

MARCH 2023

The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Meal & Worship

⇒ March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Altar Guild

⇒ March 9

Daylight Savings Time change

⇒ March 12

Church Council

⇒ March 13

Naomi Circle

⇒ March 21

Mary Rachel Circle

⇒ March 28

From Pastor Bob

From the lion's den...

Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers,

My time among you as your interim pastor is winding down, heading toward the end. My last day is Sunday, April 30th. As we are nearing the end of our time together, there are three things I would like to share in my last three newsletter columns in The Messenger: Mutual Ministry Teams; Vision Retreats; and Stewardship. Each of them relates to things that will be happening at Prince of Peace shortly after I have departed, and in that order.

First, I want to remind you one last time of The Five to Thrive. Remember, these are the five traits that every thriving congregation in the United Methodist Church had in common in their national study conducted just over ten years ago now.

Active small groups and programs

Activities geared toward youth

Active lay leadership

A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services

An inspirational pastor who has served a longer tenure there.

They are a valuable guide to moving forward together.

In this column I want to talk about the “together” part of that. Notice number 5: a healthy long-term pastoral call. A mutual ministry team helps to make this worthy goal a reality. There is a reason that I share the greeting, “Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers”. Because we are both. We are friends of Jesus and friends together. And God, by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, makes us all ministers of The Church, God’s Kingdom. What a mutual ministry team does is help to steward these relationships. It is a team of five or six, who meet quarterly and take the drone view of the life of the congregation from above; big picture stuff. The team does not have decision making authority, but rather observes and reflects, and reports to the church council, which is the decision-making body of the congregation, including making recommendations. They learn together not only what a mutual ministry team does, but also what it does not do, what it is not to be. It is a valuable resource to both the council and the pastor in creating an atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork.

(continued on page two)



Stocking the Shelves

On February 19, Prince of Peace was able bring two trunks worth of non-perishable and food items to the Old Stone Pantry. Thank you for the generous donations. The Pantry was very appreciative.

Staff Contact Information:

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

Intern & Contract Apprentice Pastor
Cassandra Langr
pastorcassandra@poprockton.com
Tues.-Fri. 9:00 am-12:00pm

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

Pastor Bob continued...

This is important, because it is too easy these days to get the relationship of pastor and people wrong. The council has studied a book entitled "Pastor and People" to foster understanding of the relationship in a healthy way. This is crucial in reaching the goal of the fifth characteristic: long-term pastoral tenure.

The pastor is NOT merely an employee of the congregational council. The pastor is a trained professional who has studied to prepare her or him to spiritually lead. On the other hand, the pastor is NOT in charge, calling on the leadership to simply follow along, trusting the pastor who knows what is the right thing. The pastor is part of a team; as is the council; same team. The mutual ministry team fosters this relationship of teamwork. So, in a sense, the pastor is accountable to the mutual ministry team, but so is the congregation, monitored by the team. It is based upon mutual respect and responsibility.

Many pastors have shied away from mutual ministry teams, some for good reason, as it can be end up not doing what they are charged to do, but end up doing something far less helpful. But, that is why I have taught mutual ministry team practice to your council, and to Pastor Cassandra, to minimize this risk.

In the months ahead you may be approached by Pastor Cassandra to prayerfully consider being on the mutual ministry team with her. I encourage you to prayerfully consider saying, "Yes", when asked. As with all other service, your answer is between you and God. All the pastor can do is ask you to prayerfully consider it, and trust in God's answer.

The reason I close emails and columns as I do is to remind myself and others that I am accountable. I am accountable to the LCMC national church, and to the local congregation. But above all, I am accountable to The One who called me to serve in the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Yours and His, but not in that order,

Pastor Bob

Stewardship Moment

What is a steward? One definition states that a STEWARD is a person who manages the affairs of a household. The Christian definition is MANAGER of the AFFAIRS of God on earth. God has made each of us a STEWARD and has given us abilities and talents to serve God. Those talents include time, health, relationships, property, and the Gospel.
Sherre Faulkner, Stewardship Deacon



From Pastor Cassandra

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lenten season is here. I can't help but wonder what the early Christians did beyond fasting, praying, repenting, and reflecting. Did they still minister and serve others, or did they go into a period of hiddenness to sit and be with the Lord? Maybe they did all of these things. We do not have to do it all, and I emphasize this. However, I want to encourage us to pray, reflect, and listen to Him, and if there is a need to repent, please do this also. Can I inspire us to sit with Him each day of Lent, even if it is just for five minutes? Sit in His Presence, surrender to Him all of our cares, and allow Him to minister to us and prepare us for the season ahead. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 33 (NIV):

²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

²² May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.

