

PRINTS *of* PEACE

VOLUME XLX, Number 12

DECEMBER 2017



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Annual Sunday School Christmas Program Our Family Memories of Christmas

The time is near!!

Please join us for our annual Sunday school Christmas program on
Sunday, December 10th during the 10:15 service.

The children have been working very hard on this year's program ~
Our Family Memories of Christmas. Come share with the children the joy of
Christmas and how "memories" cross all boundaries of age, time and love.

After the play, the children will attend the Birthday Party for Jesus in the
Parish Hall. Parents may pick their children up after the 10:15 service has concluded.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact
Annette Maresca at annettehope@optonline.net

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK – December 2017



Dear members of Prince of Peace

I know many pastors who lament the fact that the Church has adopted the secular idea that Christmas is about selling all sorts of things to the public and so they push several pre-Christmas days like Black Friday or Cyber Monday. The Christmas songs that we hear in the shopping centers and malls usually have more to do with reindeer or snowmen than with the birth of the Son of God. The stores hoping to make ever bigger sales numbers even tell their employees not to say merry Christmas. The season of Advent is diminished and sometimes even lost entirely with all the noise of the barkers telling us to spend, spend, spend.

While I understand the pastor's concern and even share some of it I never expect the commercial interests to step aside for the Church to take center stage. Similarly I don't expect that the members of the Church to be immune from the cultures big push for sales. They have professionals working full time to tailor their message. For the sake of full disclosure I should mention that my future daughter in law is one of these, she works for Wall Mart in their marketing department.

Rather than waiting for the world to rein in their excesses I purpose to continue to offer a different way of dealing with the run up to Christmas. Rather than letting the frenzy of spending get to us let's step back and allow God's message a time and place to enter our consciousness. On the Wednesdays in Advent we will look at the lives of some of the saints. Wednesday the sixth of December is Saint Nicholas' feast day, the thirteenth is Saint Lucia's feast day, and the twenty-first is the feast of Saint Thomas (but we'll move it to the twentieth).

In our Advent services we'll look at these saints and some customs that have been appended to them. Please join me.

I should also mention that this year there is a fourth Sunday in Advent service on 24 December in the morning and two Christmas Eve services in the evening. There is also a Christmas Day service on the twenty-fifth.

Yours in Christ's service

Ken Fosse

Sunday School Corner

Sunday School Play Information

The annual Sunday School Christmas program is Sunday, December 10, 2017

As a reminder, DRESS REHEARSAL is on SATURDAY, December 9th

Speaking Parts: 1:00pm until approx. 4:00pm

--PIZZA SERVED--

NON-Speaking Parts: 2:30pm until approx. 4:00pm

Then on Sunday, the children will practice again during Sunday School. The performance is during the 10:15am service*-I look forward to seeing you all there!

For those new members that have not been a part of the Christmas plays in the past-- After the children perform, they head over to the Parish Hall for a "Birthday Party for Jesus" while the rest of us finish church service. The children can be picked up after service in the Parish Hall.

If you have any further questions, please contact our Christmas Play Director, Annette Maresca at annettehope@optonline.net



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Christmas Worship Schedule:

Wed. 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Services

Saturday 12/23 No Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday 12/24 10:00 a.m. service

