



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

From Pastor Joel Skindlov

**December
2023
Newsletter**

**Volume 29
Issue 12**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

"Comfort, O Comfort my people says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). We enter into this last month of our calendar year and the first weeks of the NEW church year. We wait, we watch, we wonder, as God comes to us as a baby, an infant, lying in a manger. But, before the quiet coos and smell of hay and straw and mangers, it seems that the writer of Mark's gospel and John the Baptist, have words that unsettle and upend our expectations of what this time leading up to Christmas and Jesus' birth might mean once again for our lives. We transition to readings from the Gospel of Mark, beginning the first Sunday in December and continuing through this upcoming year.

Stars falling, burning piles of brushwood, and Yet, in Isaiah's arrival of the coming Messiah, the saving One, Isaiah offers comfort amidst all of the uncertainty, pain, and loss of the world and our lives. It involves waiting, something that I'm relearning once again this year. It involves watching, being mindful and noticing ourselves, our neighbors, and how Christ continues to show up in wonderful and surprising places, amid the joyous surprise of new birth in our lives and our world. Jesus also shows up amid the trials and devastation that mark our world. They describe part of our reality for sure. Yet, Advent, which meaning "coming", helps us mark time and our lives in a different way.

"Comfort, O comfort my people" reveals that the seeming absence or distance of God in our world and lives, shows God in Christ showing up in ways we might not expect. Ways that we might take for granted. Christ arrives in the patient persistent presence of a God who has not left the building, but works in what we might perceive as "behind the scenes".

In Isaiah 40, the messenger of the Lord, Isaiah, tells the truth about the situation of the people's life, yet offers God's hope and strength, amid the waiting and wondering.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him". (Isaiah 40:8-10, NRSV).

The word of God arrives, not only as words on a page, but also in the comfort and surprise of this God that stops at nothing to meet with us, living within and among us. Here, right where you are, Christ shows up to upend our expectations and meet us with the blessed surprise of a Christ child who arrives once again, renewing, transforming, and comforting us as we join in this peculiar and wonderful venture. May Christ's comfort and courage uphold and lead you this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace,

Pastor Joel

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Caritas Needs For December

Food:

Small peanut butter jars,
jelly/jam, pancake mix, syrup,
cereal, canned tuna/chicken,
individual trail mix, meat sticks,
granola bars, boxed meals,
hearty soups, ramen and chili.

Necessities:

Toothpaste, wrapped
toothbrushes, deodorant, little
lotions and dish soap

(non perishables)

Please don't tie bags shut!

Caritas Outreach Ministries,
1228 W. Nebraska, Spokane, WA 99205



From The President

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it."
- Hebrews 13: 2*

I was fortunate to grow up in a family where hospitality - even to strangers - was demonstrated on a regular basis. Even though society tells us to beware of strangers or people we don't know; it is easy to be skeptical about entertaining strangers. Often, strangers inspire feelings of suspicion and fear. But God wants us to be kind to strangers, regardless of the assumptions of others or the stories that make headlines.

Hospitality to strangers links us with God and with others. It is a wonderful way of expressing and extending the love of God to the world. Some strangers may not know about the love of God; and as Christians, we should look beyond the four walls of our church and welcome them wherever we encounter them. When we show hospitality to strangers, we have the opportunity to entertain angels.

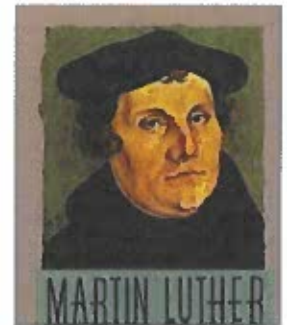
During this season of Advent, I encourage you to keep your eyes and hearts open. Hospitality comes in many different ways and forms. Will you encounter an angel; or will you be someone's answer to prayer? Either way, I believe it's a blessing and gift from God!

Merry Christmas to you and yours! And may each of you enjoy blessings throughout the season...

Karen Chaffins

Martin Luther Quotes

"We are nothing with all our gifts be they ever so great, except God assists us."



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church publishes a monthly newsletter for members, friends and churches in the area. News articles, address changes, questions or comments should be addressed to:

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STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Joel Skindlov
Office Manager: Ami Elliott
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Custodian: Mark Smith
Preschool Directors:
Sue Cole & Stephanie Perreiah

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service - 9:00 am
*Worship currently also streamed on FB at
"Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"*
Fellowship - 10:15 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Office closed on Fridays
Memorial Day-Labor Day Weekends



Saturday, December 16, 2023

POP Fellowship Hall

7am- Start cooking

7:30am-Enjoy breakfast & discussion

Serving You This Month

December	Altar Guild	Worship Assistants	Altar Flowers	Media	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship
3	Debra Trujillo-Gilbert	Mike Sanborn	No Flowers	Advent Bernie Polikowsky Simon Feist	Joe Rock & Doug Elliott	Rebecca Hendrickson	Susan Ames Linda Fernan Janet Robel
10	Holly Christoff	Cliff Hendrickson	No Flowers	Advent Bernie Polikowsky Matt Christoff	Jon & Karen Heimbigner	Holly Christoff	
17	Rebecca Hendrickson	Abby Liezen	No Flowers	Advent Bernie Polikowsky Bernie Polikowsky	John Renford & Todd Chaffins	Rebecca Hendrickson	
24 9am	Susan Ames	David Liezen		Erica & Lee Salkin	Paul & Sue Parrish	Susan Ames	
24 9pm	Paul & Sue Parrish	Joy Liezen		Bernie Polikowsky	Doug Elliott		
31	Paul & Sue Parrish	Joy Liezen		Bernie Polikowsky	Mel Nebelsieck & Rod or Marie Tamura	Paul & Sue Parrish	

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, December 3

1st Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm: 80:1-7,17-19
 2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 1:3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 17

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
 Psalm: 126
 2nd Reading: 1Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Gospel: 1:6-8,19-28

Sunday, December 24-9pm

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm: 96
 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 10

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm: 85:1-2,8-13
 2nd Reading: 2Peter 3:8-15a
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 24-9am

1st Reading: 2Samuel 7:1-11,16
 Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55
 2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 31

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm: 148
 2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



News from POP

To Ponder:


Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27 ESV

'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' **45** Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' Matthew 25: 44-45 ESV

"If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray."

