

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

September 2024

Issue 9

## How should a Christian vote?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Jesus said: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the Prophets”* (Matthew 22:37-40).

November 5<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching. As Christians, how can we have a good conscience in voting this year? When the candidates appear to be terrible, what can we do? What should we look for? Could it be proper to sit out the vote? What is the proper thing to do?

Certainly, Satan wants to paralyze Christians from voting. Satan desires Christians to sit out the vote. Satan paralyzes Christians most effectively by convincing us that we do not want to participate in sin. And if we do vote, we will be guilty of sin. Satan burdens our consciences. That is what he does, because Christians do not want to sin. Certainly, politicians cannot be held to the same standard as clergy in the Church. So, Satan makes us fear sinning in the electoral process.

Yes, it is true that we can sin when we place our vote. But Christians are not pure. I wish we were, but we live in this fallen world, which makes us poor, miserable sinners.

Martin Luther writes: *“If grace is true, you must bear a true and not a fictitious sin. God does not save people who are only fictitious sinners. Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for He is victorious over sin, death, and the world. As long as we are here in this world, we have to sin. This life is not the dwelling place of righteousness, but, as Peter says, we look for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. It is enough that by the riches of God’s glory we have come to know the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. No sin will separate us from the Lamb. ... Pray boldly – you too are a mighty sinner.”*

So, what is Luther saying? Is he giving Christians permission to sin? No! He is saying that when we have no other choice than to sin, we are to be bolder in confessing those sins. Every candidate in this fallen world is a sinner. So, as Christians, when you vote, you will be sinning. What do we do? We vote to serve our neighbor.

Sainted Lutheran Pastor Paul Elbrecht wrote: *Perhaps the notion the people ought to mind their own business has been carried too far by Americans. Stemming, more than likely, from the spirit of rugged individualism, such expressions as ‘You go to your church, and I’ll go to mine’ ... and ‘At our house we never discuss religion or politics’ reveal an attitude of isolationism and individualism, which is almost frightening. This attitude is certainly not Biblical, nor Christian. God says: “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4). The neighbor’s hunger, sorrow, sickness, anxiety, yes, even his joy, are properly the concern of every Christian. All too often the Christian’s life in his neighborhood is not unlike that of the priest and the Levite who, representing the church, passed by on the other side. It is sad that so often Samaritans make the best neighbors. Want to get started in politics? Walk across the street today, and say, “Hello.” Say you wish to be a better neighbor, and then, with*

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*God's help, start being one. Political life, when it is truly God-pleasing, serves the neighbors' needs.*

So, what are our neighbor's needs? They are: forgiveness, life, and salvation. To help and serve our neighbor, Christians vote to make this country safe for us to exercise our freedom of religion. So, is your choice of the candidate going to further limit your ability to gather freely at the Divine Service? We cannot become apolitical in the church. And it is certainly not my vocation to tell you who to vote for, but it is my God-given vocation to teach Biblical principles to help you to make the best personal decision on who to vote for.

So, which candidate will best serve your neighbor? Here are some things to consider: sanctity of life, marriage and the family, and religious liberty.

Sanctity of life is how God defines the worth of human life. All human life was created in His own image, and He alone has the right to give it or to take it away. We need to remember that God creates, preserves, and protects all life. God has redeemed every human life by the holy, precious blood of Christ, so every human life is precious to God and to Christians.

God honors and praises the estate of marriage. Marriage is a blessed estate, since He instituted it before all others. He created man and woman so that they might live together in marriage, be fruitful, bear children, and nourish and train them to honor God. Marriage is the highest importance to God so that people are raised up who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil. According to the pattern of nature itself, a human life cannot be conceived without a man and a woman. The most natural setting for the care of the child is to be cared for by his or her mother and father, who have committed themselves to each other and to their child. This has been the natural pattern for marriages and families throughout all of human history in every human culture.

God calls on Christians to sanctify the holy day. He calls on Christians to have spiritual rest through worship, fellowship, and devotion to God's Word and promises. God wants us to be regularly engaged in His Word and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips, so that we gladly hear God's Word and receive His forgiveness through His Sacraments each week. Christians are sinners who need one another and the encouragement we receive from one another.

For most of the world, they have replaced God's Word with subjective opinions as the basis on how we vote. So, how are you making your judgments? For Christians, our voting decisions should be based on God's Word and be informed by God's Word. By being in His Word and receiving His forgiveness, voting becomes clearer. Then we can vote sensibly and not moved by emotion and not by blowing in the wind being manipulated by marketing campaigns.

