

News of Peace

November 2015



of Prince of Peace, including:

Please keep the men and women that are in the Armed Forces, at home and abroad, in your daily prayers.

We especially want to remember those that are loved and missed by our members

Jeremy & Kimberly Meadows
CMR 454 Box 1264
APO AE
09250
(Army/Germany)
(Eileen Gilbert's granddaughter & husband)

Scott Weeman
81 Langley St.
Colorado Springs, CO
80916

MSgt. Lee Nickel
Stateside
(Marines)

Megan Iott
2114 Presidio Street
Navarre, FL 32566
(Air Force)

PFC Woelmer, Tyler R
3rd Recon BN
3rd Mar Div
Unit 36180
FPO AP 96389-6180
(Marines)

Stoll, Charles
Stateside
(nephew of Mark & Darla Mruzek)

ESN Travis Iott USN
PSC 477
Box 512
FPO, AP 96306-0007
(Navy)

This page last updated October, 2015.



November means Thanksgiving, not Black Friday sales despite what our consumer-driven economy tries to promote. It is interesting that

several major retailers like COSTCO and REI sports are giving their employees Thanksgiving off to be with their families. Maybe they're finally realizing that families are more important than the bottom line. One can only hope this catches on...

Thanksgiving actually predates our romanticized version of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans or even presidential proclamations and declarations of turkey amnesty. Delesslyn Kennebrew is a cultural resource writer shares the following thoughts:

"Although the American concept of Thanksgiving developed in the colonies of New England, its roots can be traced back to the other side of the Atlantic. Both the Separatists who came over on the Mayflower and the Puritans who arrived soon after brought with them a tradition of providential holidays—days of fasting during difficult or pivotal moments and days of feasting and celebration to thank God in times of plenty.

An annual celebration of the harvest spans cultures, continents, and ages. In ancient times, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. The ancient Jewish harvest of Sukkot was to give thanks and the Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and merrymaking long before Europeans set foot on their shores.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving" (although the Pilgrims may have not used the term at the time) the festival lasted three days. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, there were probably no pies, cakes, or other desserts.

While that first feast of 1621 is acknowledged as what started it all, it wasn't until 1863 in the midst of the Civil War, that President Lincoln proclaimed a national day to give thanks to be held each November."

So this year, give thanks in whatever ways your family does so. Give thanks for surviving to another fall. Give thanks for what God has given and what is yet to come...

Peace,
Pastor Ted D. Kerr III



Married before our Altar on Saturday, October 10 were Rachel Lorenzo and Michael Nicolosi.

Also married at Prince of Peace were Jacquelyn Sabados and Jordan Cress, on October 24.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!

On Sunday, November 1 and Wednesday, November 4 we remember the saints of our congregation who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day.

John Koch
Madelyn Berns
Christopher Hill
Donald Fisk
Wayne Adler
Thelma Kominek
Phillip Opferman

The Altar flowers on Sunday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 14 were in honor of Joyce and Fritz Kominek's wedding anniversary. They were married 63 years ago on October 11.



On Sunday, October 25 Kyle Gautz, Amanda Stevens, Ronald Winkelman and Lori Woods were received into membership by Affirmation of Faith. They were welcomed into our Prince of Peace Family during the coffee hour in the Community Center.



Remember to set your clocks back one hour as Daylight-saving time ends Sunday, November 1.

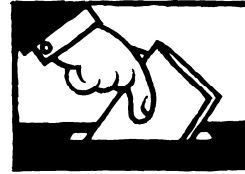


A local organization, *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep*, is based out of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe. This group has provided nearly a thousand beds and cribs for children and infants in Monroe County who have none. The need is great and their resources are strained. Please consider your gift to this worthwhile organization.

The "Noisy Offering" this month will go to the *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep* organization.

The "Noisy Offering" will be collected on Wed., Nov. 04 & Sun., Nov. 08.

October's noisy offering for postage to mail packages to our soldiers was \$188.93 Thank you Prince of Peace for your outward reach.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 3!