From Father Ten Boom by Corrie Ten Boom



Birthdays	Anniversaries
<p>December 1- Randy Fleiger December 5- Karen Heimbigner December 8- Marie Tamura December 14- Cliff Hendrickson Keith Humphrey December 16- Helen Cogley December 21- Stephanie Feist December 22- Delores Shelton December 26- Carol Hawley Sue Parrish December 29- Riley Brajcich</p>	<p>December 15- Harold & Tammy Fleiger Angela & Jake Rapp December 21- Bill & Sue Burgermyer</p> 

Tree of Sharing

Hello!! The POP Tree of Sharing is up. There are tags from Westview Elementary, the Young Life– Young Lives moms/children, and Lutheran Community Services. The tags and wrapped gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 17th so that they can be returned to the organization before Christmas for distribution. Thank you for your generosity in helping these families and individuals feel the love of Christ in our community!



Tree & Sanctuary Decorating

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, December 3rd to decorate the large Christmas tree and other areas of the sanctuary in preparation for the Advent Season. The more helpful hands, the quicker the task will be tackled. The glow of the lighted tree will brighten the sanctuary from Advent to Epiphany!



Ugly Sweater Sunday

Sunday, December 17th is Ugly Sweater Sunday! Wear your favorite questionable Christmas attire for everyone to enjoy. If you have a favorite beautiful Christmas attire you want to show off, please feel free to wear it also. The beauty can only enhance the ugly of the others.



Prince of Peace Christmas Worship Schedule



Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays during Advent
December 6th, 13th, & 20th
at 7pm



Christmas Eve Worship Services: Sunday, December 24th

Worship Service—9am

Candle Light Service— 9pm

Council Position

The council is looking for someone who will serve as Treasurer for 2024. Our current Treasurer, Mary Froscheiser is retiring, but would be available to advise and help. If you are interested, please talk to Mary or a church council member. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration!



Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Bible Study & Potluck: 10:30 am Wednesday, December 6, 2023



Quilts for Kids: 9:00 am Tuesday, December 12, 2023 (*sorting for Distribution, no quilt making*)



Charity Quilters: Not Meeting! Enjoy the break!



Please join the women for these monthly events. Also, before leaving any fabric, speak with a quilter about what they could really use to complete quilts.



Community Events

Save the
DATE

A Sherlock CAROL



**Wednesday,
December 6th, 2023**

at the
**Spokane Civic Theatre
1020 N. Howard St.**

Benefiting
 **LUTHERAN
Community
Services
NORTHWEST**
**& Greater Spokane
Campus Ministry**

6:00 PM Social Hour

wine/drinks, snacks, auction baskets

7:15 PM Doors open / 7:30 PM Curtain

TICKETS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Cost: \$35.00 each Purchase online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com)

OR contact Christie McKee

(509) 343-5020 cmckee@lcsnw.org


*Funding for this event is partially paid for from the
Endowment Fund at Advent Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley*

BellaCristo Handbell Choir

Enjoy a free concert by BellaCristo, a community handbell choir,
on Sunday, December 3rd at 3pm
at Millwood Community Presbyterian Church,
3223 N. Marguerite Rd. Spokane Valley.

The music will include familiar carols and melodies like Sleigh Ride, Feliz Navidad, O Come All Ye Faithful, O Holy Night and more. Plus, there will be added instruments: organ, flute, and percussion. Can't attend in person? Watch online on the YouTube channel for Millwood Community Presbyterian Church either live-streamed or any time after the completion of the concert. Invite your family & friends to this special event celebrating the sounds of the season!



 Gonzaga University Choirs presents


A Light Through The Darkness

Candlelight Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 9th, 7:30 PM
Sunday, December 10th, 2:00 PM







Featuring The Gonzaga Concert Choir, Glee Club,
Discantus Treble Choir, Jazz Choir, Big Bing Theory,
Spokane Brassworks and St. Aloysius Catholic School Choir

Conductors: Dr. Meg Stohlmann &
Dr. Kristina Ploeger-Hekmatpanah
Christian Skok, Collaborative Pianist



Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
For more information contact (509) 313-2787

December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 TREE DECORATING 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"	4	5 5:30 pm Praise Group 7:00 pm All Committee	6 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 	7 1:00 pm Bible Study	8	9
10 CARITAS SUNDAY 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane" 	11 1:00 pm Exec. Council	12 9:00 am Quilts for Kids 5:30 pm Praise Group	13 6:15 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 	14 1:00 pm Bible Study	15	16 7:00 am Men's Breakfast
17 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane" 	18 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19 5:30 pm Praise Group	20 6:15 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 	21 1:00 pm Bible Study	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9am & 9pm Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane" 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 -----CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK-----	27 -----CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK-----	28 -----CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK-----	29	30
31 NEW YEARS EVE 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane"	