

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

March 2024

Issue 3

As Moses Lifted up the Serpent, so must the Son of Man be Lifted Up

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Jesus said, *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life”* (John 3:14-15).

The Hebrew people of Moses’ time were much like us. They were impatient. They complained. They forgot about the Giver of all gifts. Through their impatience, complaining, and forgetfulness, God sent fiery serpents among His people, and these serpents bit the people and many of the people died (Numbers 21:6). When the Hebrews realized their sin and came to repentance, they said to Moses, *“We have sinned, and we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us”* (Numbers 21:7). Then the LORD said to Moses, *“Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live”* (Numbers 21:8). Just like that, the Hebrew people were saved from the venomous serpents.

Now, what truly saved them? Was it by their looking upon the bronze serpent on the pole? No, they were saved through faith in the one true God. It was God who saved them. But God used this bronze serpent as a way of teaching them of what the coming Messiah would do for them, and for all people. This bronze serpent on the pole served as a type of what God the Father intended when His incarnate Son bore our sin and was lifted up on the cross. So, when faith looks up to Christ crucified, God saves from eternal death all victims of the fatal venom of sin.

Through various members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, our congregation has been gifted a processional cross. Now, this processional cross has no power to save us, just as the bronze serpent lifted upon a pole, but it does serve a purpose.

So, what’s the purpose of a processional cross? The processional cross points us to Jesus who is the Savior for our sins. Processions confess that this earthly home is not our permanent home. The people of God live while moving and move while living, proclaiming our faith in the Creator God who will renew all things. The processional cross will be “lifted up” on primary festivals in the Church Year, such as Palm Sunday, Easter, Confirmation, All Saints’, and Christmas.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.*

*1. Come, Christians follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.*

*4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.*

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*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.*

*6. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred Name. (LSB 837)*

The processional cross will be dedicated at the Divine Service on Sunday, March 10. May the Lord bless you and keep you in your baptismal grace this Lententide!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

Sunday Adult Bible Study: Back to the Basics with Luther's Large Catechism

In his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther writes this of the catechism, "A Christian should daily exercise themselves in the catechism, which is a short summary and epitome of the entire Holy Scriptures." But what do we usually end up doing once we are catechized? We put away Luther's *Small Catechism* and it gathers dust on a shelf. Why do so many Christians do this? Well, Luther has the not-so-good answer: "[We] assume that [we] have finished learning the parts of the catechism or know it well enough in all points. But, even if [we] know and understand the catechism perfectly (which, however, is impossible in this life), there are still so many benefits and fruits to be gained." In other words, we think that we have graduated and so, we must know enough.

So, what can be gained by studying the catechism? Well, catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and meditate on it. Certainly, as Luther says, you will not release a stronger repellent against the devil than to be engaged by God's commandments and words, and speak, sing, or think them.

Come and join us each Sunday following the Divine Service and fellowship time! Each past handout is available online at <http://www.wspop.org/adult-bible-studies.html>. Past studies are also available through Pastor Adelsen.

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Lenten Midweek: Studying the Creed and the Lord's Prayer

Join us at Prince of Peace each Wednesday evening throughout our Lenten midweek series on the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

We began with the first chief part last Lenten season with the Ten Commandments. We could very well stop with the Ten Commandments. But as we all know, we daily fail in keeping God's commandments. Thanks be to God that He gave us the Gospel and this good news is what we confess each week as we recite the Creed. And because we have the One and only Savior from sin, Jesus Christ, as our Brother, we are also able to pray to God just as a dear child speaks to his dear father. Come and join us each Wednesday evening as we study the second and third chief parts of the catechism!