Our last Roast Beef Dinner until after the holidays is on Friday, November 6. Donations of various items are needed and so are pies! Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Please choose a time frame & job that works for you and/or a needed item that you can afford to donate and put



Roast Beef Dinner

your name down! Prep work begins the day before at 9 AM - filling salt & pepper shakers, preparing the sugars & creamer, prepping the veggies, wrapping the silverware & more. We set up the tables & chairs, lay the placemats, set out the coffee cups, etc. Thursday at 5:30 PM. Friday morning at 7 the beef is prepped

and put in the roasters. The meat is sliced around noon. Washing pans, etc. is going on in the kitchen throughout the day. Dining room help is needed beginning at 3 - butter and rolls set on the tables, punch and coffee is made, pies & cakes are cut, etc. At 4:30 people are needed to sell tickets, put food on the plates as guests come to through the line, dish up the coleslaw and applesauce, etc. People are needed at 5 PM to help clear the tables, replace the table settings, roll some more silverware in napkins, run the dishwasher, dry dishes, put things away. At 6:30 we continue to wash dishes and put things away, package up any leftovers, start putting stuff away in the dining room, etc. This time we don't have to take down the tables and chairs. There's an event the next day and the family would like them to be left up. See the flyer for meal and ticket information.



Our next Contemporary service is on
Sunday, November 8 at 6:30 PM
Bring a friend, dress casual, and join us in worship.
We'll enjoy fellowship after the services.



Roast Beef Dinner

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1920 Lewis Ave. Ida, MI

Friday, November 06
4:30 - 7:00 PM

Roast beef, homemade mashed potatoes
and gravy, vegetable, dinner roll,
coleslaw or applesauce,
beverage and dessert!

Dine in or carry-out.
\$10 adults; \$4 kids 3-11;
under 3 Free

Hot dog dinners and
carry outs available

Our contemporary band, A+OMIC,
has two spots open!
They are currently looking for both
a keyboard player and a male
vocalist.

If you or any one you may know are
interested,
and would like more information,
please contact Michael Opfermann
at (734) 625-6806.

everyone is
welcome



Feed the Band

We are looking for people who might be interested in providing a simple dinner for our A†OMIC Band on the nights of our Contemporary Worship Services. Many of you may not be aware that our A†OMIC praise band, made up of nine youth and young adults, come together before each of our monthly Contemporary Services to prepare, practice, and share in a meal and fellowship together.

We are looking for church members who would be willing to provide and serve the meal. This would help tremendously in lightening our load of responsibilities, and it would be an opportunity to share and show support for this ongoing ministry. The meals are usually quite simple (i.e., tacos, sloppy joes, pizza, spaghetti, etc.) and always greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help in this way, please contact Gina Staelgraeve (734-347-3109 / gstaelgraeve@gmail.com) to sign up for a month. The service is always on the second Sunday of every month and the meal is served at 5:30 p.m. Paper products and beverages are already on hand, so would not be needed.

We have October and November covered, but need people to sign up for months after that.

Holy Grounds: Although our outdoor work has concluded for the season, we have big plans for the spring. Construction has begun on the "Prayer Garden" which will be located outside the north sanctuary windows. We look forward to next summer when everyone can enter the garden for prayer, rejuvenation and reflection.

Holy Grounds



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Holy Grounds team this season. Much has been accomplished and things are looking great! A special thanks to Greg Steinert, Ben Stotz and Dave Bates--friends from outside our congregation who helped in the Prayer Garden with tilling and compost donations. We look forward to having even more people join our team next year. Planting the new garden will be fun and rewarding. See you in the Spring!

One or two highchairs, in good shape,
are needed for use in the
Community Center.
If you have one to donate
please let Carol Whitaker know.

God Works Soup Kitchen in Dundee will be providing a meal to area people in need on Wed., Nov. 11, with our help. We'll provide the meal with your help of five salads and five desserts. People to help serve and clean up are also needed. Contact Joy Fox at 734.269.2982 if you can help.



