

The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Advent Program

⇒ December 4

Church Council

⇒ December 6

Annual Meeting

⇒ December 12

Book Club

⇒ December 15

Christmas Eve Service

⇒ December 24

From the Pastor

From the lion's den... Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers,

When Anita and I moved to a new town, we generally went church shopping. I was a lawyer at the time, so we did not limit our search to Lutheran congregations. In our second move we spent almost a year choosing a congregation. Anita shared something interesting and meaningful. As we visited neo-evangelical congregations, including megachurches, Anita shared that she really missed The Church Year. She missed the seasons of the church. We always ended up at a Lutheran congregation, so when I decided to go to seminary, it was going to be a Lutheran seminary and ordination into the Lutheran Church.

As I type this on Thursday the 11th, we are 10 days away from the end of the Church Year, Christ The King Sunday, on November 21st. The lessons for this coming Sunday, the 14th, are from what is called The End of Time lessons (which come at the end of the Church Year).

The Children's Sermon on Sunday the 28th, The First Sunday of Advent, will be on The Church Year and The Liturgical Colors of worship.

This is a challenging time for pastors to preach, but I hope you'll come and join us anyway as we end one church year and begin the next. This Sunday the Lesson is that at the end of time, Jesus WILL come again to judge the living and the dead. Then on the 21st, my friend and mentor, Pastor Brian Metke of Trinity Lutheran in Pell Lake, LCMC, will come and guest preach on Jesus as The King. But then, on the 28th, The First Sunday of Advent, the Prophecy/HOPE candle will be lit and the Lessons will be on The Return of The King. So, it's a challenging time to preach when the Lessons over three weeks are so closely aligned. Come and see.

I want to say a few words about Advent. Advent is an important time to put the impending Christmas rush into perspective. At the beginning of Advent, we anticipate The Second Advent of Jesus as King. "He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end." Then, the last half of Advent returns us to the anticipation of Jesus' First Advent, God come down from heaven, born as a human baby; God with us. C. S. Lewis called this, The Incarnation, The Grand Miracle. It is the manger that makes that cross The Cross, and that tomb The Tomb.

Come and share this time of reflection on the unbelievable yet deeply true Love of God, shown not only in His death, but in His birth. Come and see. "Let every heart prepare Him room..."

Yours and His, but not in that order,

Pastor Bob



The Prince of Peace council members meet monthly. If you have questions or ideas, please contact one of the council deacons or attend a monthly meeting.

President, Pam Novotnak
779-423-8093

Vice President, Dan King
815-494-3919

Secretary, Stacy Diemel
608-290-4073

Treasurer, Amy Lynch
815-624-2433

Discipleship, Sue Ducett
779-475-1907

Facilities, Wayne Schmidt
815-988-6683

Fellowship, Sue Peterson
815-282-2715

Service, Kathy Leahy
815-243-0831

Stewardship, Tom Lenhart
815-389-4203

Worship, Nancy Freedlund
815-624-6363

Staff Contact Information:

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

Administrative Asst., Kara Wallace
info@poprockton.com
Hours: M-F 8am-12pm

Council Update

- 1) Kathy Leahy and Lora Conrad have worked diligently on the Rockton Sign service project. The sign details and design have been submitted to Olson Signs for production.
- 2) Operation Christmas Child was a great success! Twenty-seven boxes were collected this year.
- 3) Pastor Bob is leading a study on the book "Pastor and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work" with the church council.
- 4) Remember God's Got This!

Yours in Christ,
Pam Novotnak, President

Planning for the Future

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 at 10:30am in the church sanctuary. Annual reports will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 28. The office will be mailing any reports that are not picked up.

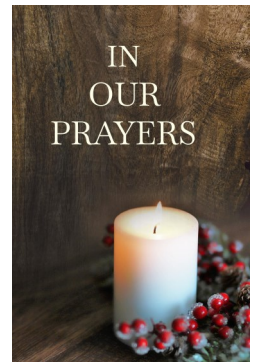


In Our Prayers

Healing, strength, and guidance for: Marcy, Chad, Jimmy, Jerry, Lois, Judy Hines, Adrian, Bob, Kristan, Andy, Nancy, Chris, Linda Chartrau, Norm Larson, Julie, Brian Tracy, Debbie, Brett, Mary Ann, Bob Mohns, Carol Yarolimek, Liz, Terry W., Jessie, Wayne, Bart, Tom, Lora, Anne Vineyard, Jean, Corrine, Claris, Tiffany, Kathy W., Brent Timmer, and Daniel Nielson.

Prayers for our Service Men and Women: Carl Specht, Ella Pearson's grandsons Rob & Samuel Walker, Sherre Faulkner's nephew Rod Flom, Tom & Jean Lenhart's grandson Cody Merrett, Penny Pfile's nephew William Kerr II, Bob & Karen Lowery's grandson Steve Broomfield, Dorothy Bush's nephew Cody Bush, David & Reita Baird's son-in-law Quentin VanDewoestyne, and Duke & Sue Ducett's nephew Danny Wagner.