Christmas Eve

Sunday 12/24

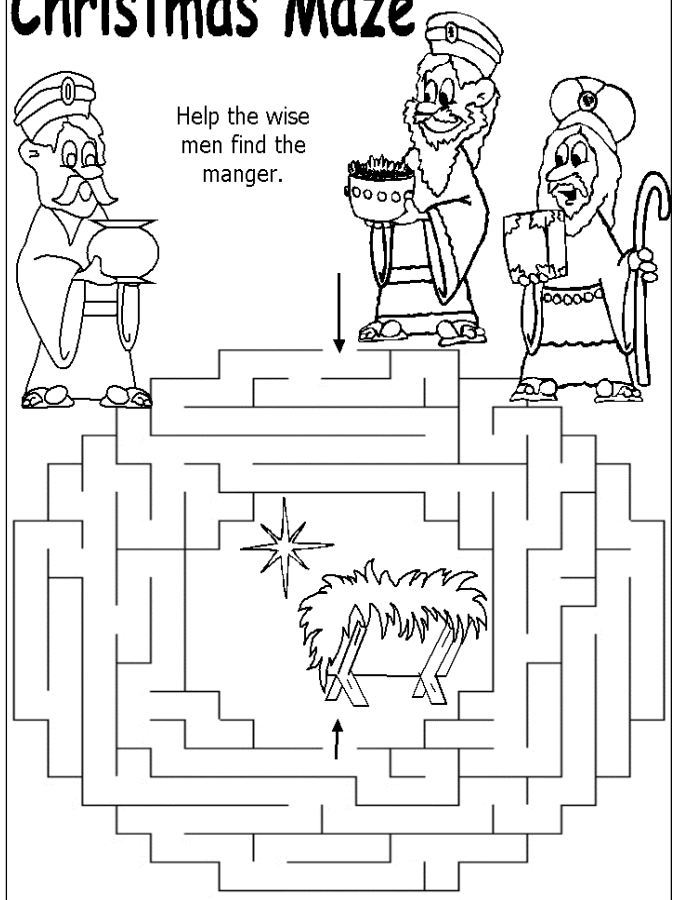
6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services

Christmas Day

Monday 12/25 10:00 a.m. service

We will no longer have a Sat. Evening
Praise Service. After Advent and
Christmas, we will continue to have
Wednesday evening services at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Maze



*Christmas Poinsettias Sale ends Sunday Dec. 10th! Forms are available in the narthex.
Please drop off all payments and forms in the French Family Mailbox*

HOWELL DONOR CENTER**Hours and Location**

Monday - 12:00pm to 8:00pm
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - 12:00pm to 8:00pm
 Thursday - 8:00am to 4:00pm
 Friday and Saturday - 7:30am to 1:00pm
 Sunday - Closed

4068 Rt 9 South Howell Plaza, Howell NJ 07731

- Near the SEARS hardware store and Howell post office on the South bound side
- Cross road—ALDRICH ROAD

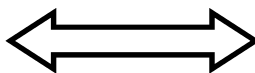
**Don't Forget:**

DONORS must present signature ID.
 PLEASE drink water & eat a full meal before donating.
 DONORS must be healthy, 16 years of age and older,
 and weigh at least 120 pounds.

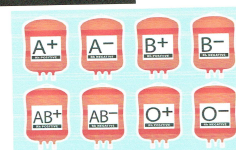
PRINCE OF PEACE BLOOD DRIVE

(will be at the Howell
Blood Center this year)

**PLEASE SEE FLYERS
FOR DETAILS**



**December 15th
through
December 31st**

**Prince of Peace Church**

Donate at our **Howell Donor Center**

December 15th through December 31st

using sponsor code: **SPON007533**

STRONG COMMUNITIES ARE BUILT WHEN WE

HAVE

EACH OTHER'S BACK.....

AND BLOOD.

To Schedule Your Lifesaving Donation:

VISIT <http://bit.ly/HOWELLCENTER>

Or CALL 1-888-731-BLOOD (25663)

Please **BRING** this flyer with you when you donate



Stewardship Newsletter Article for December 2017

(Reprinted from the LCMS website)

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10–11).

We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)!

We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger, but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deut. 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas, but throughout all the year.

We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.

We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us.

Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

Our 500th Reformation Anniversary Celebration

On October 29th Prince of Peace commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by celebrating with Martin Luther's German Mass.

There was an elaborate procession into the sanctuary with incense, with the Confirmation class participating in the service as lectors, acolytes, crucifer, ushers and thurifer.

We continued celebrating after the service as we joined with family and friends to enjoy a traditional German meal prepared by the Board of Elders. Pastor Kenneth Fosse treated us to his homemade Sauerbraten. Other specialties included, brats, German potato salad, spaetzle, potato pancakes, and homemade apple sauce. Desserts included German chocolate cake, apple strudel and root beer floats.