Veterans Day

VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2015



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 22
9:30-11 AM

The breakfast will be held in the Community Center and is sponsored by the LYO. It is served on a free will donation basis. The delicious meal includes:

Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk, & coffee.



**Gifts for
those in the
Military**

Boxes for our military troops will be going out on November 23rd. We have funds for these boxes but if you want something special included, contact Betty Nickel @ 734-269-3083.

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

—Author unknown

Our Holiday Decorating Party will be on Sunday, November 29 after the 11:00 service. Families are welcome, there are jobs for everyone. The more the merrier (and lighter the task). Our Deacons will provide soup and beverages for lunch; everyone able is asked to bring a dish to share.



**Decorating
Party**

On God's side

Ever been picked last for a team? Eugene Peterson recounts feeling like a "liability" when this happened to him. In *Run With the Horses* (IVP Books), he says God always wants us on his side — no matter our individual strengths or weaknesses:

"For a long time all Christians called each other 'saints.' They were all saints regardless of how well or badly they lived, of how experienced or inexperienced they were. The word *saint* did not refer to the quality or virtue of their acts, but to the kind of life to which they had been chosen, life on a battlefield. It was not a title given after a spectacular performance, but a mark of whose side they were on."

Based on its Latin roots, *saint* is the noun form of the verb *consecrate*; in other words, Peterson adds, God gave us "spiritual shape" even before we had "biological shape" (see Jeremiah 1:5). Even before forming us, God set us apart, or consecrated us, as saints — and chose us to be on his side.

Christ the King
SUNDAY

November 22, 2015



Canned-Fruit Collection

Complete Thanksgiving dinners to needy area families are provided by Dundee Caring and Sharing, with the help of the community, including area churches. Prince of Peace has been asked to help again by donating cans of fruit (no glass containers). Paper bags, decorated by our Sunday school children are available in the narthex. Please return the fruit by November 15. Someone is needed to deliver the fruit to Dundee UMC on the November 22. If available, please contact the church office.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
Our Annual Thanksgiving Eve worship service is on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM. There will be no Holy Communion at this service. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors. Don't forget those college students and friends.



ELCA World Hunger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

Millions of children go to bed hungry every night, as do their mothers. Extreme poverty remains a main cause of hunger in many countries. Many of those children are under the age of 5. In developing countries, almost 1 out of 5 children die every year. ELCA World Hunger Program asks for donations for starving people around the world.

Our offering on Thanksgiving Eve will be sent to the ELCA World Hunger Program.



The holiday season is right around the corner! Soon it will be time for caroling to our homebound members. The carolers always deliver a box of holiday surprises and treats to each person. There will be 7 recipients this year. We are collecting

small toiletry items and gifts, as well as cookies/candies. Non-perishable items can be dropped off anytime after November 13th. Watch the bulletin for the drop off location.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase fresh fruit.

Perishable items should be delivered before 9:30am on December 13th.

If you have questions or would like to donate toward the purchase of fresh fruit, please contact LeAnn Cottrell. 734-279-2014.

Anyone who wants to help assemble the baskets on Sunday, December 13th, should meet between services in the Gathering Place. Thank you for remembering our homebound members!



Poinsettias are traditionally placed around our altar on Christmas Eve in memory or in honor of loved ones. Order envelopes are also available in the narthex.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

in Memory of or in Honor of:

By:

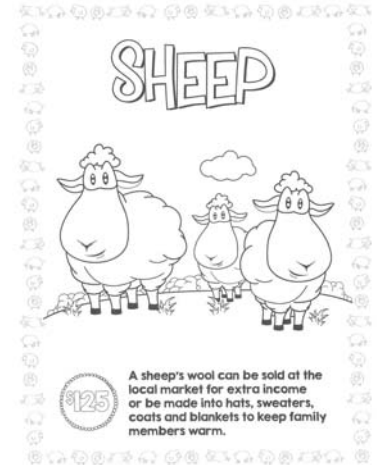
82" Triple \$20.00 ___ Red ___ Pink ___ White ___ Marble

62" Single \$ 8.00 ___ Red ___ Pink ___ White ___ Marble

Total Amount Enclosed \$

Deadline to place orders is the last Sunday in November.

