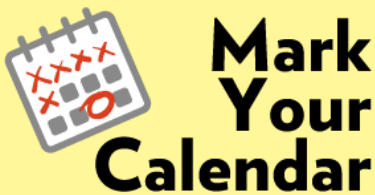


The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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» UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Group

⇒ February 3 & 17

Wrap-Up & Potluck

⇒ February 3

Church Council

⇒ February 12

Ash Wednesday

⇒ February 14

Naomi Circle

⇒ February 20

Mary Rachel Circle

⇒ February 27

From the Pastor

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the next few weeks, we will enter the season of Lent. Many people commit to giving something up or fasting, similar to New Year's resolutions. I am not asking us to do this as a congregation, but it is something to consider. But can we follow Jesus in His ministry? I would like to follow the road He walked by reading the gospels during this time and then during Holy Week, especially reading the four Passion narratives with our hearts ready to receive all He has for us this season. Below, you will find each gospel with two things: the number of chapters in each book and the specific chapters of the narratives. Each gospel is a portrait of Jesus. Let us follow Him:

- Matthew: The Messiah who establishes the Kingdom of Heaven
 - ◊ 28 Chapters
 - ◊ Passion Week: Chapters 21 - 27
- Mark: Suffering Son of God
 - ◊ 16 Chapters
 - ◊ The Passion of Jesus: Chapters 11-15
- Luke: Savior for all People
 - ◊ 24 Chapters
 - ◊ His Last Days: Chapters 19:28-23:56
- John: The Lamb of God who reveals the Father and brings Eternal Life
 - ◊ 21 Chapters
 - ◊ The Passion Week: Chapters 12-19

Lastly, pray.

May this time in His word be fruitful to all of you as you follow Him, seek Him, and worship.

God's Peace,
Pastor Cassandra

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7, NIV)



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

Council Update

- 1) We are looking forward to the **Anatomy of a Revived Church** Wrap-Up and Potluck on Saturday, February 3.
- 2) Lenten soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday. Hope to see you there.
- 3) As a community of believers we are praying and asking what our next steps should be. Do you, our church family, have any suggestions for the council?
- 4) Remember God's Got This!

Pam Novotnak, President

Garage Fundraiser Update

We have been blessed with a gift matching opportunity! During the Congregational Meeting Charlotte Mohns announced that The Mohns Family has offered to match any donations we receive up to \$5000 for the Garage Fund. To date this year we have received

\$250 toward the garage project. We are so appreciative of this gift and apologize for not announcing it sooner. Thank you for your support!

Amy Lynch, Treasurer

Season of Hope

During this Lenten Season, for 40 Days, Prince of Peace will collect the items listed to make at least 40 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Join us as we share hope and are the hands and feet of Christ helping our neighbors worldwide. Once all items are collected, we will need volunteers to assemble these kits. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Leahy, Service Deacon.



Personal Care Kit Items:

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Stewardship Moment

Since February is heart month, here are a few tips:

Four Things to Show Love to Your Heart

- 1) Maintain a healthy diet, drink more water, limit sodium, and eat more fruits and vegetables.
- 2) Understand the warning signs of heart attacks. Some signs are discomfort in your chest or arms and shortness of breath.
- 3) Stay up to date on your numbers: cholesterol and blood pressure. Know your "safe" range of numbers.
- 4) Know your family medical history.

Make your health a top priority.

Sherre Faulkner, Stewardship Deacon

More Coffee!

C.A.L.M. Coffee is growing! Because we're having so much fun getting to know each other more intimately, and because we love all of the new friends we've made, we will start meeting EVERY Wednesday until 12:30 pm! No more guessing if it's this Wednesday or the next Wednesday; it's coffee and conversation time every

Wednesday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm! Come when you can. Because I've had other personal commitments, Saturday afternoons are eliminated as an official meet up time.

Lora Conrad, Witness Deacon



In Our Prayers

Healing, strength, and guidance for: Jerry, John, Sue, Angie, Tammy, Jason Kruckenberg, Bill, Peggy, Melissa, Arianna, Marilyn, Chris, Sarah F., Jen P., Norm, Justin, Levi, Norbert, Denette, Shirley, Linda, Caryl, Victoria France, Justine, Laurie, Brent Timmer, Geri, Sharon, Janine, Sherry, Vic Schoonver, Ian, Nancy Mohns, Carol, Jason, Nancy Wuthrich, Lois, and Kim Odom.

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 Gunnar Pedersen and Cheryl Peterson. The Waldron and Zamuto families. Irene Lang upon loss of her son. Pam Timmer upon loss of her dad. Stacy Diemel and family upon loss of her cousin Bev Igo.



Valentine's Cards

Prince of Peace will be collecting new and unsigned Valentine's cards to be taken to Highview in the Woodlands. Please bring the cards to the church on February 3 and 10. The cards will be delivered to Highview by Valentine's Day.



2024 Lenten Activity

Check your bulletin each week for the weekly Lenten devotional and the Lenten cross activity that can be done at home, and we will do the same here at the church each week during our Wednesday night soup-supper fellowship mid-week service.



Prince of Peace continues to raise funds to support missionaries in Southeast Asia. The region of Southeast Asia includes countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, North Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Our goal at PoP is to raise \$60 per month. If you would like to give monies to Christian Aid, please designate "Missionary" on the offering envelope.

