



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2024 Newsletter

Volume 30
Issue 12

From Pastor Joel Skindlov

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! We enter the church season of Advent as we prepare, participate, and receive the gift of the newborn King wrapped in swaddling clothes. The gospel readings from Luke paint a picture of the here but not yet of the kingdom of God. The tremors, tumult, and uneasiness of living in the meantime for Christ's second coming and Christ's arrival once again of the Christ child lying in a manger. "This, this is Christ the King/ while shepherds watch and angels sing!" (What Child is This? LBW#40).

At my house, we have a sign with a countdown to Christmas. Each morning one of my daughters writes the number of days and the excitement is palpable, the longing immense! I don't want to be so stringent in my celebration and practice of the season of Advent that I suck all the joy out of the season, yet I wonder if Advent is an opportune time to reflect, participate, and take in the longing, promise, and expectancy that we experience in our lives. What practices can enrich your life and our life together, as we ponder in our heart and mind, Jesus, God with us, this month?

The first Sunday in Advent we hear words that both disclose God's power and possibly fill us with uncertainty and fear. Yet our lives, the whole spectrum of our hopes and fears, joys and challenges are met in Christ. "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and the stars, and on earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint with fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory" (Luke 21:25-28, NRSV). We don't know when Christ's second coming will be. Even Jesus himself states that he does not know the time of God's second coming.

God discloses this surprising power and purpose in the person of Jesus, a child in a manger and promises to return as the One who is and was and will be forever.

We will hear John the Baptizer proclaiming, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:4-6, NRSV). We watch and wait and work, bearing witness to Christ's unexpected and faithful ways that reveal the God in Christ who comes to turn our world upside down and right side up!

We are invited and challenged, as disciples of Jesus, to watch, participate and pray for God's kingdom, God's presence to be revealed once again in us and through us. We join with Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah in bearing witness to the living Christ.

You're invited to join us as we worship the Triune God during our Mid-week Advent services. We'll sing Holden Evening Prayer and pause, ponder and praise Christ through song, scripture, and prayer!

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Peace,
Pastor Joel

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POP Pantry Needs For December

Food:

Small peanut butter jars,
jelly/jam, pancake mix, syrup,
cereal, canned tuna/chicken,
individual trail mix, meat sticks,
granola bars, soup, & boxed
meals.

Necessities:

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

Hate shopping? Cash Donations can be
placed in the offering plate or
dropped off at the office in an
envelope, marked "Caritas Pantry" and
a volunteer will do the shopping for
you!

Thoughts From The Council President

Good Tidings to All

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, November 3, those that were at worship participated in a "cottage meeting". Not only was it a good time to visit with friends, it allowed everyone to share their opinions and feelings. I thought I would highlight some of the questions and answers, but if you would like to see the full summary, we will post it on the bulletin board.

Q1: What do you expect from your church? The majority felt that friendships and a sense of community and support were very important. Also, church is expected to be a place of grace and solid well rounded worship services where we listen and learn about God.

Q2: What do you want your church to be like? An overwhelming response was that our church be welcoming and give those who worship a sense of belonging. Some thought we should have more bible study opportunities either in person or online. Also, we'd like to find ways to show that we care for our shut-ins by visiting or offering rides to church or help with errands.

Q3: What does Prince of Peace do well? This was a long list and I've highlighted some of the major ones: our worship services, Pastor Joel's sermons, our choirs, the community outreach programs, friendly and welcoming congregation, the quilts, and fellowship at the coffee hours and potlucks. I'm sure that we can think of even more.

Q4: What should we be proud of? Many appreciate those who work behind the scenes to keep the facility and grounds looking good. Several commented on the generosity of the congregation when needs arise. We also heard that people appreciate the outreach to the community such as Tree of Sharing, Summer concerts, Craft Fair, Rally bags and the neighborhood pantry and garden. Plus, we paid off the mortgage.

Q5: What can we do to improve? This list is something that we need to pay attention to but not let it get in the way of all the positives we have going. There is concern about why we are not meeting our day-to-day budget needs since we have paid off the mortgage. Many felt that more members, particularly younger members, need to take part in the "business" of the church such as serving on committees or council or volunteering to help with fellowship or ushering or communion, etc. And finally, we need to communicate!

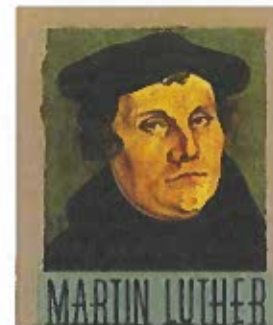
I didn't intend for this to get so long, but I wanted you to know that your input is important and will be useful as we move into another year. Thank you to everyone who participated in the discussions.

I wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas,

Sue Parrish

Luther's Prayers

It is also your will that we should not individually name you Father but together call you our Father and united, pray for all. So give us a united love that we may know and consider all to be brothers and sisters. United we ask you, our beloved Father, for each and all, even as one child speaks for another to its father. Amen



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:

Newsletter Editor

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STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Joel Skindlov
Office Manager: Ami Elliott
Music Director: Janet Robel
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, 2024

POP Fellowship Hall

7am- Start cooking
7:30am-Enjoy breakfast & discussion

Serving You This Month

Dec	Altar Guild	Worship Assistants	Altar Flowers	Media	Ushers	Communion Servers	Fellowship
1	Rebecca Hendrickson	Susan Ames	No Flowers for Advent	Matt Christoff	Frank Christoff & Joe Rock	Rebecca Hendrickson	Elliott/ Renford
8	Susan Ames	Kathy Fleiger	No Flowers for Advent	Bernie Polikowsky	Doug Elliott	Susan Ames	Jan Gilliam
15	Ginny Zimmerman	Joy Liezen	No Flowers for Advent	Erica & Lee Salkin	John & Peggy Renford	Ginny Zimmerman	Tamura
22	Marie Tamura	Cliff Hendrickson	No Flowers for Advent	Matt Christoff	Paul & Sue Parrish	Marie Tamura	
24 Christmas Eve	Sue & Paul Parrish	Joy Liezen		Bernie Polikowsky	Frank & Holly Christoff	Sue & Paul Parrish	
29	Karen Heimbigner	Julie Tramp		Bernie Polikowsky		Karen Heimbigner	

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, December 1

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-10

2nd Reading: Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 15

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 24-Christmas Eve

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 8

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 22

1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Sunday, December 29

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

Psalm: 148

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

News from POP

To Ponder:

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."
Revelation 21: 4, 5a

"The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

December 21- Bill & Sue Burgermyer



Financial Update

As I write this, we have just one (1) Sunday remaining in November and our offering is very short of meeting our approved budget of \$26,629 by \$9000. The offering covers all the expenses for the church including our commitment to our Benevolences. I know the members of Prince of Peace are generous givers. If I were to tell you that we needed money for a specific repair in our building, many of you would find a little extra to add to our giving to accomplish such repairs. There's something about a focused need that sparks giving in our congregation. We do have a need to address and that is our commitment to our Benevolences. Our 3rd Quarter Benevolences were due at the end of September and very soon we will need to pay the 4th Quarter Benevolences.

We have met our approved budget just three (3) times this year. That impacts all parts of the budget.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our community with your generosity.

Marie Tamura, POP Treasurer

Upcoming December Events

Hanging of the Greens Service-

Sunday, December 1st- Wear your Christmas attire as we prepare our sanctuary for the Advent Season. Help decorate the tree following Worship Service



Advent Services-

Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th & 18th at 7pm
Holden Evening Prayer



POP Pantry Sunday- Sunday, December 8th

Needed items on the front page of Newsletter.
Please fill if it looks sparse when the office is closed.

Sunday School Christmas Program-

Sunday, December 22nd- during the Worship Service



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-

Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm

***Church Office will be closed December 23- January 1st.

Bible Study/Potluck: 10:30 am Wednesday, December 11, 2024



Quilts for Kids: 9:00 am Tuesday, December 10, 2024



Charity Quilters: Not Meeting



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

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Gonzaga University Choirs Present:

Comfort and Joy

A Candlelight Christmas in collaboration with
Gonzaga Choirs, Gonzaga Jazz, St. Aloysius
Catholic School and Special Guests

December 7th at 2 pm and 7:30 pm & December 8th at 2 pm
Held in the Coughlin Theater in the Myrtle Wilson Performing Arts Center

Meg Stoblmann, Conductor
David Fague, Director of Jazz Studies
Christian Skok, Collaborative Pianist

For More Information Please Contact: +1 (509) 313-2757
Tickets Can Be Purchased Here:



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Join LCSNW & Greater Spokane Campus Ministry for this benefit performance!


DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Wed. December 18th Doors Open 6:00PM Curtain 7:30PM	Spokane Civic Theatre 1020 N. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99201

Holiday Treats - Auction Baskets - 50/50 Raffle

Tickets \$45

For questions, please contact Megan Eickmeyer at: megan.eickmeyer@lcsnw.org or (509) 343-5060

December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane "	2	3 5:30 pm Praise Group 7pm Committee Night	4 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Advent Service	5 1:00 pm Bible Study	6	7
8 POP PANTRY SUNDAY 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane "	9 10:00 am Executive Council	10 9:00 am Quilts for Kids 5:30 pm Praise Group 	11 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Advent Service	12 1:00 pm Bible Study	13	14
15 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane " Sunday School	16 6:30 pm Council Meeting	17 5:30 pm Praise Group	18 6:15pm Men's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Advent Service	19 1:00 pm Bible Study	20	21 7am Men's Breakfast
22 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane " Sunday School Program	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
-----Church Office Closed-----						
29 9am Worship Streamed on Facebook at "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Spokane "	30	31 -----Church Office Closed-----				