The ELCA's Good Gift Program is being supported again this year by the Sunday School children and WELCA. This year the kids voted to raise funds to purchase sheep. The wool is valuable for a family living in poverty in a variety of ways, such as woven into items to keep the family warm. The items and even the wool can be sold at local markets to provide income. And the sheep's mild can be used to make nutritious dairy products. There'll be jar in the narthex until November 1st for your donation toward this annual effort to help the ELCA World Hunger program.



Our nominating committee, JoAnn Capaul-Smallidge, Dawn Delker, Jean Lloyd, Barb Swor, and Tim Smith are beginning to look for people to fill positions on Church Council that will be open in February. Please prayerfully consider filling one or the following positions: President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Deacon, Trustee, Parish Ed, or IKC Board.



Free Books

A cart in the coatroom with books and VHS tapes is available to our church family to look through and choose whatever you'd like to take home to keep, at no charge. This is being done in an effort to clean out our library. Whatever is left by Nov. 29 will be donated. If you have any questions, please see a member of our Board of Parish Education, Kim Zietlow, Kim Cramer, or Jill Burgess.



Spiritual Retreat Committee

retreat). This is a great opportunity for a post-high school age woman to grow spiritually and be involved in planning and executing a plan for a retreat designed to enrich spiritual lives. Contact Marty Kamprath if interested, 734-269-2206 or Martha.Kamprath@gmail.com.

There's an opening on the Spiritual Retreat Committee. The retreat committee meets during the day ~ 7 times a year (not counting the week of the



Stewardship Corner

What does the word "stewardship" mean? Literally it can be defined as those things God has placed in our care. This meaning goes all the way back to Genesis chapter one in the first creation account, where God gave Adam and Eve "**dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the

wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." Most translations render this word as "power, rule, master" etc. However, I like *The Message* translation which interprets it as "responsible."

That idea is actually more akin with the role God gave to the Israelites throughout the Old Testament that also carries over into the New. It has more of the force that we are not just here on earth to use everything up, but we are responsible for maintaining and leaving something for future generations.

In our Church we have a budget to support our staff, programs, maintain the facilities we are blessed with, and do outreach within our community and beyond through our benevolence to the Synod, the ELCA (our national church body & missions), as well as Lutheran Social Services in Michigan which does everything from adoptions & foster care to residential settings for adults and families, and refugee resettlement. Plus we also do a Noisy Offering each month that collects additional monies for local charities and other mission work that we support.

Whew! That is a lot to be for which to be "responsible!" We respond (another word that comes from responsible) because of what God has first done for us: blessed us with love, grace, and forgiveness. So, our gifts back to God aren't just out of a feeling of guilt or obligation. Rather they come from hearts that are grateful for what we have received.

Within this newsletter and in each of the weekly bulletins for November, you will find a pledge card. It is something provided so that each of us can prayerfully consider the blessings we have received, and our "response" to them. After all, we are responsible for carrying on the faith through the ministry of Prince of Peace. You may place those in the offering plate during each of the Sunday, Wednesday, & ATOMIC services during the month of November. May God bless your response.

Save the Date

March 12, 2016

Spiritual Retreat

Cindi Beaman

featured speaker presents

Dancing in the Rain

and

Kelly Isaacs

A humorous after-lunch presentation where Kelly's southern belle character, ROX-ann, enlightens us with spiritual truths



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church—Ida MI
For post-high school age women—Registration
deadline March 2, 2016

Details in January mailing or at
www.princeofpeaceida.org

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I cannot begin to thank you all for your obvious support in my discernment and candidacy processes. This week, I made a trip to Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and I am beyond excited to begin this journey, that you are all very much a part of. I am beyond grateful for the kind words, prayers, and financial support you have provided at this point, and will be sure to update you all as progress is made in this process! Singing His praises, Michael Opfermann

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Words can't express the love and appreciation I feel for my Prince of Peace family. Hospital visits from Pastor Kerr and others, prayers, texts and well wishes from so many, a mailbox literally stuffed with cards, and a comforting visit and beautiful gift from the Prayer Shawl ministry are thoughtful gestures that I am so sincerely grateful for. What an amazing support group our church family is!

