

Please consider the purchase of a plant, in memory of a loved one or to honor our Lord’s resurrection, to adorn our altar for Easter and to take home after the service.

Thank you and God bless

_____ lilies @ \$10.50 each _____ daffodils @ \$9.50 each
 _____ tulips @ 9.50 each _____ color
 Total Due \$ _____

In Memory Of _____
 Your Name _____