Lenten Prayer Challenge

Ash Wednesday is February 14, which begins our Lenten season. I am offering a prayer challenge instead of a Lenten Devotional this year. Muslims pray five times a day. Jewish Law says it is a duty to pray three times daily: in the morning, afternoon, and at nightfall.

Psalm 55:16-17 NIV mentions praying three times per day. "As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice."

Consider praying the Lord's Prayer three times each day from February 14 (Ash Wednesday) to March 31 (Resurrection Sunday). Pray the prayer, not just say or recite it.

Martin Luther's barber, Peter Beskendorf, asked Luther for practical guidance on prayer. As a result of that question, Martin Luther wrote a small book in 1535 entitled, "A Simple Way to Pray," It is available on Amazon, but if you google it, there are several places where you can download a free copy.

Martin Luther encouraged his barber and, by extension, us to pray the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Ten Commandments and the Apostle's Creed daily. This was not just simple recitation. Luther followed a simple, fourfold pattern. He prayed each petition in four different ways: Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Prayer. Some call it the "ITCP" method of prayer.

In his book "Living Prayer – The Lord's Prayer Alive in You," Dennis Fuqua offers an example of how to pray each petition of the Lord's Prayer in four different ways. You can pick up a copy of this in the narthex.

Below is an example of how to pray the first petition this way.

Our Father who is in heaven:

Instruction: Teach me more of what it means that You are my Father, and I am Your child.

Thanksgiving: Thank You for Your willingness and ability to be my Father.

Confession: I confess that too often, I don't treat You like the Wonderful Father You are.

Petition: Lord, be my heavenly Father.

Are you going to accept the challenge?

Blessings,

Nancy Freedlund, Worship and Discipleship Deacon



February 2024



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 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm	2	3 Men's Group 7:00 am Anatomy of Revived Church Wrap-Up & Potluck 10:00 am—2:00 pm
4 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am	5 Prayer Group 9:30 am Lord's Prayer Study 12:00 pm	6	7 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am—12:30 pm	8 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm	9	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am	12 Prayer Group 9:30 am Lord's Prayer Study 12:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	13 4-H Club 6:15 pm—8:30 pm Altar Guild 6:30pm	14 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am—12:30 pm Ash Wednesday Supper 5:30 pm Service 6:30 pm	15 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm	16	17 Men's Group 7:00 am
18 First Sunday of Lent Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am	19 Prayer Group 9:30 am Worship Team 9:30 am Lord's Prayer Study 12:00 pm Messenger due	20 Naomi Circle 1:00 pm	21 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am—12:30 pm Book Club 12:00 pm Lenten Meal & Service 5:30 pm	22 Annunciation Co-op 8:00 am-3:30 pm	23	24
25 Second Sunday of Lent Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am	26 Prayer Group 9:30 am Lord's Prayer Study 12:00 pm	27 Mary Rachel Circle 1:00 pm Rockton Quilt Group 6:15—9:00 pm	28 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am—12:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service 5:30 pm	29		

February Serving Schedule

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

February 4 – 9:00 am

AV: Darran Landenberger & Ava Lynch

Acolyte: Damon Lynch

Greeters: Nancy Freedlund & Debbie Tracy

Ushers: Dorothy Bush & Jim Freedlund

Reader: Jim Freedlund

Communion Assistants: Sherre Faulkner, Nancy Freedlund, & Pam Novotnak

Counters: Brad Mueller & Pam Novotnak

February 18 – 9:00 am

AV: Stacy Diemel

Acolyte: Ava Lynch

Greeters: Cyndy King & Darran Landenberger

Ushers: Dan King & Debbie Tracy

Reader: Darran Landenberger

Communion Assistants: Nancy Freedlund, Wendy Goldsworthy, & Amy Lynch

Counters: Dorothy Bush & Sandy Buske

February 11 – 9:00 am

AV: Kara Wallace

Acolyte: Greg Bartz

Greeters: Bill & Stacy Diemel

Ushers: Kathy Leahy & Pam Novotnak

Reader: Connor Diemel

Communion Assistants: Lora Conrad, Richard Mackenthun & Sue Peterson

Counters: Greg Bartz & Kathy Leahy

February 25 – 9:00 am

AV: Kara Wallace

Acolyte: Dan King

Greeters: Steve & Denise Shrider

Ushers: Sherre Faulkner & Jerry Yarolimek

Reader: Sue Peterson

Communion Assistants: Cyndy King, Sue Peterson & Steve Shrider

Counters: David Baird & Dan King

Stock Pew Racks for February: Kara Wallace

Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

February 14 – Ash Wednesday
5:30 pm Soup Supper & 6:30 pm Service

Sunday, February 18
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

Wednesday, February 21
5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service

Sunday, February 25
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

Wednesday, February 28
5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service

Sunday, March 3
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

Wednesday, March 6
5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service

Sunday, March 10
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

Wednesday, March 13
5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service

Sunday, March 17
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

Wednesday, March 20
5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Service

March 24 – Palm Sunday
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship

March 28 – Maundy Thursday
6:30 pm Service

March 29 – Good Friday
6:30 pm Service

March 31 – Resurrection Day
10:30 am Worship



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...

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

4 Burge Pearson
12 Jonathan Jensen
15 David Lynch
16 Stacy Diemel
28 Pat Taylor

Happy Anniversary

14 James & Nancy Wuthrich

Book Club

Join the Prince of Peace book club as they read *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom. Bring your lunch and we'll have a picnic and discussion on Wednesday, February 21 at 12:00 pm at the church.

