

JANUARY 2023

# The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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## Mark Your Calendar

### » UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **LCMC 3 Days of Prayer**

⇒ January 3-5

#### **Church Council**

⇒ January 9

#### **Altar Guild**

⇒ January 11

#### **Naomi Circle**

⇒ January 17

#### **Mary Rachel Circle**

⇒ January 24

#### **Fifth Sunday Worship**

⇒ January 29 at 10:30am

## From Pastor Bob

### From the lion's den...

**John 1: 5:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers,

As you are reading this, we are approaching the end of "The 12 Days of Christmas" and the beginning of the third "Season of Light: Epiphany." On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will hear the Epiphany readings; the story of the wise men, the magi. Epiphany means, "to reveal". The readings reveal who this Jesus of Nazareth really is.

In February we will leave the seasons of light and walk into the darkness, into the "valley of the shadow of death" with Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. But some of us experience this darkness even during The Christmas Season. We have lost loved ones; or we have experienced other loss in our life. We are not holding a "Blue Christmas" service this season. But we are aware. You are part of a family, a church family. You are part of the family of God gathered as Prince of Peace. We are friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers. As I type this message, I am preparing my sermon for the last Sunday of Advent. In his Gospel account, Matthew quotes Isaiah chapter 7. Emmanuel is coming. Maranatha! The Lord has come; the Lord is here now; the Lord will come again. You are never alone. God is with you. But your family in God is also with you.

We celebrate this truth at Christmas. But this truth is a source of strength throughout the year. The Advent gifts from God each year are: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. And, the character traits of a thriving congregation in this challenging time are: Hope, Courage, Trust and Truth. When we come together in worship on Sunday morning we mutually share in these gifts, and these traits. It all begins with Hope. Our theme this program year is: Hope is Here! Church comes from a Greek word which means "the gathered – sent ones". We gather Sunday to receive the gifts and encouragement of God by The Holy Spirit, and are sent back into the world to share those gifts and that encouragement – that Hope. It all begins with Hope.

The message of The Seasons of Light is: in the end, Light wins. The message of the Season of Lent is: in the end, Love wins. The message of the Season of Resurrection power is: in the end, Life wins. God is with us.

Yours and His, but not in that order,

**Pastor Bob**

## From Pastor Cassandra

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

What's your favorite Christmas song or carol? I have many but the one song I have played the most this year is *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam, sung by various recording artists. It speaks volumes, or shall I say it sings it, and the words give hope. I say hope because these words have me reflect on Him, His love, and all the promises in His Word. If you get a chance, sit and listen to it with a hot mug of cocoa, coffee or tea and have the words sink, and then reach for your Bible and find the scripture references to what has been sung. It is a beautiful piece. Below are the words:

### ***O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam***

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine*

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the wise men from the Orient land  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend

*He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!*

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim*



May God's Peace, Joy, and Love be on you always, my dear brothers and sisters!

In Christ's Service and His Awesome Grip,  
Pastor Cassandra, Andrew, Sarah, and Lydia

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

## Starting the New Year with Prayer

Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus Himself (see Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). The disciples who walked alongside Him witnessed a connection between His public life and ministry, and this habit of prayer. It was a connection so significant, that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). LCMC's Three Days of Prayer on January 3-5, 2023 is an opportunity

for us to follow the Lord's example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray.

There will be a prayer guide available for pick-up on Sunday, January 1. Prince of Peace will also have links to special recordings for each Day of Prayer that you can watch from home and pray with us.



A warm heartfelt thank you to everyone for the beautiful flowers, food, and fellowship for my 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am indeed grateful for everyone's expression of joy in the Lord, for peace, and love for each other. Merry Christmas! Ella Pearson

## Adorning the Altar

Providing flowers for the altar on a Sunday is a special way to honor, celebrate, or remember someone. There are many openings on the 2023 flower chart posted outside of Nicholas Hall. The cost of flowers is \$36 with checks payable to Altar Guild.



## Congratulations Linda Chartrou!





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

## Vision Statement

Praise His Name & Love Him  
Obey His Word & Serve Him  
Pray His Promises & Believe Him

## Council Update

- 1) The congregation voted to try an experiment of 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service in 2023. On the five Sundays we will have meals after a 10:30am service. This will be evaluated at the annual meeting in 2023. Remember this is an experiment.
- 2) Offering envelopes have been ordered but have not arrived. Please use pew envelopes with name clearly written on it.
- 3) The council has voted on sending a plant for a member who died. The plant will go to the funeral. This will begin in 2023.
- 4) Remember God's Got This!