POP Lenten and Easter Schedule		
Theme	Date	Time
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 14	7 p.m.
The First Article of the Creed	Wednesday, February 21	7 p.m.
The Second Article of the Creed	Wednesday, February 28	7 p.m.
The Third Article of the Creed	Wednesday, March 6	7 p.m.
Lord's Prayer (Petitions 1-3)	Wednesday, March 13	7 p.m.
Lord's Prayer (Petitions 4-7)	Wednesday, March 20	7 p.m.
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24	9 a.m.
Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Thursday, March 28	7 p.m.
Good Friday	Friday, March 29	7 p.m.
Easter Vigil	Saturday, March 30	7 p.m.
Easter Sunrise	Sunday, March 31	6 a.m.
Easter Day	Sunday, March 31	9 a.m.

Lenten Meals: 6 p.m. Wednesdays from February 21-March 20
Easter Breakfast: 7 a.m. on March 31

Divine Services: Sundays at 9 a.m. & Mondays at 7 p.m.
Bible Studies: Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—FEBRUARY 2024



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

65,464,760 Babies Have Been Killed in Abortions Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 – A new factsheet that tallies the number of babies killed in abortions since 1973 presents heartbreaking news for pro-life Americans. The new figures from the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) show that almost 65.5 million babies have been killed in abortion since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Although abortion totals per year have gone down since their highs in the years after *Roe*, almost 900,000 babies are killed in abortions every year, and those totals have increased slightly in the last two years because of the COVID pandemic and massive uncertainty in the world, according to NRLC's projections. The most accurate abortion figures for the United States come from the Guttmacher Institute, a pro- abortion group that was formerly a part of Planned Parenthood because those figures come straight from abortion centers that kill babies ... "Now, with the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning *Roe*, rejecting the idea that there is any national right to abortion, there is a new benchmark – June 24, 2022. That was the point at which many states were once again able to pass and enforce legislation protecting unborn children." Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., is the director of education and research for the NRLC. (*LifeNews.com*, 1/17/24)

Speaking up For Life

"How sad as we hear of the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* by the Supreme Court that so many are acting like this is the worst thing that could happen in our world. Stop and think of what they are arguing about. They want the right to kill a baby in their womb. They want the right to do what they want with their body. It is such a selfish, sinful, and demented way of thinking. Yet, as you hear the arguments and as your kids go off to college, you often feel like you as a Christian are such an uncaring person. My friends, we are all sinners. Imagine what Jesus must think of this. He loves every soul!" *Pastor Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota (6-26-22)*

"'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit' (John 15:16). Those words are meant for every one of us. We should never cease to be amazed at God's gifts and timing to bear the fruit of God's love." *Lynette Auch, former President of Lutherans For Life*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

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New to the POP Church Library: The Book of Concord

Every catechized Lutheran knows of Martin Luther's Small Catechism question, "What does this mean?" But did you know that the Small Catechism is included in a book called *The Book of Concord*?

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine, which contains statements of faith, otherwise known as confessions of faith. These were written to keep the Church pure from false teachings and were all included in a single volume known as *The Book of Concord* in 1580.

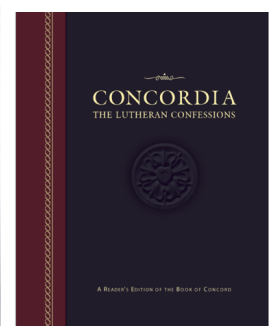
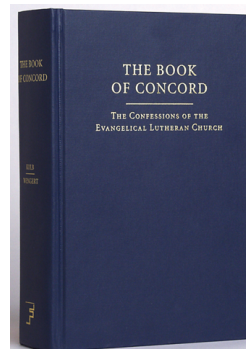
The Book of Concord includes what is believed, taught, and confessed by the Lutheran Church:

- The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed
- The Augsburg Confession
- The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Luther's Large Catechism
- Epitome of the Formula of Concord
- The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine. It does not supplant the Bible. *The Book of Concord* teaches the Bible, because nothing is more important than clearly confessing and bearing witness to the truths of God's Word, which reveals the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is what *The Book of Concord* is all about.