Let us read, meditate and reflect on these verses during this Lenten season seeking Him in all that we do and praising Him for what He has done and will continue to do until He comes again.

As we walk through these days of Lent, may the light of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shine brightly for all the world to see. Amen!

If you can, will you join Pastor Bob and me on Wednesdays for a Lenten meal and fellowship time afterward in Cross-Generational Worship? We would love for you to break bread with us and worship.

God's Blessings on you always, my dear brothers and sisters!

In Christ's Service and His Awesome Grip,

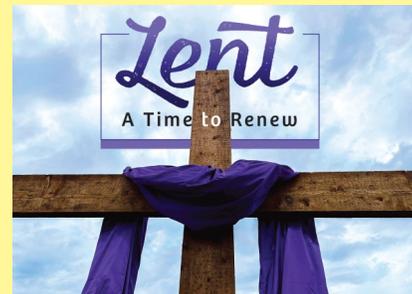
Pastor Cassandra

"Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not."

— Martin Luther.



L E N T



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, Wendy Goldsworthy
815-389-3796

Facilities, Wayne Schmidt
815-988-6683

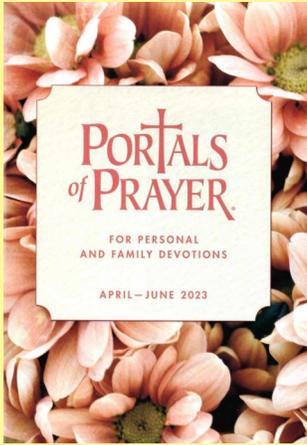
Fellowship, Sue Peterson
815-282-2715

Service, Kathy Leahy
815-243-0831

Stewardship, Sherre Faulkner
815-629-2200

Worship, Nancy Freedlund
815-624-6363

Witness, Lora Conrad
815-289-7171



The April– June 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.

Soups On!

This Lenten season we are going to try something a little different for our Wednesday evening soup suppers before worship. We will be simplifying our meals, by having only soup and crackers. We will be asking for soup donations each week from the entire congregation throughout all of Lent. There will be a sign up sheet passed around each Sunday for our soup making

volunteers to indicate what kind of soup they will be sharing that coming Wednesday ~ with the exception of Wednesday, March 1, where soup will be provided. If you have any questions, please see Sue Peterson .. We are looking forward to our Lenten Wednesdays with you ~

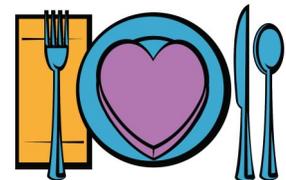
Sue Peterson, Fellowship Deacon

Serving Up Deliciousness

Reita and I would like to THANK everyone who is generously donating to our meals program. This "program" is open to everyone in our congregation, and we will keep it running as long as we can! If you would like a meal, or two, please see either Reita or Sue and let us know. If there is something in particular that you would like us to make, please let us know that, too! We are open to meal suggestions.

We really enjoy the time we spend cooking together and we make sure that extra love is put into each meal ~ hope you can taste it !

Blessings ~ Reita B. and Sue P.



In Our Prayers

Healing, strength, and guidance for: Isla, Cathie Goldsworthy, Jessie, Steve, Erik Makos, Adrian, Stephanie, Jim K., Linda Chartrau, Vicki, Pat Taylor, Cathy, Ella Pearson, Chad, Dave & Joyce Olsen, Sandy, Bev, Sue, Ed, Krista, Denette, Everett & Penny Pfile, Mel, Sheila, Dan, Dick, Maddy, Jason Kruckenberg, Dean, Bob, Kristan, Andy, Nancy, Mark M., Al, Darrell Crusan, Roger & Sigrid Peucker, and Brett Timmer.

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, and Duke & Sue Ducett's nephew Danny Wagner.

