

JANUARY 2024

The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

LCMC Three Days of Prayer

⇒ January 2-4

Praise & Prayer Service

⇒ January 4

Church Council

⇒ January 8

C.A.L.M. Coffee Club

⇒ January 10, 20, 24

Sunday School begins

⇒ January 14

Book Club

⇒ January 14

From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Behold our **God**, seated on **His** throne

Come, let us adore **Him**

Behold our **King**, nothing can compare

Come, let us adore **Him**

These few words are just a stanza from one of the songs we often sing in worship: *Behold Our God (Who Has Held the Oceans)* by Sovereign Grace Music. I am compelled to share it because it is a song whose lyrics make such profound, very true statements.

We have entered our new church year and will soon begin the new year of 2024 on the Gregorian Calendar. It is the time when many make promises, goals, or resolutions. I would like for us as a congregation to think about the following phrases as we Behold our God and adore Him:

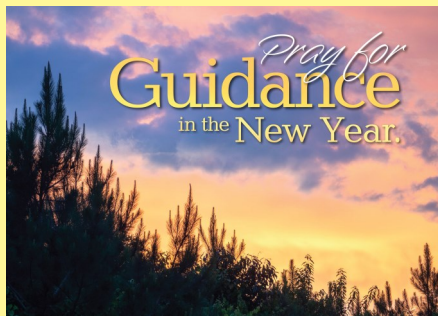
- We pray without ceasing
- We are rooted in the Scriptures
- We ask how He wants us to build Prince of Peace

I know these sound like resolutions, but these are not resolutions. We can get so busy with everything around us that we don't just sit and adore Him through prayer and scriptures. Adore is another way to say praise. Can we adore Him in these ways in the coming year? Praying and reading are the times He strengthens, comforts, lifts, and loves us; this is where we can be in His presence. This is not to say these are the only ways to lean in, seek Him, and develop spiritual discipline. But know that these are essential to listening to the Holy Spirit's whisper as He tells us how to walk in the love of our Father and the presence of Jesus. As we go through this next year, let us remember these words:

- Hope
- Love
- Joy
- Peace

Jesus is all of these things!

(continued on page two)



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

President, Pam Novotnak
779-423-8093

Vice President, Dan King
815-494-3919

Secretary, Wendy Goldsworthy
815-389-3796

Treasurer, Amy Lynch
815-624-2433

Discipleship/Worship
Nancy Freedlund
815-624-6363

Facilities, Brad Mueller
815-218-2944

Fellowship, Sue Peterson
815-282-2715

Service, Kathy Leahy
815-243-0831

Stewardship, Sherre Faulkner
815-629-2200

Witness, Lora Conrad
815-289-7171

Staff Contact Information:

Pastor Cassandra Langr
pastorcassandra@poprockton.com
Mon-Thurs 9 am-12 pm

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

Pastor continued...

Can we run this race He has set before us in hope, love, joy, peace, and restoration, building Prince of Peace one day, one stone, one prayer at a time?!

Come let us adore Him! Christ the Lord! Because He is what He said; He is our blessed Redeemer.

Happy New Year, my brothers and sisters, be well. May the Lord Our God Bless all of you!

Behold Our King,
Pastor Cassandra

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!" (Psalm 95:6, ESV)



Praying in the New Year

The LCMC 12th Annual *Three Days of Prayer* occurs January 2-4, 2024. As part of the Three Days of Prayer, Prince of Peace will be reading the New Testament out loud. You will have the opportunity to sign up for a day and time, when you will read the scripture out loud either at the church or at your home. We kick off the Three Days of Prayer with a Praise and Prayer service at the church on Tuesday, January 2 at 8:00 am. We conclude this event with a Praise and Prayer service on Thursday, January 4 at 3:00 pm.



Mary Rachel Circle

It is with great pleasure to announce that we were able to present seven military personnel with a money order for \$85.00 this holiday season. Thank you, Prince of Peace congregation and our circle, for contributing to a great cause.

Our new books will be ordered, and we will be starting lesson one. We start up again in January with Nancy Laursen hosting. Hope everyone has a great year!

Mary Jo Olson, President



Council Update

- 1) I wish to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting. The council appreciated your input.
- 2) The Fifth Sunday Worship at 10:30am and a meal will continue through 2024.
- 3) God's Got Us as we move forward.

Pam Novotnak, President

Garage & Furnace Fundraising

The Mohns family has graciously offered to match funds raised by the congregation (up to \$5,000) for the Garage & Furnace Fund. Please designate any donations for this fund on your offering envelopes.

New Flower Calendar

Providing flowers for the altar on a Sunday is a special way to honor, celebrate, or remember someone. There are many openings on the 2024 flower chart posted outside of Nicholas Hall. The cost of flowers is \$36 with checks payable to Altar Guild.



Sunday School

Beginning January 14, 2024, the adult class will begin a study on the book "Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life" by Mark Allan Powell. If you would like to attend and need a copy of the book, please contact

the church office. A monetary donation towards the cost of the books is appreciated and can be given the first day of class. Kids Sunday School also begins on January 14.

Stewardship Moment

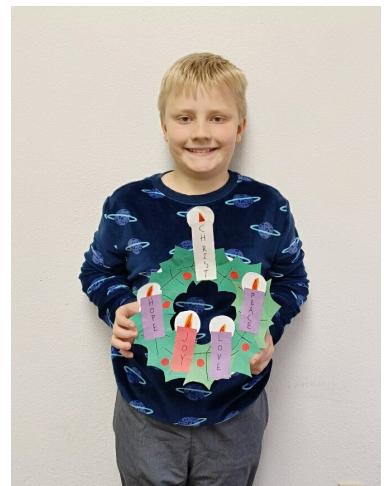
According to my stewardship books, I am supposed to send each of you a handwritten "thank you" for your pledge. I would certainly do that, but you were not asked to sign your name. So please accept this as my "Thank You" for faithfully pledging to the continued mission of Prince of Peace. Hopefully many of you were able to add 1% more.

