

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Disciple Making Community"

"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Dec. 21st, 2025



Welcome! We are glad you are here today!

Our mission here at Prince of Peace is to exist to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our message is that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have questions about the Christian faith or Prince of Peace, our pastor or one of our elders would be happy to talk with you.

Pastor: Rev. Peter Adelsen

Cell: 765-860-5204 Email: pastor@wspop.org

Elder: Dan Kolander, 608-697-5458, Email: dkolander5458@gmail.com

Elder: Joe Scholze, 608-780-6771, Email: josephscholze@gmail.com

Church Office: 608-786-3938 Email: Office@WSPOP.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am-12:00pm (*staffed voluntarily*)

Our Communion Practice: *Prince of Peace is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LCMS practices the Biblical and historical practice known as Close or Closed Communion (1 Corinthians 11:18-22). In this Supper of Our Lord, we receive the real presence of Jesus Christ's true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Since this is also a sign of our communion, or common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are catechized members in good standing of the congregations of the LCMS or those in fellowship with the LCMS, such as The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC).*

It is indeed a consequence of the division in Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to receive the Lord's Supper. Reception of the Sacrament of the Altar by those who are not fully united with us would confess a oneness that does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. New member classes are offered regularly, so that those who are not in fellowship with us can be welcomed to the Lord's Table in the future! We thank you for your respect for our Biblical and historical practice. Guests, please ask an elder or Pastor Adelsen before the service if you have any further questions concerning the Sacrament of the Altar, including the desire to become a member so we can all join together at the Lord's Table.

Please let us know you were here. Please fill out a Connection Card. You may leave it on the table at the back of the sanctuary or place it in the offering plate. Or leave it at the end of your row and an Usher will collect it. Thank you!

Theme for Today's Service

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel"

Isaiah 7:14

A stunning truth, unthinkable circumstances for a child, expectant mother, and pensive father. Mary bore Jesus, Joseph named Him Jesus, and Jesus is the very Son of God – in the flesh, for the salvation of the sinners! Today's Christmas program was created and published by Higher Things. The mission of Higher Things is to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Higher Things accomplishes this through annual youth conferences and retreats, over 500 videos annually, daily devotions, Bible studies, podcasts, curriculum, and more! You can learn more about their mission and how they accomplish it at www.higherthings.org

Pre-Service Music: Away in A Manger

Welcome

Rev. Peter Adelsen

POP Sunday School Pageant: Christ in Royal David's City

Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Opening Announcement

Brooklyn Scholze

Hymn

LSB 376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Order of Service

Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.

Confession and Absolution

LSB p. 151

Service of the Word

LSB p. 151-160

Kyrie

LSB p. 152



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB p. 156



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Gospel and Verse

LSB p. 157



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

“God’s Plan Fulfilled” (Matthew 1:18-25)

Prayer of the Church

Following each prayer read aloud ending “Lord in Your Mercy,” the congregation may respond “Hear our prayer.”

Offering, Offertory

LSB p. 159-160

Service of the Sacrament

LSB p. 160 ff.

Distribution Hymns

LSB 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 373 See Amid the Winter’s Snow

LSB 385 From East to West

Post-Communion Canticle – *Nunc Dimittis*

LSB p. 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction

LSB p. 166

Closing Hymn

LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Announcements

Go in peace and Serve the Lord, thanks be to God!

**PRINCE OF PEACE CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS’ MEETING
TODAY**

after fellowship time

Please stay for this important semi-annual update
from Pastor and the Officers of the Church

Prince of Peace News and Notes for December 21st, 2025

Serving the Lord and One Another Today: *Accompanist:* Deb Dunnum, *Song Leader:* Holly Ford; *Ushers:* Dan & Kari Moen; *Money Counters:* Chris Leis, Ona Childs; *Acolyte:* Caleb Kolander; *Altar Guild for December:* Sharie Brunk and Lizbeth Novak

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Song Leaders:* Nancy & Parry Horstmann; *Ushers:* Mike & Carolyn Dosland; *Money Counters:* Lori Peters, Deb Dunnum; *Acolyte:* Elska Sheffer