Ron Zabawa

Prayer Shawl Ministry and Friends at Prince of Peace, Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl, lovely cards and visits. Your love and support have meant so much to me. I feel truly blessed and I cannot thank you enough. Sanj Gerweck.

*Dear Prince of Peace Family, I have been overwhelmed by our thoughtfulness. Thank you so much for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards and phone calls during my recovery. A special thank you to Pastor Kerr for his visits at the hospital and for his prayers. I am truly blessed for having all of you in my life
Cindy DuRocher*

A big thank you from the Board of Parish Ed to everyone who made "Trunk or Treat" a huge success again this year. Fun was had by all. A special thank you to Jan Fruchey who was a great help in time of need and Jim Roderick for the wonderful hayride. We were blessed as the bad weather held off in just enough time for the activities to go on as planned.

Special MUSIC

On Sunday, October 4 the Peace Notes sang *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* after the Prayer of the Day at the 8:30 service.

Our Adult Choir sang *Gather by the River to Pray* after the prayer of the day at the 8:30 service.

The Children's Handbells played *Holy Ground* on Sunday, October 25 after the Children's sermonette at the 8:30 service.

The Adult Choir practices continue in November.

We meet on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Michael

Opfermann, our Choir

Director, invites everyone to consider joining in the

fellowship, fun, and service of singing in the choir. New voices are always welcome. If you have any questions

contact Michael at 734.625.6806.



Our Media Team has room for more people to help with our 11:00 service beginning this fall. If you are interested please contact Michael Opfermann @ 734.625.6806. Training is provided and schedules are flexible. We are in need of at least two more people for the 2nd service.





The holidays are fast approaching at the Ida Kids Center. We already have many plans in the works and are looking forward to celebrating with the children and their families.

Thank you to the church members who participated in our fall fundraiser. As always we appreciate your help in up-dating our rooms and supplies. It's always fun to be able to bring new things into the classroom for the children to enjoy. They get very excited when they see "new stuff"!

During the month of October, we had many fall and Halloween activities going on. The preschoolers had a visit from the fire department, and had their class and individual pictures taken. We also created many crafts from those beginning with the letters of the alphabet to pumpkins, bats, Frankenstein's and ghosts. The groups also got to paint pumpkins, scoop the insides out of them, and watch large and small ones erupt with baking soda and vinegar. The children all love this experiment and want to keep doing it over and over. Of course the highlights of the month were the costume parties. It is so cute seeing what everyone is dressed up as. Many of the pictures are on our Facebook page. Make sure you check them all out.

The month of November is always a big change, not only in weather, but also in the building excitement of the approaching holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is unbelievable how early the children all start talking about Santa. The next two months are always a great time for us to be able to discuss what it means to be thankful and how important the birth of Jesus is to all of us.

The center transferred \$500 to the church for the month of October.

We wish everyone a safe and happy month!
Nancy Hunter, Program Director



Coffee Fellowship

The WELCA chairperson for the month of December is Lynette Powers. Lynette will be contacting each person on the December list of helpers to line up coffee hours throughout the month. You may use helpers from your month or feel free to line up your own helpers.

Remember to let Lynette know (734-755-3815) which week you'd like to provide for. December WELCA helpers include: Ashley & Alyssa Powers, Angela Bacarella, Kirstin Dimeff & Kelsy, Janice Fruchey, Verdel Giebel, Velda Heiden, Gerry Turner-Halsey & Melanie, Marlene Howe, Pat Miller, Chris Knaggs, Marilyn Ness, Elizabeth & Marissa, Sandra Rod, Cindy Schumaker & Jessica, Kimberly Stanifer; and Kim Williams & Kailly.

