

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



MAY 2026

Suffering is a Gracious Thing

“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.”

1 Peter 2:19

Suffering is one of the most difficult realities of the Christian life. Yet in **1 Peter 2:19–25**, the apostle Peter makes a startling claim: it is a *gracious* thing when believers endure unjust suffering with faith in God. This passage does not glorify pain for its own sake, nor does it call Christians to seek out hardship. Instead, Peter teaches that when suffering comes—especially suffering that is undeserved—Christians are invited to endure it with gladness because such endurance reflects the very heart of Christ Himself. In this way, suffering becomes

not meaningless, but deeply connected to God’s grace and purpose.

Peter begins by saying, *“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly”* (1 Pt 2:19). The word “gracious” (Greek: *charis*) points to something that is pleasing to God, something that reflects His character. When believers endure suffering “mindful of God”—that is, with their eyes fixed on Him—their endurance becomes an act of worship.

Peter is careful to distinguish between suffering for doing wrong and suffering for doing good. *“What credit is it,”* he asks, *“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”* (v. 20). Suffering for wrongdoing is simply justice. But suffering for righteousness’ sake mirrors the life of Christ, who Himself suffered though He committed no sin (v. 22).

This theme echoes Jesus’ own teaching: *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”* (Mt 5:10). The blessing is not in the pain itself, but in the God who sees, sustains, and rewards His people.

Peter then grounds the Christian’s endurance in the example of Jesus: *“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps”* (v. 21). The Christian life is patterned after the life of Christ, and that pattern includes suffering.

Jesus suffered unjustly. Peter emphasizes that *“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth”* (v. 22; cf. Is 53:9). Yet when He was reviled, *“He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten”* (v. 23).

Instead, He entrusted Himself to the Father who judges justly.

This posture—entrusting oneself to God—is the key to suffering with gladness. Gladness does not mean pretending suffering is pleasant. It means resting in the confidence that God sees, God knows, and God will vindicate. As Paul writes, *“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance”* (Rm 5:3). The gladness is rooted not in the pain, but in the God who works through it.

Christ is not only our example; He is our substitute. Peter writes, *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree”* (v. 24). Jesus’ suffering was not merely unjust—it was redemptive. He suffered *for us*, taking upon Himself the punishment our sins deserved (Is 53:4–6; 2 Cor 5:21).

(Cont pg 2)...

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

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Because Christ bore our sins, we are now free to “die to sin and live to righteousness” (v. 24). His wounds heal us—not only spiritually, but in the sense that His suffering restores us to God. “For you were straying like sheep,” Peter says, “but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls” (v. 25).

This means that Christian suffering is never punishment from God. Christ has already borne the punishment. Instead, suffering becomes a place where God shapes us, strengthens us, and draws us closer to Christ, who suffered for us and now walks with us.

To suffer with gladness does not mean denying the reality of pain. Scripture never calls Christians to pretend. Instead, it calls believers to interpret suffering through the lens of Christ’s cross and resurrection.

We suffer with gladness because:

- **God sees and honors faithful endurance** (1 Pt 2:19–20).
- **Christ suffered first and walks with us in our suffering** (Heb 4:15).
- **Suffering shapes us into Christ’s likeness** (Rm 8:29).
- **Our hope is anchored in God’s justice and Christ’s victory** (1 Pt 5:10).

Peter’s message is not that suffering is good, but that God is good—and He meets His people in their suffering with grace. When Christians endure hardship with faith, patience, and hope, they bear witness to the world that Christ is alive in them.

1 Peter 2:19–25 invites believers into a profound truth: suffering for God with gladness is possible because Christ has already suffered for us. He is both our example and our substitute. His endurance empowers ours. His wounds heal us. His resurrection assures us that suffering is never the end of the story. Therefore, when Christians endure unjust suffering with faith, they participate in the gracious work of God, reflecting the character of Christ and bearing witness to His redeeming love.