The Parish Hall was decorated with fresh flowers and we posted the 95 Theses on a recreated stone wall. Check out our Facebook page for photos of the day's events.

Our Giving Tree

The holidays are a wonderful time to help those less fortunate. Our Giving Tree is filled with tags - help make Christmas a happy one for families in need. Please return gifts UNWRAPPED by Sunday December 10th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Stewardship Drive

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

You will find 2018 Pledge Cards in your family mailboxes. We would appreciate you taking the time to fill out the Pledge Card and return it (in its envelope) to the collection plate during any service before December 31, 2017; this would help with our financial planning for the coming year.

You can fill out the bottom portion of the letter accompanying the Pledge Card which will serve as a reminder of your commitment. Your pledge will be treated with total confidentiality, as only the Treasurer will see the cards.

Please look into your hearts and count the blessings the Lord has given to you as you decide what to give back. Questions can be directed to Ken French, Director of Stewardship, at 732-616-2850.



Event Wrap Up

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Vendor / Craft / Flea Market a success. With generous donations and a Thrivent Action Team Grant, we were able to raise \$570.50. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. We appreciate you all!!

Thank You to everyone who donated baked goods and helped with the Bake Sale on Saturday to benefit Alicia Spencer's friend, Danielle, who is fighting cancer. We raised \$160 to help cover medical expenses!!

Thank you to Karen, Evangelism Director, for heading up another very successful Thanksgiving Basket Drive! With the assistance of many volunteers, generous benefactors and a Thrivent Action Team Grant, we were able to provide 18 complete Thanksgiving Dinners to local families in need. God's blessings abound this season!

DECEMBER DEADLINE

If you have an article that you would like placed in the January 2018 newsletter, please email it or drop it off in the office. The church email address is popchurch@optonline.net.

The deadline is Friday December 22, 2017.

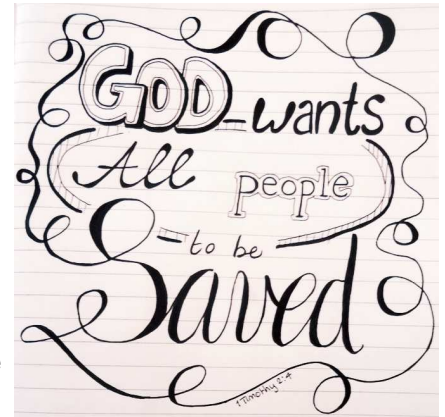
The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to know Christ and inspire people to be caring instruments of God in spreading Christ's love, with joyous enthusiasm, by word and deed.

Our God is a Missionary God

Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, NJ District President

From the very beginning of time and history, God's fundamental mission is to save humankind for God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of their salvation in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:4).

This mission of God began in a beautiful garden many, many years ago. Adam and Eve walked with God in an intimate relationship of love and fellowship. They knew God not only as their Creator, but also as their friend and close companion. But Adam and Eve were not alone in the garden. Satan was there and he came to Eve (and to Adam also, for he was standing there with Eve) and shared with them a vision of a different way of life and tempted them with a different story.



To change a life, you have to tell a different story

To change a life, you have to tell a different story and that is what Satan did; he wanted to change their relationship with God, and their eternal destiny of life with God, so that they would die physically and perish eternally. Tragically, Adam and Eve embraced Satan's story and believed that they could be like God if they disobeyed God's command; instead, they brought about a "3-D world" filled with **despair, darkness, and death**.

In response to Adam and Eve's sinful rebellion God, in His grace and love, came to them. He came to have a conversation of **judgment**, by confronting them with their wrong actions against Him but, more importantly, He came to have a conversation of **hope** - for **to change a life, you have to tell a different story**. God Himself promised them a Savior who would destroy the work of their enemy Satan and bring **rescue** and **salvation** to all who believed in that Savior (Genesis 3:15; John 3:14-18). Adam and Eve believed this promise and their lives were changed for eternity. As a result of this conversation of hope with God, they began to have conversations of hope, and of life, with each other and with their descendants about this Promised Savior.