WELCA held their election on October 25. Following are the officers for 2016: President - Laurie Sherman; President Elect - Vacant; Secretary - Sharon Aksamit; and Treasurer, Carol Kamprath. Congratulations ladies. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

A busy time is ahead of us. See the article in this newsletter about Advent by Candlelight. This is a great start for the Christmas Season for the WELCA ladies and their guests.

Christmas in Ida provides many fun things for the community, which our church is active in. We share with other churches in providing cookies for the concert, sell luncheon items and RADA at the craft show and have a great bake sale. See the articles for details on each.

Help is always needed in all of our activities - fun is always had working with our church friends. A chairperson for each event is posted on the WELCA bulletin board in the hall near The Gathering Place. Choose an event to help with and contact the Chairperson, an Officer of WELCA or the church office to volunteer.
Roxie Boll

Advent by Candlelight will be on Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center.



Advent by Candlelight

This is for all confirmed ladies of Prince of Peace and their female guests. Last year we learned the meaning behind each Advent Candle. This year we will find out something new about the Advent Season. It is a nice, spiritual evening to reflect on the upcoming Christmas season. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 8th. Include your name, how many **TOTAL** in your party and if you will be bringing an appetizer or dessert. Please sign up by November 28th. If you have any questions please see Kim Cramer or Allison Roderick.

The women of Prince of Peace assist with Christmas in Ida in many ways, including furnishing cookies for the reception after the concert at St. Joe's on December 4. If you can volunteer 2 dozen, please contact JoAnn Capaul-Smallidge.

Our bake sale table at the Christmas in Ida Craft Show in our Community Center on December 05 is in need of homemade goodies. Please



leave your priced baked goods in the kitchen the day before. Contact Roxie Boll, Ruth Bazick or Janet Brindley if you have any questions or are able to help. As you are doing your holiday baking please remember to bake for our homebound members, too. Baskets of goodies will be assembled by the ladies of WELCA and delivered by our Christmas carolers on Dec. 13.

The ladies of WELCA will have food items available for lunch in the Community Center during the Christmas in Ida Craft Show on Dec. 05. People are needed to share in the prep work on Friday, making apple dumplings, soups, etc. Help is also needed during the Craft show - taking & preparing orders, clean up, etc. Donations of various items are also needed. Watch for the sign up sheet in the narthex soon. Contact Lana Kaminska, Carol Kamprath or Jean Lloyd for more information.

Soup and Sandwich Lunch



ZUMBA!



The sessions continue on November 7 & 14 Prince of Peace Community Center on Saturday mornings at 10 AM.

Drop ins are welcome at \$5 per session. The class is led by Jen Hutka.

Our Dartball team is looking for more players, male or female! No experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun! The games are played on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m., taking turns at the leagues home churches. If interested in playing contact team captain, Ed Burgess at 734-244-5229.



Following is the November schedule:

Nov. 03 - Riga @ PoP - 7:30 PM

Nov. 10 - PoP @ Whiteford - 7:30 PM

Nov. 17 - Summerfield @ PoP - 7:30 PM

Nov. 24 - West Ida @ PoP - 7:30 PM



Yoga

Anyone interested in participating with our yoga group is encouraged to join in. The group meets on Monday evenings in the High School youth room at 7 PM. All ability levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat.

AA Meetings are held on Tuesdays @ 7 PM in The Gathering Place at Prince of Peace.

MOMS' NIGHT OUT



A casual night of Faith, Fellowship,
& Fun!