The Book of Concord is not just for pastors and church workers, it is for every Lutheran. As C.F.W. Walther, the first president of the LCMS, once said, "*The Book of Concord* should be in every Lutheran home. If a person isn't familiar with this book, he'll think, 'That old book is just for pastors. I don't have to preach. After working all day, I can't sit down and study in the evening. If I read my morning and evening devotions, that's enough.' No, that is not enough! The Lord doesn't want us to remain children, blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine; instead of that, He wants us to grow in knowledge so that we can teach others."

Check out POP's two editions – *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* and *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Readers Guide* – located in the church library today! If you would like a personal copy, contact the church office to place an order.



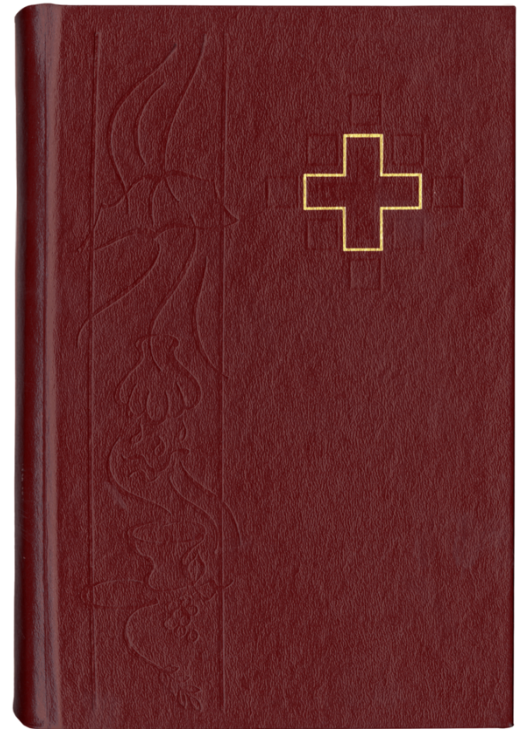
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Lutheran Service Book Hymnals

At the December 2023 Prince of Peace Voters' Meeting, it was unanimously voted to begin implementing the use of the *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as an aid to guide our worship services. Prince of Peace will maintain a library of the *Lutheran Service Book* for use during worship services, though some members of Prince of Peace may wish to donate hymnals to the church as a memorial or may wish to purchase a personal copy.

If you wish to make a purchase of a *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as a memorial to the congregation or for personal use, please check the sign up sheets in the narthex. Prince of Peace will purchase the hymnals on your behalf to take advantage of the church's tax-free status. The *Lutheran Service Book* is available through Concordia Publishing House and is priced as follows below (plus shipping).



For congregational use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy

For congregational and personal use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Gift Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Deluxe Edition (pew edition, upgraded), \$54.99 per copy

The *Lutheran Service Book* includes the following in each hymnal:

- Church Year Festivals and Commemorations
- Lectionaries
- Glossary of Church Terms
- The Psalms
- The Divine Service (Five Settings)
- Daily Office (Matins, Vespers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline)
- Other Services
- Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families
- Luther's Small Catechism

Prince of Peace Tidings

Congregational President's Comments

March 2024

I hope to draw your attention to the REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION – LCMS LACROSSE AREA SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY, attached to this newsletter. The report represents a summary of the LCMS School Feasibility Study proposal prepared by Synod and members of the steering committee. This summary is, in fact, the observation of Prince of Peace and not synod. The Feasibility Study was based primarily on a minimal number of congregational surveys, discussions within the steering committee and interviews by synod representatives. The Study was a very broad look at aspirations for a LCMS school located in the La Crosse area and contained little or no analysis of costs, staffing, possible student numbers or specific facilities. I expect that Prince of Peace, as well as the other three cooperating congregations, will receive a further summary and recommendations from the steering committee representatives toward Phase 2 planning which will need to develop real numbers. Prince of Peace will need to determine its intention to continue this process once a Phase 2 plan is developed and a clearer understanding of the type of school that will be proposed is presented. Please review what we've discerned to this point as we await further information from the steering committee and Synod.