When the proper time had come, this Promised One walked the earth and fulfilled the promises that God had made with humankind. Just as God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden, and changed their lives through a conversation of hope, so God became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ and had many, many conversations of hope with sinners. In the days of Jesus' ministry, as people heard His words about the Kingdom, and saw His loving and caring actions, many sinners repented of their sinful and perishing way of life, put their faith in Him as the world's Savior, and followed Him as His disciples.

This Advent and Christmas season, we look forward to hearing this story of God's grace and goodness as He came to rescue and save all people. As we have opportunity in the lives of others let us, as did the shepherds that evening, make this Good News known that a Savior has been given to us in His gracious appearing.



You Are the Light of the World Advent Coin Folders

In response to God's love, as shown through the self-giving of Jesus, we should give to the work of the church. One way to accomplish this is with our Advent Coin Folders. The process is simple.... pick up a coin folder, fill it with coins during the Advent Season and return it to church at Christmas. This can also be a way to teach children good stewardship habits and show the joy of giving. Coin folders and return envelopes can be found in the church narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

Embrace — don't skip — Advent

November 29, 2017 in LUTHERAN WITNESS WEB-EXCLUSIVE STORIES
by Emily Olson (a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Casper, Wyoming)

At a Reformation gathering in late October, surrounded by the warm tones of fall foliage, pumpkins, and Luther's roses, a friend who works in retail told me of her current workload.

"Tonight's the night my coworkers unload all the holiday stock," she said. "Christmas starts tomorrow."

Her quip is sadly too true when it comes to American commercial culture. In the waning months of the year, we witness seemingly overnight transformations of merchandise displays from garish orange and black, purple and gray Halloween spookiness to red, white, and green, silver and gold bedazzling Christmas tree twinkles. Sometimes the displays coexist on store floors in a kind of brassy holiday overdose. And the marketplace push of holiday ware appears to continually move backwards. We groan at the Christmas countdowns that appear in July or August and rightly bemoan the loss of seasons. But if we're honest with ourselves, we have to acknowledge that we don't just half-heartedly capitulate to the merry jingles. We're the reason Christmas comes early.

Let's face it. Though we ostensibly know about Advent (the penitential church season that begins this Sunday and precedes our celebration of the birth of Christ), most of us choose to skip it for the soft glow of a secularized holiday. We festoon our homes in garland, indulge in bonbons, and buy, wrap and even open gifts long before we've ever heard readings from Luke 2 in church. And while we know there are no hard and fast rules about when to haul out the holly, we often exercise our Christian freedom in such matters a little too freely at times, kind of like eating too many sugarplums just because we can. At best, our chase of cheery, festive markers of Christmas that we find in the marketplace echoes our true and deep longings for lasting joy and fulfillment. But accelerating our celebrations is unlikely to provide the fix we need.

So what happens when, the occasional midweek service notwithstanding, we effectively ignore Advent?

I know what happens, because the consequence has buried me like a slow-moving avalanche. By the time we finally reach Christmas Eve — opening day, as it were, of the wondrous season celebrating our savior's birth — we are exhausted with Christmas. We want it to be over. After six solid weeks (or more) of Christmas carols, we are ready to sing "Silent Night" at the midnight service and be done with it for another year. By New Years' Eve — er, the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord, when He was just one week old — we've not only skipped Advent. We've checked out of Christmas.

Thankfully, giving Advent our full attention is just the place to start to avoid Christmas burnout. Derived from the Latin word for "coming into," Advent methodically prepares us to observe one of the most holy events in the history of the world. It isn't a stodgy stick-in-the-mud season of no-nos. Rather, it is a thoughtful, penitential time of reflecting upon the steadfast promises of God. We hear from prophets of old foretelling the savior, including Jeremiah, who prophesied five hundred years before the birth of Christ: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch," (23:5). In the face of King Ahaz's weak faith, Isaiah assured Israel (writing even before Jeremiah) that God always remains true to his word: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (7:14). Over years, decades, and centuries, God repeatedly reminded his people of his promise to deliver them. So we also, during the four weeks of Advent, cherish and anticipate the hope of God's people with John the Baptist, who exhorts wondering crowds to confess their sins and prepare for incarnate God to come (Mark 1:1-8). We, too, hear how our long-expected savior will cover our sins and forgive us (Matt. 26:28).