Yours in Christ,

Pam Novotnak, President

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

## In Our Prayers

**Healing, strength, and guidance for:** Judy Hines, Dorothy, Linda Chartrau, Jimmy, Julie, Jerry, Carter, Linda Conrad, David A., Marcy, Sara, Lois, Michele M., Andy, Nancy, Bob, Kristan, Ashley, Rob, Isla, Barb, Karen Phelps, Fran, Dane, Brian S., Susan, Doris, Kristi, Jeff, Pastor Micky & Laura Klink, Luann Bartz, Pastor Bob Castro, Debbie, Darran, Amy, Cathie Goldsworthy, and Anita Castro.

**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, 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 June Brady, Steve Gundry, Howard Harshbarger, and Kaye Neblock. Stacy Diemel and family upon loss of uncle Ed Alholm. Bob Mohns and family upon loss of sister Delores Mattis. Ursula upon loss of her daughter. Penny Pfile's nephew Jeff Gray upon loss of his wife.

# January 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship 	<b>2</b> Prayer Group 9:30am  Office closed	<b>3</b> LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day 1	<b>4</b> LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day 2	<b>5</b> LCMC Three Days of Prayer: Day 3	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Men's Group 7am
<b>8</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>9</b> Prayer Group 9:30am Church Council 6:30pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Altar Guild 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>16</b> Prayer Group 9:30am	<b>17</b> Naomi Circle 1pm 4-H Club 6:15-8:30pm	<b>18</b> Book Club 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Men's Group 7am
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>23</b> Prayer Group 9:30am	<b>24</b> Worship Team 9:30am Mary Rachel Circle 1pm Rockton Quilt Group 6-9pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm Internship Mtg 9:45am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30am Worship 11:30am Food & Fellowship	<b>30</b> Prayer Group 9:30am	<b>31</b>		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> .		

# January Serving Schedule

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

## January 1

**AV:** Kara Wallace  
**Acolyte:** Greg Bartz  
**Ushers:** Sherre Faulkner & Dan King  
**Reader:** Darran Landenberger  
**Communion Assistants:** Lora Conrad & Cyndy King  
**Counters:** Greg Bartz & Pam Novotnak

## January 8

**AV:** Stacy Diemel  
**Acolyte:** Connor Diemel  
**Ushers:** Jim Freedlund & Debbie Tracy  
**Reader:** Connor Diemel  
**Communion Assistants:** Pam Novotnak & Steve Shrider  
**Counters:** Tom Lenhart & Brad Mueller

## January 15

**AV:** Char Mohns  
**Acolyte:** Ava Lynch  
**Ushers:** Dorothy Bush & Lora Conrad  
**Reader:** Sue Peterson  
**Communion Assistants:** Darran Landenberger & Amy Lynch  
**Counters:** David Baird & Kara Wallace

## January 22

**AV:** Stacy Diemel  
**Acolyte:** Elliott Diemel  
**Ushers:** Pam Novotnak & Jerry Yarolimek  
**Reader:** Steve Shrider  
**Communion Assistants:** Nancy Freedlund & Cyndy King  
**Counters:** Dan King & Steve Shrider

## January 29

**AV:** Kara Wallace  
**Acolyte:** Damon Lynch  
**Ushers:** Greg & Luann Bartz  
**Reader:** Wendy Goldsworthy  
**Communion Assistants:** Sherre Faulkner & Richard Mackenthun  
**Counters:** David Baird & Luann Bartz

**Stock Pew Racks for January:** Nancy Wuthrich

## Celebrations

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1	Robert Lowery
2	Cyndy King
5	Denise Shrider
7	Rick Olson
14	Melissa Peterson
16	Ann Stewart
18	Dorothy Arndt
20	Duke Ducett
23	Arlen Lehrke
24	Tom Lenhart
26	Norm Larson
27	Josiah Hedman
	Seth Hedman
29	Ron Stewart



# Go Teams!

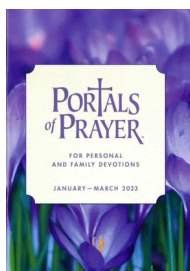
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Web page: [www.poprockton.com](http://www.poprockton.com)  
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00am  
Fifth Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
LCMC Website: [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

## The MESSENGER

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## Coming Up...



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.

### Book Club

Join the Prince of Peace book club as they read It All Comes Back to You by Beth Duke. The group will meet for discussion and fellowship on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30pm at the church.