Sunday, November 8th
6:30-9:45pm
@ Prince of Peace Lutheran
Church


NO COST

Invite your friends, family, & co-workers

6:30-7:30 Contemporary Church service - We will attend as a group. Experience the awesomeness of Atomic, our praise band, as they lead us in song and scripture. *This service is come as you are. No dress code requirements*

7:30-8:00 Snack/Coffee

8:00-9:00 Marriage Strengthening Workshop - led by Leslie Beaster, a member of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors: Christ centered, marriage strengthening & conflict resolution tips

9:00-9:45 Pin It! Holiday  - a group activity where we will share OUR OWN Pinterest type creative ideas for holiday gifts, crafts, treats, and traditions. Please bring in examples (or pictures) of your own projects, to share.

If you cannot attend the entire night, please join us when you are able/stay as late as you can.

Please RSVP By November 1st * text or email Kari Arnold
(734) 735-8810
arnolkam@hotmail.com



Confirmation is Not Graduation

Let me start by saying that what I'm about to present is by no means meant to make anyone – youth or parents – feel guilty in any way. I promise. It's not.

Instead, my purpose is to offer some exciting news, some incentive, and some things to look forward to when it comes to "life after confirmation."

I will admit that my thoughts here were inspired by the disappointing scene last week when I walked into the catechism class of potential confirmands and realized that more than half the group had showed up for class, but weren't there for either of the church services prior to the class. Since becoming the Youth Director for Prince of Peace, 13 of our children have been confirmed; 3 continue to come to church and take part in youth activities on a regular basis. I can't help but wonder *why* and I can't help but wonder *who* is responsible for that outcome. Is it me? Is it the parents or our pastor? Is it the youth themselves? I'm thinking (guessing) the answer is likely all of the above.

There is something distinctly adult about making choices that are not easy, but that are right. I think it is important to recognize that when you make the choice to spend two years coming to catechism classes, studying and learning while most of your friends are sleeping in on Sunday mornings, you should have a clear understanding of why. The adolescent answer would be, "because my parent(s) made me." But if in your confirmation faith statement you said (or intend to say) anything at all about becoming "adult members of the church," then you really don't get off that easy. If it's been a while since you made your confirmation, you might want to go back and read your faith statement again.

Some think that confirmation or affirmation of baptism is about standing up for your faith and making the choice to become "adult Christians." I think it's about making the adult choice to stand up for Jesus. But in a world full of pressures and powers that divide our attention, it's not easy to stand up for Jesus alongside of our human desire to have control, popularity, easy answers, and so on. After confirmation, it appears to me that a lot of young people, maybe

even most, don't come back to church very often. A few might be regular and active church members, but not many. There are a lot of other options that pull our youth away from church and away from faith. But the options and other things to do on Sunday mornings are not the only thing that pull us away.

Things that are talked about in confirmation class like God, faith, church and the bible, are probably not things that parents talk much about at home. And studies show that if faith is not talked about in the home, the chance of youth staying involved in church is very low. But again, this is not about blame. The fact is, parents don't talk about faith to today's youth because their parents didn't talk to them about faith. And more likely than not, grandparents of parents didn't talk to them about faith. This isn't exactly a 21st century problem, but nevertheless, it IS our problem.

When I say that most post-confirmation youth will probably not come back to church on their own, I want to be clear that it's not meant to impart guilt on anyone. In fact, if the reason you come to church is because you feel like you should..., well..., then you probably shouldn't. Church is not a "should." Faith is not a "should." God is not a "should." If we feel like we "should" go to church, but we want to sleep in, or do homework, or go shopping, or play sports, or dance, or whatever..., that pressing sense of "should" might cause us to go to church today, but that will last only a short while. It will last right up until what we want to do seems much more interesting.

Here's the thing about church. If you're looking for great music, the radio will always have something that sounds better. If you're looking for an entertaining sermon, the TV will always be more appealing. And if you're looking for fun youth events and family programming, the YMCA or the mall can probably do more than we can. Church is just not as cool as the world, and so it will never be entertaining enough to make you come. Guilt won't be enough to get you out of bed on Sunday mornings. Becoming regular church attenders, even after confirmation, is something you will have to want to do. I feel like it's my responsibility as your youth director and as a leader, to help make this place somewhere you want to be, and to do my very best to influence you in a way that makes you want to be involved.