Please pray for those suffering loss: The family and friends of Matt Brown and Linnie Rose. Lora Conrad and family upon loss of cousin David Brunner. Rhonda Powers and family upon loss of mother Judy Hines.

March 2023



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>			<p>1 Lenten Meal & Service 5:30pm</p>	<p>2 Judy Hines Memorial 4pm visitation 5pm service</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Men's Group 7am 4-H IL ext. 8am-1pm N. Hall & classrooms</p>
<p>5 Worship 9am Education Hour 10:15am</p>	<p>6 Prayer Group 9:30am</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Worship Team 9:30am C.A.L.M Coffee Club at DeeDees 9:30am-12pm Lenten Meal & Service 5:30pm</p>	<p>9 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm Altar Guild 6:30pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Daylight Savings Worship 9am Education Hour 10:15am</p>	<p>13 Prayer Group 9:30am Church Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Lenten Meal & Service 5:30pm</p>	<p>16 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Men's Group 7am Ann. Co-op 8-1pm classroom C.A.L.M Coffee Club at DeeDees 1-3pm</p>
<p>19 Worship 9am</p>	<p>20 Prayer Group 9:30am The Messenger deadline 12pm</p>	<p>21 Naomi Circle 1pm 4-H Club 6:15-8:30pm</p>	<p>22 C.A.L.M Coffee Club at DeeDees 9:30am-12pm Lenten Meal & Service 5:30pm</p>	<p>23 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Worship 9am</p>	<p>27 Prayer Group 9:30am</p>	<p>28 Mary Rachel Circle 1pm Rockton Quilt Group 6-9pm</p>	<p>29 Lenten Meal & Service 5:30pm</p>	<p>30 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>	

Kara will be out of the office March 27-31.

Coffee Connections

C.A.L.M. Coffee Club has been introduced for everyone of all ages, males and females - including families with children. We have already gotten off to a very good start meeting at DeeDee's Main St. Coffee & Decor, 101 W. Main St., downtown Rockton. We hope to keep growing and having new PoP members joining us the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 9:30am - 12pm and the 3rd Saturday of the month 1:00pm - 3:00pm - come when you can. There is a calendar of dates through April on the table in the Narthex for reference and bookmark style cards in the Sanctuary next to the bulletins. There may be times we have to change or cancel a date, so please be aware of announcements via email for last minute changes OR call me (815-289-7171) if you have questions.

The purpose of this social time is to get to know each other in another setting than fellowship hall where our time is limited as well as our pool of people. I'm encouraging you to invite others to join in with our conversations when we are at DeeDee's. This is our opportunity to witness to strangers who may become friends. It's already been happening!!

Blessings, Lora Conrad
Fellowship Deacon



13	Kathy Leahy
15	Garrett Schmidt
17	Linda Chartrau
18	Richard Mackenthun
29	Dorothy Bush

March Serving Schedule

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

March 5

AV: Kara Wallace

Acolyte: Dan King

Ushers: Greg & Luann Bartz

Reader: Darran Landenberger

Communion Assistants: Lora Conrad & Sherre Faulkner

Counters: Luann Bartz & Dan King

March 12

AV: Stacy Diemel

Acolyte: Ava Lynch

Ushers: Pam Novotnak & Jim Freedlund

Reader: Steve Shrider

Communion Assistants: Darran Landenberger & Amy Lynch

Counters: Dorothy Bush & Steve Shrider

March 19

AV: Kara Wallace

Acolyte: Elliott Diemel

Ushers: Dorothy Bush & Debbie Tracy

Reader: Sue Peterson

Communion Assistants: Pam Novotnak & Steve Shrider

Counters: Pam Novotnak & Kara Wallace

March 26

AV: Stacy Diemel

Acolyte: Damon Lynch

Ushers: Lora Conrad & Sherre Faulkner

Reader: Jim Freedlund

Communion Assistants: Cyndy King & Richard Mackenthun

Counters: David Baird & Brad Mueller

Stock Pew Racks for March: Cyndy King

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Rockton, IL 61072

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Web page: www.poprockton.com
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00am
LCMC Website: www.lcmc.net

The MESSENGER

March 2023

Coming Up...



Join us for Cross-Generational Worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent beginning March 1st. We will gather at 5:30pm in Nicholas Fellowship Hall for a Lenten meal and worship service for all generations.

Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued financial support of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