One of the best things about Advent, I think, is how simple it is. We wait with listening ears in the quiet stillness as we meet together in Christ's church. Advent wreaths composed of a bit of greenery and four candles help mark the season in our sanctuaries and homes. As our days become darker and colder, we turn our faces toward the flickering candlelight and hear of the light of the World (John 8:12). We fast, pray and contemplate, not because such actions merit us any righteousness, but because they discipline us to accept with patience and building joy what Christmas brings us. Advent, this wonderful, preparatory season, brings us not an artificial panorama of commercial allure but God's incarnate promise of eternal life. Though we can't fully escape the secular trappings around us, we can focus our eyes on the one thing needful and strive to remember and pray the age-old words that God still answers: O come, o come, Emmanuel.

PROPERS PREVIEWS

A look at the readings to help you prepare for worship

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9: "No eye has seen God besides you."

1 Corinthians 1:3-9: St Paul comforts God's people with the Lord's promise to sustain His people until the day when our Lord returns.

Mark 13:24-37: Signs of the end of the age.

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 The prophet speaks comfort and hope to a people caught in pain and death.

2 Peter 3:8-14 St. Peter reminds us that God's time and our time are not the same and we must be ready at all times for our Lord's return.

Mark 1:1-8 The coming of our Lord begins with the voice sent to prepare the world for His appearing.

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The prophet proclaims the mission of the Messiah, a mission Jesus Himself embraces when He reads these words in the synagogue.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 St. Paul gives words of encouragement to Christians that will keep them sound and blameless in Christ until He comes again.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 St. John the Baptist gives testimony to Jesus as the One whose way he prepares.

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 God makes His dwelling in the midst of His people and David's throne shall endure forever.

Romans 16:25-27 The mystery long hidden has been revealed-Jesus Christ!

Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel comes to the virgin Mary and announces that she will become the mother of our Lord.

December 31, 2017

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 The nations will see your righteousness.

Galatians 4:4-7 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Luke 2:22-40 Jesus presented in the temple.

THOSE WHO SERVE

ASSISTING MINISTERS AT THE 10:15 a.m. SERVICE

12/3	Brandon Chornobroff
12/10	Ken French
12/17	Denise Abdul-Malak
12/24	10:00 a.m. Denise Abdul-Malak 6:00 p.m. Ken French 11:00 p.m. Brandon Chornobroff
12/25	10:00 a.m. Don Grayce
12/31	Alexandra Hildebrand

Don Grayce will be the Elder at the 8:00 a.m. services

Lynne Berghoff will be the Lector on the first Sunday of each month.

Denise Abdul-Malak, Head Elder, 732-406-1531, schedules Assisting Ministers

ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Tess, Elba Hillis and Anne McDonnell

Lisa Tess, 732-905-0687, is Directress of the Altar Guild. Members serve for one month on a rotating basis.

DECEMBER USHERS

Lynne Berghoff, Brian Tess, Luke Marsicano
Ayden Georgiano, Lia Nelson

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please place \$20 per bouquet in a Flower Fund Envelope (which can be found in the Flower Book) and place it in the offering plate. There is a maximum of three bouquets on the altar each week.

ACOLYTES

12/3	(8:00 a.m.) Brooke Ossimina (10:15 a.m.) Claire Manna
12/10	(10:15 a.m.) Victoria Harper
12/17	(8:00 a.m.) Mark Ossimina (10:15 a.m.) Kaylee MacDonald
12/24	(10:00 a.m.) Tyler Zawatski
12/31	(8:00 a.m.) Piper Doherty (10:15 a.m.) Nicholas Romano



*We wish our parish
family and friends a
Blessed Christmas
and a Happy and
Healthy New Year!*