

As We Gather The Fourth Sunday in Lent has sometimes been considered an oasis in the midst of Lent. With John 3:16 at the center of today's Gospel, we find a refreshing oasis as we hear again those beautiful, life-changing, hope-filled words, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." When snakebitten in the wilderness because of their own sin, the Israelites looked up to the bronze serpent given by God, and they lived. When we are snakebitten—troubled by some persistent sin or burdened by some unforeseen event that threatens to overwhelm us—we can remember that God has given us His Son, lifted up on the cross, to look upon, to trust, and thereby to live now and eternally. Made alive in Christ, "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). A refreshing oasis indeed!

Happy Birthday 3/11 Elba Hillis; 3/12 Aidan Chornobroff; 3/13 Dan Tess; 3/14 Christopher Stoop, Jesse C. Stoop; 3/15 Natalia Drulle, Alexandra Hildebrand, Claire Manna, Scott Pfaff, Jeremy Treadwell; 3/17 Russ Andrews, Austin Plaska, Zachary Zawatski.

Flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God by Edna Black in celebration of Billy's birthday. Flower dedications for 2018 are \$25 per bouquet.

2018 Holy Week Worship Schedule Sun., 3/25 Palm Sunday (Please note service time for this week only.) We will have only one service at 10:15 a.m. (Followed by our Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.) Thurs. 3/29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Fri., 3/30 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Sun., 4/1 Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Worship Note We will continue through Lent with Wednesday evening services at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14 and March 21. The number forty is used 146 times in scripture. This year during the forty days of Lent we will use the Wednesday evening services to examine several of the times that we read of people being tested and prepared for forty days or years. We are going to do this as an aid in our own forty day period of preparation for the feast of Easter.

Comedy Show 2018 - save the date for "A Night of Disco." This year's event is scheduled for Saturday April 28, 2018. Tickets go on sale Wed. Feb. 28, 2018. Ticket prices are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door - this includes dinner and the comedy show; gift auction tickets are an additional charge. Our next planning meeting will be held on Thursday March 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

Comedy Show Tickets are on sale now

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday March 11th

Family Fun Event-Potluck and Movie Sunday March 11th at 11:45 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting Sunday March 18th at 11:30 a.m.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Sunday March 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Next Sunday's Readings March 18th, The Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34 "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel." Hebrews 5:1-10 "The source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." Mark 10:34-45 "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."

Havenwood Montessori School, located in the Education Building on the Prince of Peace campus, will host an International Nigh on Thursday March 8th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. All are invited. Come and learn about four different countries: Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico and Colombia.

"Life Quotes" for The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11th "My heart goes out to those struggling with guilt from the secret sin of abortion—a burden carried by millions. These women and men should not be deprived of the forgiveness Jesus earned for them when they have a repentant heart. We need to speak up and let them know they can have the forgiveness Jesus bought for them through His life, death, and resurrection." Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org (For those who have made an abortion decision, there is a Word of Hope, Lutherans For Life's post-abortion healing ministry. Call 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org.)

Family Fun Activity on March 11th – Luncheon and a Movie Please join your Prince of Peace family for a potluck luncheon followed by a movie. The luncheon will start after the late service on March 11th at 11:45am in the Parish Hall. After lunch, we will go back to the church and watch a family friendly movie on the two televisions. There is a sign up sheet posted in the narthex for the lunch donations. If your lunch donation needs to be heated, please bring it to the Parish Hall Kitchen before the 10:15am Service. Drinks will be provided but feel free to bring your favorite beverage. This is a wonderful time to get to know each other better. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Acolyte and Usher Sign in Sheets: We are asking that Acolytes and Usher Team Members sign in when they are reporting for their scheduled services. An Ushers sign up sheet has been placed on the podium to the right of the double doors. Another sign up sheet is on the table to the left of the door when the Acolytes go in to get their robes. If you are covering for someone else we also ask that you sign in so we know if any adjustments to the schedules need to be made. Thank you to everyone who serves.

Used ink toners needed! When the church recycles old ink cartridges, we are able to get coupons for free office supplies and more importantly, when cartridges are disposed of properly, we are keeping these toxic products out of our environment. We accept all brands and sizes - there is a straw basket in the narthex for your used cartridges. Thanks for your help!