Please pray for those suffering loss: The family and friends of Richard Litowchak and Jonathan Upchurch. Irene Lang and family upon loss of daughter Candy. The Ducett and Matvski families upon loss of mother Lil Ducett.



December 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to sow <u>FAITH IN CHRIST</u>, strengthen <u>FAMILIES</u>, serve our <u>COMMUNITIES</u>.</p>			1	2 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	3	4 Men's Group 7am Women's Advent Program 9:30am-12pm
5	6 Prayer Group 9:30am Church Council 6:30pm	7 Annunciation Co- Op 8am-12pm	8	9 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm Altar Guild 6:30pm	10	11
12 Annual Cong. Meeting 10:30am 4-H Club 3:30-7:30pm	13 Prayer Group 9:30am The Messenger deadline 12pm	14 Annunciation Co- Op 8am-12pm Transition Team 4pm	15 Book Club 6:30pm	16 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	17	18 Men's Group 7am
19	20 Prayer Group 9:30am	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4pm 	25 
26	27 Prayer Group 9:30am	28	29	30	31	

December Serving Schedule

If you are not able to make your allotted time slot, please find a substitute and notify the church office.

December 5

AV: Char Mohns & Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Elliott Diemel
Ushers: Greg & Luann Bartz
Reader: Darran Landenberger
Counters: David Baird & Luann Bartz

December 12

AV: Stacy Diemel
Acolyte: Connor Diemel
Ushers: Dorothy Bush & Kathy Leahy
Reader: Connor Diemel
Counters: Sandy Buske & Brad Mueller

December 19

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Greg Bartz
Ushers: Debbie Tracy & Jerry Yarolimek
Reader: Steve Shrider
Counters: Dorothy Bush & Kara Wallace

December 26

AV: Stacy Diemel
Acolyte: Volunteer
Ushers: Sherre Faulkner & Dan King
Reader: Nancy Freedlund
Counters: Tom Lenhart & Pam Novotnak

*Need Volunteers for December 24: Please contact office.



Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Ava Lynch
5 Ellen Goldsworthy
8 Curt McNames
Ella Pearson
9 Karen Phelps
10 Sidney Schmidt
Wayne Schmidt
11 Sue Peterson
20 Art Goldsworthy
22 Connor Diemel
24 Cheryl Hill
Mary Jo Olson

December Anniversaries

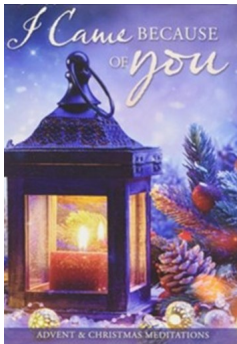
3 Ted and Lori Peterson
6 Brad and Christine Mueller
13 John and Cheri Saarinen
16 Robert and Karen Lowery



Advent Devotionals

I Came Because of You Advent & Christmas Devotional

“Jesus came into the world because of you; He left the glory of heaven for the humility of earth - all for you. Pause for a moment and ponder that thought. Prepare your heart and mind to celebrate the birth of the Christ, and our personal relationship with him.”



Countdown to Christmas

“Every child in church can create her or his own Advent Wreath centerpiece as we all count down the days until Jesus’ birthday together! The rhyming devotions in the sticker booklet add to the excitement and anticipation by retelling the Biblical account of the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men and the Bethlehem angels.”



A **Christmas Eve** Worship service will be offered at 4:00pm on December 24. It will include Bible readings, Holy Communion, a message, and our favorite “Silent Night” hymn by candlelight. If you can help as usher, reader, AV, counter, or acolyte, please contact the church office.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

The sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service. If you are interested in purchasing a plant in honor or remembrance of someone, please complete an order form by Sunday, December 12.

The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.00. Please include your check with the form made payable to “Prince of Peace Altar Guild”.



LCCM—3 Days of Prayer Time

Each year the LCCM encourages three days of prayer in the synod. This year the three days of prayer are on January 4th, 5th and 6th. Here is how the LCCM is promoting these days:

Every congregation, member and pastor is being invited to set aside some time each day of January 4-6, 2022 for prayer.

Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, “well, all we can do now is pray!”. Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like that of a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created...and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus.

You will be receiving more information about this opportunity as we approach the end of the calendar year, including a brochure guide to focus our time of prayer separately and together.

In His Name,
Pastor Bob

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E-mail: info@poprockton.com
Web page: www.poprockton.com
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00am
LCMC Website: www.lcmc.net



Coming Up...



Winter Wear Drive

Naomi Circle will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for local school children this winter. Take advantage of the sales and bring your donations to church in January 2022.

Book Club

Join the Prince of Peace book club as they read The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan. The group will meet for discussion and fellowship on Wed., December 15 at 6:30pm at the church.