Pastor Adelsen has begun the study of our Lutheran Confessions by way of Martin Luther's Large and Small Catechism. Join us for this important summary of our Lutheran doctrine at Sunday Bible study class after worship. Very enlightening. A copy of the Large and Small Catechism is available and offered to anyone as desired. A free will offering is appreciated to offset costs of the books.

We are now within the midst of the Lenten season. Remember that Prince of Peace celebrates a midweek Lenten Service on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A congregation meal is served at 6 p.m. Join us for worship and fellowship!

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

The Book of Revelation – Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. These seven churches represent the Christian Church for all time and place. When reading through Revelation 2-3, we certainly see that fact. Each congregation was far from perfect, they are sinner-saints after all, as they all dealt with false teachings from within or from without. To each congregation, Jesus spoke to them law to show them their sins and gospel in showing what Christ has won for them.

As God's Word says in Ecclesiastes 1:9, *"There is nothing new under the sun."* We can see ourselves in each of these congregations – for good or bad. But despite their faith or lack thereof, Christ is still present as the ruler of His Church offering the forgiveness of sins that He won for all people through His death and bodily resurrection.

Please join us each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.!

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Prince of Peace Tidings

LWML News:

Our next meeting will be Saturday morning, March 2, at 9 a.m.



Our March birthdays

Tim Pralle	3 rd
Cheryl Schran	5 th
Elaine Schmidt	7 th
Debbie Greene	9 th
Barbara Hinds	13 th
Britton Kuehn	14 th
Elsie Adelsen	16 th
Krista Durnin	16 th
Nicholas Seefeldt	17 th
Eric Moen	19 th
Nathan Novak	19 th
Taylor Seefeldt	21 st
Brandon Schran	22 nd
Damian Ford	24 th
Daniel Kolander	24 th
Matthew Luethe	27 th

Celebrating a wedding anniversary this month are

Brett and Jenny Hinds	4 th
Josh and Faith Leyh	26 th

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Prince of Peace Tidings

March Schedules

Ushers

March 3-Russ & Sharie Brunk
March 10-Randy & DeAnne Otto
March 17-Willie & Leatta Danielson
March 24-Elaine Schmidt & Garry Hensley
March 31 (9:00)-Roger & Ginny Emmons

Greeters

March 3-POP Family
March 10-Barb Hinds & Chris Leis
March 17-Randy & DeAnne Otto
March 24-POP Family
March 31-POP Family

Money counters

March 3-Ona Childs & Chris Leis
March 10-Barb Alsobrooks & Lori Peters
March 17-Elaine Schmidt & Barb Hinds
March 24-Ona Childs & Chris Leis
March 31-Barb Hinds & Debbie Dunnum

Song Leaders

March 3-Brooklynn Scholze
March 10-Holly Ford
March 17-Patty & Nancy Horstmann
March 24-Sarah Kolander
March 31-POP Choir

Altar Guild

DeAnne Otto
Melissa Adelsen

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March

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor's day off	2 LWML 9 a.m.
3 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Elders: 11:30	4 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	5 Havenwood: 11 a.m.	6 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Catechism: 5:00 Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Worship: 7 Choir after church	7	8 Pastor's day off	9 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
10 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Church Council: 11:30	11 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	12 Winkle at Prince of Peace	13 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Catechism: 5:00 Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Worship: 7 Choir after church	14	15 Pastor's day off	16 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
17 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	18 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	19	20 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Catechism: 5:00 Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Worship: 7 Choir after church	21	22 Pastor's day off	23 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
Palm Sunday 24 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	25 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	26	27 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Catechism: 5:00	Maundy Thursday 28 Worship Service: 7 p.m.	Good Friday 29 Worship Service: 7 p.m.	Holy Saturday 30 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday 31 Sunrise Service: 6 a.m. Divine Service: 9 a.m. Breakfast between services						