The congregation is cordially invited to attend Brett Abrahamsen's Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony on Sunday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Lunch to follow ceremony. It will be hosted by his dad, Kenny Abrahamsen (732 861 0258.) For more information, or to reply, please go to <http://evite.me/S9PScca7K6> to view the invitation. Please RSVP by Sunday, March 11, 2018. All are invited.

The Choirs of Walther Christian Academy, a Lutheran high school in the Chicago area, will be presenting a concert of sacred music on Friday, March 9 at 7:30pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3139 County Rd 518, Old Bridge, NJ. The program includes a wide variety of great music ranging in style from classical to spirituals to folk hymns and chant. Students range in age from 14-18 and participate in one or more of Walther's three auditioned choirs. The concert is free of charge and open to all; a freewill offering will be collected after the concert for those who would like and are able to support the mission of Walther's choral music program: to use God's gifts of time, talent and energy to share the Gospel of Christ through music. We hope you can join us for this enjoyable time of worship music and fellowship!

Tree of Faith This year, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has introduced a Tree of Faith as an ongoing fundraising campaign. This beautifully crafted mahogany tree trunk and 102 brass leaves will be mounted on the narthex wall. Donors may purchase leaves (\$250), doves (\$350), rocks (\$450) or a base (\$3,000) to acknowledge milestones, memorialize loved ones, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries or to mark those memorable occasions in life. Your donation will not only help to support the ministry at Prince of Peace, it will insure you will be a part of church history. If you are interested in making a donation, please sign up in the narthex with your choices. Questions may be directed to MaryAnn Campagna at 732-905-0052.

You shop. Amazon donates. Support Prince of Peace when you shop. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile you will need to select our church in order for us to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Shop for everyone on your gift list at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7065103> and Amazon donates to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. #YouShopAmazonDonates

Our Food Pantry is VERY LOW! We are in very short supply of the following: jar spaghetti sauce, canned soup, canned proteins / meats (such as spam, tuna, chicken, salmon, stews, chili), personal hygiene items, dish soap, liquid detergent, instant potatoes, gallons of water, canned pasta, napkins, tissues and juice. Sugar-free items are frequently requested by our clients who are diabetic.

Bible Study of the Gospel according to Luke is underway. This class, taught by Elder Ken French, is held every Tuesday morning from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the church Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Please call Ken at 732-616-2850 with any questions.

Generosity thought for Sunday, March 11th, The Fourth Sunday in Lent Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Even the good we do in this world is a gift from God, prepared beforehand for us to do. And this too is a gift! For isn’t doing good also a good thing for the one who does it? So from first to last, from the Lord’s free salvation given to us to the good works He’s prepared for us to walk in, it is all a gift of God’s grace.

Road Trip! The next Sight & Sound trip is planned for Tuesday June 5, 2018. Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA invites you to experience the greatest rescue story of all time! “**Jesus**” is the action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person ever to walk the earth and the everyday people whose lives he changed forever. Ticket prices are as follows: Adults \$122.00 and children ages 4-10 \$85.00. The trip includes round trip bus transportation, lunch at Shady Maple Restaurant and a 3:00 p.m. show at the Millennium Theatre. Bus will begin loading in the church parking lot at 8:45 a.m. and return to the parking lot at 8:30 p.m. Questions can be directed to Ken French at 732-616-2850. Please sign up in the narthex.

In Sunday school today, the children explore the theme “The Prodigal Son“ (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.)

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday March 11th. Turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday March 10th. This is a great time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors as well!

THOSE WHO SERVE

Worship Leader: The Rev. Kenneth Fosse

Midweek Service: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Spoken Service: Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Elder: Don Grayce

Acolyte: TBD

Traditional Service: Sunday 10:15 a.m.

Elder: Alexandra Hildebrand

Acolyte: Tyler Zawatski

Organist: Melissa Marsicano

Altar Guild: Lisa Tess, Anne McDonnell, Elba Hillis

March Ushers: Ken French, Denise Abdul-Malak, Edna Black, Mary Pesano,

Emily Sanbeg, Brooke Ossimina, Piper Doherty, Nicholas Romano