No candidate is ever perfect. Only Jesus is perfect. Cling to Jesus as you place your vote. You will sin but come to Christ and receive His forgiveness. Yes, you will be voting for the lesser of two evils, but always remember that when you vote, you are ultimately voting for the candidate who best serves your neighbor.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Adelsen

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## ***Sunday Adult Bible Study: 1 Corinthians***

In many ways, the Church of Corinth is much like the Western Christian Church today. Corinth was a major Greek seaport complete with traffic, travelers, sailors, and merchants. Corinth was cosmopolitan, pagan, idolatrous and immoral. At its height, Corinth was the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants were Roman colonists, ex-slaves, former soldiers, admirers of Greek wisdom and culture, and a scattering of Jews. It was a very prosperous and wealthy city, but it was also a very irreligious city.

Naturally, when the Christian faith collided with the paganism in Corinth, the young congregation founded by St. Paul, was plagued with many problems and questions. These problems included congregational factions, lawsuits, promiscuity, marriage and divorce, desertion, the place of women in the church, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the resurrection of the body. The Church in Corinth turned to St. Paul for guidance and counsel.

The Church in Corinth was not a perfect congregation, but through the Holy Spirit, St. Paul told this imperfect congregation about God's grace. The experiences of the Church in Corinth are increasingly those of present-day Christians, not only in traditional heathen countries, but also in so-called Christian lands slipping deeper into pagan ways. The impact of the fallen world's morality on the Church is all so evident today, with political factions growing, marriages failing, sexual morality sinking, and church disorders increasing. Today's Christian faces many of the moral dilemmas reflected in this epistle.

At the same time, 1 Corinthians is a letter of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, St. Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In the epistle, St. Paul shows them the way of error and the way of truth. This epistle is practical as it presents everyday problems confronting Christians in the world as the Holy Spirit supplies the answers to our daily problems.



**Crafts Needed:** We're participating in West Salem Cares downtown West Salem on September 1. We're having a craft table and we need crafts to sell! Bring your items to the church or give to Patty Horstmann or Leatta Danielson. Kids crafts are welcome.

Hello Church Family! We will be going to Living Waters Bible Camp on September 29 for a **Tabernacle Tour**. We will have a light lunch at the church before heading out. Sign up sheets will be at church coming up, watch for them. This is a very family friendly activity, all are welcome! Recommended donations are \$10 per adult, \$5 per child age 4 to 12, kids 3 and under are free. Questions? Talk with Carrie Horstman.

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## Men's Bible Study

What does it mean to be a man? Masculinity is attacked by the fallen world as "toxic." Masculinity is giving of yourself for the good of those around you in your care. Being masculine is counter-cultural today.

The fallen world says many things about masculinity, but what God speaks in the Bible of manhood is far different. God gave men responsibilities that are distinct from those He gave to women. Our Lord and

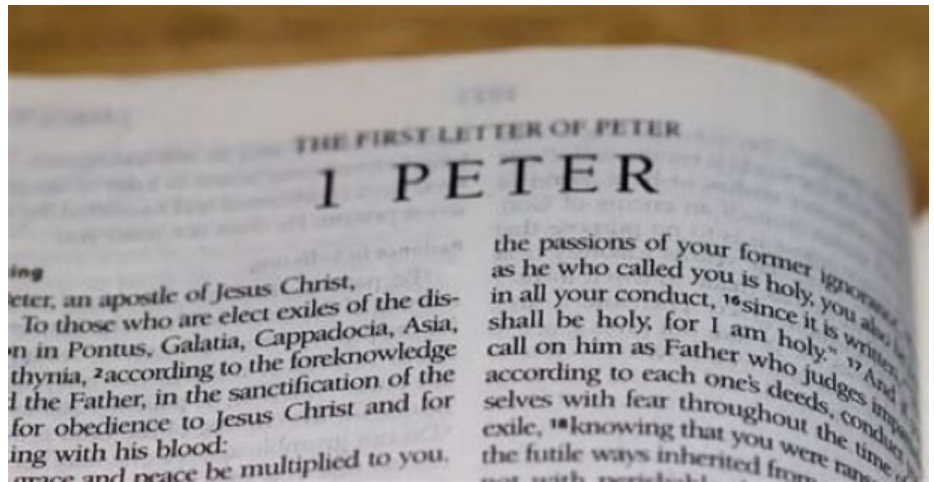
Savior, Jesus the Christ, gives men the perfect example of a man, since He is the perfect man. His example sets the paradigm for perfect masculinity.

Beginning on Tuesday, September 17 at 5 p.m., all men of Prince of Peace are invited to Men's Bible Study. We will begin on a monthly basis. For more information, please contact Pastor Adelsen (email: [pastor@wspop.org](mailto:pastor@wspop.org)).