What would make you want to come instead of just feeling like you should? The world offers things like school, sports, shopping, video games, dance lessons, or whatever it is that defines you and gives you a sense of satisfaction. These things always have a way of fooling us into thinking that we get to decide who we are. That we can be anything we want.

So what does church have to offer? Here at church God doesn't let us decide who we are or what we can be; he tells us. God tells us in baptism that we belong to Him. He tells us that we are His children, and that is the most important identity we could ever have. When we share in communion, God tells us that we are members of a family of faith who gather here at Prince of Peace and with Christians all over the world. God gives us brothers and sisters in faith, who are there for us when we struggle; there for us when we celebrate; there for us in daily life. In God's church, we don't have to be anyone special; we don't have to achieve anything; we need not commit to anything. Where else, besides church, can we trust in that kind of assurance?

So remember, confirmation is not graduation from church. On the contrary, confirmation is your invitation to engage and get more out of church. When you make the choice to be confirmed, you are affirming that you belong here. And what this means is that when the world fails to turn you into the things you think you want to be, when you are broken and suffering, and yes, even when you die, God will be here waiting to remind you who you are.

With purpose,

Gina



The Adult Sunday School class is led by Pastor Kerr and meets in the Sanctuary at 10 AM. Classes will be each Sunday in November through the 22nd. Sunday School classes for ages preschool thru high school meet at 9:50 AM. Be sure to have your child attend on Nov. 22. Parts for the Christmas program will be decided that day.

There will be no classes on Sun. Nov. 29!

The next 1st Communion Class for those in the 3rd grade or older, will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 9am-11am in *The Gathering Place* by the office. This is the required first step, with the 2nd being to pick a Sunday or Wednesday and bake the bread for that service. At least one parent, grandparent, or guardian must attend with the child.



A dance for 5th & 6th graders will be held in the Community Center on Friday, November 20 from 6:30-9:00 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. Pizza, popp & snacks are available to purchase. Be sure to invite your friends!

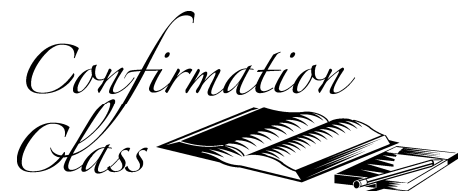
Help is needed from the YouFO group (6th, 7th, & 8th graders) and especially their parents to chaperone and help ensure the safety of our community kids. Money raised will go towards Youth Quake at Great Wolf Lodge in March.

There's a YouFO Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 15 for kids, grades 6th-8th, and parents. We will talk about: Youth Group Nights / Youth Quake trip / Alice Lorraine Holiday Visit. We'll meet at 1:15 PM.



Kids of the Kingdom will meet on Sunday, Nov 22 for a Minute to Win It event. We will meet after late church for lunch and then the fun and games will begin. Cost \$5 per child.

Games will be done at 2:30. Please RSVP to Sherry Kuhn 734-260-6248.



Confirmation classes for students in 7th or 8th grades, and older students that have not yet been confirmed meet on Sundays at 12:15 PM. New confirmation students will receive their Bibles on November 1 during church services. Classes will be held on the 1st, 8, & 15. We'll be going on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills on Nov 22. Classes will be on a holiday recess Nov. 29-Dec. 27.



Advent Candlelighters & Readers

Advent candle lighters and readers are needed for each Sunday Service during Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29.

Traditionally, a child(ren) would light the candle in the Advent wreath as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. reads the

special Advent reading. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested in this. The Advent reading will be mailed to you.

All of our YouFO (6th-8th grades) & LYO (9th-12th grades) age members and friends are invited to join in our Community Center for Thursday Youth Group Night from 6:30-8:00 pm. This is an informal gathering of youth, led by Gina Staelgraeve and youth advisers. We'll have time for Bible focus point, discussion and application, fun & fellowship, games & snacks. In November we'll gather on the 5th, 12th, & 19th.