Pastor Sean Walters

MAY Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

- 5/03 Jakob Lehman
- 5/10 Brianna Dulski
- 5/17 Joy Shibata
- 5/24 Jackson Dietrich
- 5/31 Shelby Schweikert

ALTAR GUILD

Bonnie Keen

- 5/03 Linda Weimer
- 5/10 open
- 5/17 Karl Borgman
- 5/24 Bob Licht
- 5/31 open

READERS

GREETERS

- 5/03 Janet Holland
- 5/10 Tammy Eckstrom
- 5/17 Jaclyn & JJ
- 5/24 Allen/Rich
- 5/31 open



- Mark Shibata 7
- Beth Lehman 12
- Allen Lee 14
- Alex Remmers 16
- Robert Rachuba 17
- Jeanette Claus 27
- Ron Lehocky 27
- Bob Licht 28
- Robert Steigerwald 30
- Ashleen Starr 31

Baptismal Birthdays



- Rich Clayton 01
- Doug Eckstrom 11
- Jaclyn Shibata 25



- Larry & Dee Phillips 2
- Larry & Linda Weimer 2
- Beau & Twila DeThomas 10
- Brett & Kari Mohney 16
- Joseph & Karen Meinert 18
- Pastor Sean & Angie Walters 27





*Jack Hogue - Edward Cramer- Karol -Bob Steigerwald -Pepper - Pat
Beth Lehman's sister, Jill, cancer- Alice Dietrich
Craig, Tammy's nephew - Shane, brain cancer
Maile, suffering from rare condition - Marsha - Bob Skander
Jack, Air Force Reserve - Matthew & Gary, serving in military -
Michael G, Marine unit being deployed - Craig G, prayers for safety
while on duty*



May 31st
Following Church
Please bring a dish to share!
HOT DOGS & BUNS PROVIDED
sign up in the narthex area



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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS

Thank you all for supporting this very important ministry. As you're probably already aware, the cost of supplying and sending shoeboxes is significant (\$30 to \$40 per box). The goal for 2026 is to send 100 shoeboxes and we continue to need your help. If you have ideas for raising funds and would be willing to coordinate a fundraiser, please contact me at 724-316-3766 or tjeckstrom@netscape.net. I'd love to hear from you. Tammy

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

CHILD

Buddy-UPdate

Buddy-Up is here to support and encourage members of the Prince of Peace family as we strive to be more intentional about sharing the Gospel with the church and community. We have a core group of people who have been meeting to exchange ideas and support one another as we go about our daily living. All are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings.

One of the topics we discussed was the "Love Thy Neighborhood" booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries. This little booklet informs the reader that "you don't have to travel to a foreign country or preach a sermon to give witness to the hope of the Gospel that is inside of you. You can share the Gospel, in word and deed, right in your own neighborhood."

There are Bible verses from the teachings of Paul and James that call us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves:

*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14
If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. James 2:8*

There is a hunger for neighborly love. Many people are lonely and it's time to remember our call to love our neighbor. IT'S NOT OPTIONAL. Neighborly love is a powerful witness and actions speak louder than words.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please grab a copy of the booklet from the Project Connect rack in the hallway and join us for our next meeting on May 17th. We'd love to see you there!



3rd Annual 
memorial
horse
show

In Memory of Pamela Beglin Licht

Saturday, September 12, 2026

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION - 10 A.M. SHOW START

BRADYS RUN PARK - RAIN OR SHINE

121 Bradys Run Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010



All proceeds benefit:

- RIBBONS AWARDED TO TOP 6!**
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Barrels | 6. Egg & Spoon |
| 2. Poles | 7. Ride-A-Buck |
| 3. Keyhole | 8. Catalog Race |
| 4. Paper Crepe | |
| 5. Flag Race | |



- Age divisions
- Adult 16 and up
 - Youth 15 and under

- Price for classes
- \$7/class, and
 - \$10 Jackpots



Show Bill is subject to change at producer's discretion. Announcements at show will override Show Bill. For more information, contact Tammy at 724-316-3766 or Terri at 724-732-4222.



Hidden Hill Horse Farm
 Building a vibrant sense of community through
 culture, sustainability, and opportunity

724-630-6853

Follow us on Facebook    
 Check out our website 



Spring has FINALLY sprung in April! We welcome all the warmer weather and the gift of new life in our neighborhoods.

This month we finished up our writing skills books. The students learned the letters K, R, X, and Q. In following with our class tradition, the four year olds were asked to bring an item for show and tell. We told the parents “Good Luck” finding an item that begins with letter X. A student brought a real X-ray from his past dental visit of his teeth. He got to tell us all about the picture of his teeth. Very cool lesson!!

