

# Prince of Peace

*Faith, Family, Community*



**President:** Pastor Bob Castro    **Pianist:** Linda Chartrau  
**Praise Band:** His Subjects    **AV:** Garrett Schmidt    **Acolyte:** Volunteer  
**Ushers:** Sherre Faulkner & Dan King    **Reader:** Nancy Freedlund  
**Counters:** Tom Lenhart & Pam Novotnak

info@poprockton.com  
www.poprockton.com  
815-624-2115  
Church Office Hours:  
M-F 8:00 am -12:00 pm

**9:00 am  
Service**

Interim Pastor Bob Castro  
Office Hours  
Tues & Th 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
pastorbob@poprockton.com

December 26, 2021

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

**PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(please rise)*

**CONFESSION:**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**SONG: "Good King Wenceslas"**

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel

Hither page and stand by me  
If you know it telling  
Yonder peasant who is he  
Where and what his dwelling  
Sire he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain

Bring me food and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
You and I will see him dine  
When we bear them thither  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the cold wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather

Sire the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart I know not how  
I can go no longer  
Mark my footsteps my good page  
Tread now in them boldly  
You shall find the winter's rage  
Freeze your blood less coldly

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow laid dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the saint had printed  
Therefore Christian men be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
You who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing

### **THE LITANY OF LIGHT:**

P: In the beginning was the Word;

**C: And the Word was with God; and the Word was God.**

P: In the Word was Life;

**C: And that Life was the Light of all people.**

P: The Light was surrounded by darkness;

**C: But the Light shone brightly, and the darkness could not conquer it.**

P: And the Word of God, who is also God, came to earth as a human being and lived here with us.

**C: And we have seen His glory, God in flesh appearing, full of grace and truth.**

P: From His fullness we have received grace after grace, and gift after gift.

**C: Grace and truth have come to us in Jesus, the Word of God.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the place of the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again. He went up into heaven, and is seated beside the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal Christian Church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and in everlasting life. Amen**

### **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

**C: Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*(please be seated)*

**FIRST READING:** Acts 7:51-60

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*(please rise)*

**GOSPEL TEXT:** Luke 2:22-40 (pew Bible, p. 832)

**GOSPEL SONG:** "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

God rest you merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray

**Chorus**

**O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy**

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

**Chorus**

Fear not then said the angel  
Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's power and might

**Chorus**

Now to the Lord sing praises  
All you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Doth bring redeeming grace

**Chorus**

*(please be seated)*

**MESSAGE**

*(please rise)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "I Celebrate the Day"

## **PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*(ushers bring forward offering)*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**P:** Let us pray: God our Father...

**C:** **You have given us all that we need. You did not even withhold Your only Son, but sent Him to rescue us. Receive these gifts we pray, as we offer not only what we have, but what we are, in grateful devotion for all that you are making us to be. Amen**

### **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father in heaven, holy be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*We celebrate the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. We understand this to mean that Jesus is truly present with us in His body and blood through the bread and wine. We welcome all baptized adults and children who have been instructed to receive Holy Communion to share in the Lord's Supper.*

### **BLESSING**

## **SONG: "Joy to the World"** (LBW #39)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive its King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love

### **DISMISSAL**

# Church Happenings

**Offering Options**—Prince of Peace has ordered 2022 giving envelopes but there is currently a back-log at the printing company. Want to skip writing checks? We have the option available to us where you can have your offering automatically withdrawn from your bank account. If you would like to explore this option, please see Amy Lynch for more information.

**The Meaning of Life?** - The Alpha Course is an eleven-week course on the basics of The Christian Faith: What we believe; why we believe it; and why it matters today. It is centered in both evangelism and discipleship. Pastor Bob will be teaching this course at Prince of Peace, beginning Sunday mornings at 11:30 on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The sessions include lunch together, followed by a short twenty-to-thirty-minute video, and concluding with a small group discussion time. You can register by contacting the office, or by signing in the Narthex or Nicholas Hall. Consider joining us for this meaningful time together.

**Removal of the Greens**—The Prince of Peace Altar Guild continues to adorn the sanctuary with banners, paraments, etc. that follow the church calendar. The Epiphany season begins with the Baptism of Our Lord on January 9. We need a few helpers to remove and pack up our Christmas decorations after the worship service on January 2. Please lend a hand if you are able.

## LCMC Annual Three Days of Prayer

For three days in January, join thousands of others around the world from our network of churches (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) for intentional prayer for ourselves, our churches, and our world. Prince of Peace will have two resources available at the church to guide your prayer time.

**Hourly Guide** – This brochure gives prayer suggestions on an hourly basis, from 8am to 8pm.

**Daily Guide** – This pamphlet provides a prayer and reflection for each day.

Feel free to pick up a guide/s and join us for the LCMC Three Days of Prayer, January 4-6, 2022.

# In Our Prayers

**Healing, strength, and guidance for:** Marcy, Chad, Jimmy, Jerry, Lois, Judy Hines, Adrian, Bob, Kristan, Andy, Nancy, Julie, Brian Tracy, Brett, Karen Y., Kim, Jim Igo, Diana S., Jesse Ann, Kay Alpers, Matt, Corbin, Mike, Phil, Quentin, Nancy Wuthrich, Tom Taylor, Cyndi, Melissa T., Lee, Paul Bielski, Tammy B., Andrea Bates, Kenneth Quinn, Isaac, Carla, Mel, Jeff, Anita Castro, Mary, Red Kint, and Michelle M.

**For those suffering loss:** The family and friends of Colleen James, Shirley Pearson Lins, Diane Redieske, and Brad Salle. Brian Tracy and family upon loss of his brother Bruce. Marge GeRue and family upon the loss of sister Donna Mack-Fakler. Phil Martin and family upon loss of his mother. Helen Weaver upon the loss of her husband Ron and son Ron Jr.

## Weekly Schedule

### Monday (December 27)

9:00am Prayer Group

### Saturday (January 1)

7:00am Men's Group

FYI—Pastor Bob and Kara will be out of the office Dec. 27-31.

## Volunteer Schedule

### January 2

**AV:** Kara Wallace

**Acolyte:** Volunteer

**Ushers:** Jim Freedlund & Pam Novotnak

**Reader:** Sue Peterson

**Counters:** David Baird & Kara Wallace

### January 9

**AV:** Stacy Diemel

**Acolyte:** Elliott Diemel

**Ushers:** Greg & Luann Bartz

**Reader:** Pam Novotnak

**Counters:** Greg Bartz & Dan King

## CHURCH RECORDS FOR 12/19/21

Attendance: 43

Collection: \$1,927

**The flowers on the altar** are provided by Mary Ann Stewart.