Also, if you chose not to pledge, would you return your pledge card stating your intention to pray for Prince of Peace? All unreturned cards prevent us from completing our puzzle. It will be a lovely addition to our church when it's finished.

Sherre Faulkner, Stewardship Deacon



December Happenings 2023





January 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p>1 Office Closed</p> 	<p>2 LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day One Praise & Prayers Service 8:00 am</p>	<p>3 LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day Two</p>	<p>4 LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day Three Praise & Prayer Service 3:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Men's Group 7:00 am</p>
<p>7 Baptism of Our Lord - First Sunday after Epiphany Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am</p>	<p>8 Prayer Group 9:30 am Church Council 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Worship Team 9:00 am C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am-12:00 pm Altar Guild 6:30 pm</p>	<p>11 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am</p>	<p>15 Prayer Group 9:30 am</p>	<p>16 L.E.A.P. Team 9:30 am Naomi Circle 1:00 pm 4-H Club 6:15 pm-8:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Men's Group 7:00 am Mutual Ministry 9:30 am C.A.L.M. Coffee Club at Dee Dees 1:00 -3:00 pm</p>
<p>21 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am</p>	<p>22 Prayer Group 9:30 am The Messenger deadline 12:00 pm Living the Lord's Prayer 12:00 pm</p>	<p>23 Mary Rachel Circle 1:00 pm Rockton Quilt Group 6:15 pm-9:00 pm</p>	<p>24 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am-12:00 pm Book Club 12:00 pm</p>	<p>25 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am</p>	<p>29 Prayer Group 9:30 am Living the Lord's Prayer 12:00 pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<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>		

Please note: Pastor Cassandra will be out of the office Jan. 30 - Feb. 2.

In Our Prayers

Healing, strength, and guidance for: Jerry, John, Sue, Angie, Tammy, Jason Kruckenberg, Bill, Peggy, Melissa, Arianna, Lois, Jimmy, Marcy, Marilyn, Daphne McNames, Chris, Penny Pfile, Sarah F., Jen P., Jim Freedlund, Abby, Renee, David A., Dona B., Jennifer, Norm, Corey, Katie, Justin, Andy, Levi Lester, Nicole, Brad, Jerry Yarolimek, Louie, Dawn, Gladys, Shari, Norbert, Denette, Shirley, Andrew, Beki, Mary, Linda, and Randy.

Prayers for our Service Men and Women: Carl Specht, Ella Pearson's grandsons Rob & Samuel Walker, Sherre Faulkner's nephew Rod Flom, Penny Pfile's nephew William Kerr II, Bob & Karen Lowery's grandson Steve Broomfield, Dorothy Bush's nephews Christian and Cody Bush.

Please pray for those suffering loss: The family and friends of Ellen Brueggeman, Anthony Celitti, Nancy St. Angel, and Joyce Sjostrom. Linda Sonders upon loss of her husband Ken. Rosie Schoepfer and family upon the loss of her sister Char Varble.



1	Robert Lowery
2	Cyndy King
5	Denise Shrider
7	Rick Olson
16	Ann Stewart
18	Tom Snyder
23	Arlen Lehrke
24	Tom Lenhart
26	Norm Larson
29	Ron Stewart

January Serving Schedule

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

January 7 – 9:00 am

AV: Darran Landenberger & Ava Lynch
Acolyte: Damon Lynch
Greeters: Nancy Freedlund & Kara Wallace
Ushers: Lora Conrad & Jerry Yarolimek
Reader: Andrew Langr
Communion Assistants: Nancy Freedlund, Wendy Goldsworthy, & Richard Mackenthun
Counters: Dan King & Kathy Leahy

January 14 – 9:00 am

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Greg Bartz
Greeters: Greg Bartz & Debbie Tracy
Ushers: Dorothy Bush & Pam Novotnak
Reader: Cyndy King
Communion Assistants: Sherre Faulkner, Cyndy King, & Sue Peterson
Counters: Dorothy Bush & Brad Mueller

January 21 – 9:00 am

AV: Stacy Diemel
Acolyte: Ava Lynch
Greeters: Steve & Denise Shrider
Ushers: Sherre Faulkner & Darran Landenberger
Reader: Karen Phelps
Communion Assistants: Lora Conrad, Amy Lynch, & Volunteer
Counters: Steve Shrider & Kara Wallace

January 28 – 9:00 am

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Dan King
Greeters: Cyndy King & Pam Novotnak
Ushers: Bill & Stacy Diemel
Reader: Wendy Goldsworthy
Communion Assistants: Cyndy King, Pam Novotnak, & Steve Shrider
Counters: David Baird & Sandy Buske

Stock Pew Racks for January: Nancy Wuthrich

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2336 Freeport Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Phone: 815-624-2115
E-mail: info@poprockton.com
Web page: www.poprockton.com
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 & 11:15 am
Education Hour: Sunday 10:15 am
LCMC Website: www.lcmc.net



Coming Up...

Book Club

Join the Prince of Peace book club as they read *Church of the Small Things: The Million Little Pieces That Make Up a Life* by Melanie Shankie and Ree Drummond. Bring your lunch and we'll have a picnic and discussion on Wednesday, January 24 at 12:00 pm at the church.



The January-March edition of the “Portals of Prayer” devotional is now available in the book rack. Each daily devotional includes a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer bringing Christ into every aspect of your life. Pocket and digest size editions available.