The four year old class was invited back to visit and tour Freedom Elementary School. This year we will visit on May 6th. We will take a school bus and meet all of the kindergarten teachers and do an art project with Pete the Cat! We are looking forward to meeting the teachers and seeing the elementary school. Our preschool classes participated in our spring fundraiser; a Bike-A-Thon. All donations benefit Prince of Peace Preschool as we refill our fundraising account for graduation, graduate yearbooks, and big art activities. This event is always a huge success! We also enjoyed some chalking in the parking lot as well as a cool treat, popsicles/ice cream in the classroom once we were done. An overall winner who brought in the highest amount of donation won a special prize. Also, the top student in the three year old class and separately the four year old class won a trophy for biking the most laps!! It was a great day of physical activity.

The month of April begins the preparation for the end of the school year. During a few of the rainy days we decided to have sensory stations. We used play-doh, played board games, puzzles, chalk board activities, plus much more. If we had any free time, we prepared for Mother’s Day; since it is quickly approaching. Ms. Becky from Artsy Doodle Art Studio located in Beaver, brought a pottery painting lesson to Prince of Peace and we created an awesome MOM coffee mug for our Mothers for Mother’s Day.

The end of the school year is so bitter sweet! We look forward to watching yet another class graduate from Prince of Peace ready to embark on their next thirteen years of schooling. We can only hope we have prepared them for kindergarten and many more years of becoming a lifelong learner.

We have a few spots left to fill in our preschool classes for the fall. Two pre-k seats, and three preschool seats are still available. Please send parents our way to register soon for the 2026-2027 preschool year.

Referrals are always appreciated!

Until May, Many Blessings to one and All!

Mrs. Smith, Ms. Twila, & Ms. Michelle





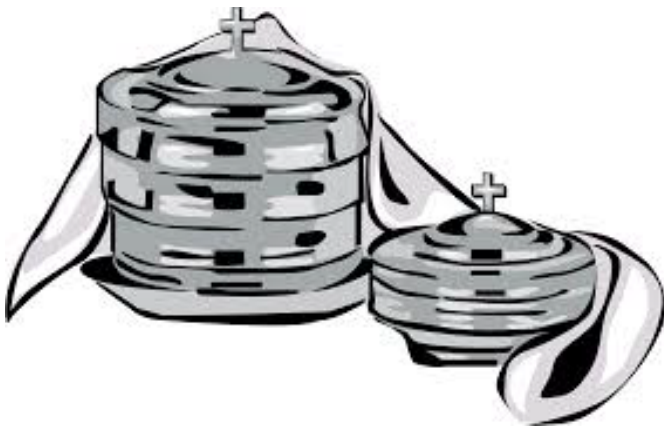
Sermon Schedule

- May 3, 2026
"Planning Is Everything"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise.
Psalm 146:3-4
- May 10, 2026
"The King Who Reigns"
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge
If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good.
Luke 24:36-53
- May 17, 2026
"Don't Despise Small Beginnings"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound.
Acts 1:14
- May 24, 2026
"Misery Loves Company"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
It's often said, "Misery loves company." Christ comes to us in our misery with God's love and mercy.
Acts 2:38
- May 31, 2026
"A Friendly Recommendation"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
What happens when you find out that acquiring everything you've ever wanted... still isn't enough?
Genesis 1:26



One of our members, Linda Volkov, is in need of a ride to church at least once a month. Since George passed away, she hasn't been able to attend since she is unable to drive. She lives in Allison Park. If you are able to help her out, please either contact Linda or let Twila know.

Mary L has volunteered to pick her up June 7th. Thanks Mary!



One of the many important & essential ministries in our church & for our worship service is the Altar Guild.

Altar Guild is in need of volunteers

If you are able to join this wonderful group of volunteers, please see Linda W.

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



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 5th Sunday of Easter 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service Pam Licht Memorial Horse Show Meeting	4 	5	6 NO Bible Study	7  7PM	8	9 ADULT GROUP & KIDZ CLUB 5PM
10 6th Sunday of Easter 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service	11 6:30 Council Meeting	12	13 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	14  7PM	15 	16
17 7th Sunday of Easter 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service BUDDY UP MEETING MITE COLLECTION	18	19 	20 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	21  7PM	22	23 
24 PENTECOST 9AM Sunday School 10:15 Service VBS MEETING FOLLOWING SERVICE	25 MEMORIAL DAY 	26	27 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	28  7PM	29	30
31 HOLY TRINITY 10:15 Service COOKOUT Following service	1 JUNE	2	3 	4	5	6