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 1 Peter

The people who received Peter's Letters often faced persecution for their faith. They could not worship the community false idols or the national gods. They had to refuse participation in the local feasts and parties, often dedicated to one of the many gods or goddesses in the region. They couldn't even perform the patriotic act of burning incense to Caesar because it was a form of prayer. Idolatry was woven into the daily life of



the individual and the community. As a result, their friends and neighbors turned against them. Persecution became a daily fact of life for people who trusted Jesus for their salvation. Was their faith in Jesus Christ worth the suffering, persecution, and isolation they had to endure?

Amazingly, St. Peter tells them that persecution actually benefits God's people. Perhaps we can illustrate this benefit by turning to human relationships. Difficult times often make or break relationships. Tragedy, terrible personal crises, and loss force us to come together and become stronger. Many of us have stories of critical times when our life and trust in someone was put to the test. These critical times forge the bonds of our relationships. Those that survive the test are stronger than before.

We meet each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.!

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## Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

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

**LIFE NEWS—AUGUST 2024**



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

**[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)**



## Life Newsbytes

**According to a new Pew study released this week, the percentage of adults under the age of 50 who say they probably won't ever have kids has skyrocketed in recent years, jumping a whopping 10 points in the last half decade alone.** In 2023, the share of adults ages 18 to 49 who say they're now "unlikely to ever have kids" stood at a stunning 47 percent, up from 37 percent in 2018. In fact, the number of people who say they probably won't ever have children is practically even with those who say it's "likely" that they will have kids one day (50%), which begs the next logical question: Why are so many adults saying it's unlikely that they'll ever have kids? Is it the difficulty of finding a partner with whom to procreate? Is it the increasing expense of ... well, everything? Nope. According to the study, the most prevalent reason given by childless adults for why they probably won't have kids is that they simply "don't want to." In fact, a full 57% of those who say kids aren't in the cards say they just don't feel like having children, while 44% admitted they "want to focus on other things." Roughly 1 in 3 say they can't afford to raise a child, and 1 in 5 claim they just "don't really like children." (*Brittany Hughes, LifeNews.com, 7/26/24: [www.lifenews.com/2024/07/26/half-of-american-adult-say-theyre-unlikely-to-ever-have-kids/](http://www.lifenews.com/2024/07/26/half-of-american-adult-say-theyre-unlikely-to-ever-have-kids/)*)

## Speaking up For Life

"Be as patient with others as you know God is with you. In so doing, you will be keeping your head in all circumstances' (2 Timothy 4:5). You will find the resolve to remain calm and patient, even though ideologically you may become incensed. Theologically, you know what it means to be the object of perfect love. Let Christ be your role model." *Rev. Robert Fleischmann, Director of Christian Life Resource*

"In Jesus there is healing; there is forgiveness. You, dear brother and sister in Christ, need not fear His wrath. For you, the words 'Christ is risen' are good words; they are the best words. They are words so good they should not be contained but shared with the world. They are pure Gospel." *Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"*

"The rainbow is a reminder that God's grace will always preserve you and this beautiful world in which you live until He raises you and takes you to heavenly glory. This is God's amazing grace, and His grace generates your life of genuine gratitude." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

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CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

September, 2024

I cannot believe that September is already here! I assume that our younger families here at Prince of Peace are reacquainting themselves with school schedules, band, organized sports and other extracurricular activities. I seem to remember those days a few (okay, maybe many) years ago. Prince of Peace will also be re-engaging the Sunday School program very soon for our children. Let us all support our program to the glory of God!

Prince of Peace had financial uncertainty several months ago. I mentioned last month that a number of monetary gifts stemmed that immediacy of that situation. Yet, general contributions remain short of weekly needs. I remain convinced that God will inspire our stewardship and provide for the mission here at Prince of Peace. Please keep our church financial condition in your prayers as we begin work on the 2025 budget.

Pastor Adelsen and others have suggested a church project intended to extend church outreach, while celebrating Reformation and perhaps creating an annual heritage event. The plan is to create a genuine German menu and meal that celebrates the Reformation. A German menu is to be prepared for sale and delivery to our members and to the public, similar to the Norwegian dinner event held at Our Savior's in West Salem. Details are still being developed, and yes, it will require many volunteers and significant effort to make it happen. Line up the German cooks! German strudel and desserts! Think of the public outreach opportunity it may create. Think of the benefits for our own church community. Eat in or take out. Time to invite all of our friends and neighbors to this meal and maybe even so bold as to invite them to our church. The suggested date is Saturday, October 26, 2024 (eve of Reformation Sunday). More information will be provided as we move forward.

Please keep our congregation and God's work in your prayers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## LWML News:

On September 7 we will meet at the church for our monthly meeting.

If you would like to bring flowers for our altar, in memory of a loved one, or for no particular reason, we have some lovely vases to fill! Talk with Debbie or Elaine so we can start a schedule.

Mark your calendars for October 5 at 9:30 a.m. We will be hosting our zone Prayer Meeting. The annual Prayer Meeting theme this year is Grace, Mercy, Peace.

The entire congregation is invited to join us.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6. Everyone is invited to a pie and ice cream social after our worship service.

If you are a veteran or know someone in our congregation who is, please let Sharie or Debbie know.



## Our September birthdays

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Virginia Emmons | September 4  |
| Amy Ruffi       | September 4  |
| Aliah Kuehn     | September 12 |
| Bill Peters     | September 13 |
| Marlene Wilhelm | September 17 |
| Philip Durnin   | September 20 |
| Faith Leyh      | September 21 |
| Dave Schmidt    | September 22 |

## Our September anniversaries

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Tim & Dee Pralle           | September 5  |
| Brian & Patricia Horstmann | September 26 |

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## September Schedules

### Ushers

September 1-Willie & Leatta Danielson  
September 8-Mike & Carolyn Dosland  
September 15-Russ & Sharie Brunk  
September 22-Roger & Ginny Emmons  
September 29-Dan & Kari Moen

### Greeters

September 1-POP Family  
September 8-Otto Family  
September 15-POP Family  
September 22-Chris Leis & Barb Hinds  
September 29-POP Family

### Money counters

September 1-Elaine Schmidt & Debbie Dunnum  
September 8-Ona Childs & Barb Hinds  
September 15-Chris Leis & Barb Alsobrooks  
September 22-Lori Peters & Debbie Dunnum  
September 29-Elaine Schmidt & Barb Hinds

### Song Leaders

September 1-Sarah Kolander  
September 8-Brooklynn Scholze  
September 15-Holly Ford  
September 22-Sarah Kolander  
September 29-Brooklynn Scholze

### Altar Guild

Leatta Danielson  
Chris Leis

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# September 2024

| Sunday  | Monday                                       | Tuesday                            | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday                 | Saturday                             |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Outdoor Worship Divine Service: 9 a.m.<br>Bible study for all: 10:30             | <b>Labor Day</b> 2<br>Divine Service: 7 p.m. | 3                                  | 4<br>Bible study: 9:30 a.m.   | 5        | 6<br>Pastor's day off  | 7<br>LWML meeting:<br>9 a.m.         |
| 8<br>Divine Service: 9 a.m.<br>Bible study for all: 10:30<br>Church Council:<br>11:30 | 9<br>Divine Service: 7 p.m.                  | 10                                 | 11<br>Bible study: 9:30 a.m.<br>Confirmation: 5:30 p.m.<br>Choir: 7:30 p.m. | 12       | 13<br>Pastor's day off | 14<br>Women's Bible study:<br>9 a.m. |
| 15<br>Divine Service: 9 a.m.<br>Bible study for all: 10:30                            | 16<br>Divine Service: 7 p.m.                 | 17<br>Men's Bible study:<br>5 p.m. | 18<br>Bible study: 9:30 a.m.<br>Confirmation: 5:30 p.m.<br>Choir: 7:30 p.m. | 19       | 20<br>Pastor's day off | 21<br>Women's Bible study:<br>9 a.m. |
| 22<br>Divine Service: 9 a.m.<br>Bible study for all: 10:30                            | 23<br>Divine Service: 7 p.m.                 | 24                                 | 25<br>Bible study: 9:30 a.m.<br>Confirmation: 5:30 p.m.<br>Choir: 7:30 p.m. | 26       | 27<br>Pastor's day off | 28<br>Women's Bible study:<br>9 a.m. |
| 29<br>Divine Service: 9 a.m.<br>Potluck & Bible Trivia<br>after our service           | 30<br>Divine Service: 7 p.m.                 |                                    |   |          |                        |                                      |
|   |  |                                    |   |          |                        |                                      |

## IN THE WORD:

**"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND & I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORDS BECAME TO ME A JOY & THE DELIGHT OF MY HEART..." JEREMIAH 15:16**

### Sunday morning Bible class:

Join us Sunday morning after church for Bible class for all ages! The adults are currently studying 1 Corinthians.

### Wednesday morning

A great group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 who would love to see you there! Currently studying 1 Peter.

### Saturday morning women's group:

Meeting online with an occasional in person gathering. Currently studying "The Heart of Jesus."

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