Serving the Lord and One Another, Christmas Eve: *Song Leader:* Brooklynn Scholze; *Ushers:* Congregation Volunteers; *Acolyte:* Elska Sheffer

Serving the Lord and One Another, Christmas Day: *Song Leader:* Nancy & Patty Horstmann; *Ushers:* Randy & DeAnne Otto; *Acolytes:* Caleb Kolander, Elska Sheffer

Our Response to God's Gifts

Attendance last Sunday and Monday: 60
Weekly Need Original Budget: \$3,868.38
Weekly Need Revised Budget: \$3,225.00
Week of December 14 Offering: \$4,711.50
(Full Financials are posted on the kiosk in the lobby.)

THIS WEEK AT PRINCE OF PEACE

December 21 through December 28

<i>Today</i>	9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion <i>afterfellowship time</i> then Congregational Voters' Meeting
Mon. Dec. 22	7:00 pmDivine Worship Service with Holy Communion
Wed. Dec. 24	7:00 pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service
Thur. Dec. 25	9:00 am.....Christmas Day Devine Service with Holy Communion
Sun. Dec. 28	9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion

Christmas at Prince of Peace

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

Today!

Children's Christmas Program



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Divine Service
Thursday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.



First Sunday after Christmas
Dec. 28, at 9 a.m.

Circumcision and Name of Jesus Divine Service
Thursday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. (breakfast at Features to follow)

Second Sunday after Christmas
Jan. 4, at 9 a.m.

Advent

from the Latin for "coming," the season of Advent focuses on Christ's first coming at Christmas, His second coming on the Last Day, and His coming in between by Word and Sacrament.

Christmas

a contraction of "Christ's mass." This day (Dec. 25) and its season celebrate the birth of Christ. The season is also called Christmastide and is in total 12 days. This season celebrates the fulfillment of the Advent expectation.

Epiphany

from the Greek for "appearance." This festival (Jan. 6) and its season celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the world as God's Son.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Slow down and focus on the meaning of the season by emphasizing hope, peace, joy, and love amidst holiday busyness. Seek a journey of spiritual preparation and reflect on Christ's birth and eagerly anticipate His return!

Daily scripture guidance through January 6th.

*Pick up one on the table in the narthex *

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Prince of Peace Baby Hats Ministry

Our goal is to make as many knitted and crocheted hats for newborns, preemies and stillbirths as we can make! *Can you help?* We have yarn for the taking. *Don't know how?* We have the time to teach you! Hats are then dedicated in **January 2026**, then given to a local hospital. A collection is started on the table in the narthex! If you have any questions, see Melissa Adelsen.

**Thank you on behalf of the POP LWML
for your generous donations to the La Crosse County Jail Donation Drive!**

If you missed it, and still want to donate, you can visit their website at
Lacrossejailministry.org

**Thank you everyone that took the time to prepare gifts
for the Lakeview Health Center Giving Tree!**

*"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me."* Matthew 25:36

WEEKLY LIFE THROUGH FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – The birth of the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7) is surrounded by the messiness of human sin and intrigue (Matthew 1:18-25). As we rejoice that our Lord has taken on our human likeness with all its sin and pain, being “descended from David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3), we can also rejoice that Jesus has sanctified every human life, even those born in circumstances which are surrounded by sin and pain.

LUTHERANISM 101/ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS - Are you considering membership to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church? Are you a member who would like to touch-up on what we believe, teach, and confess? Stay tuned for Lutheranism 101/Adult Instruction! This class is for potential new members and all current members who would like to learn more about the basic teachings of Christianity. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Pastor Adelsen.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Soon the 2026 paper offering envelopes will be placed in the church mailboxes. In an effort to continue to manage church expenses, it was most efficient to reassign numbers for all of our Congregants. All assigned members will receive new envelope/offering numbers. Also, if you regularly do not use a paper envelope, or consistently give electronically, you will not receive a box of paper envelopes but of course still have a giving number assigned. If you have questions, see Kurt Childs. Thank you.

Bible Studies at Prince of Peace

Sunday Mornings after Fellowship: There is no large group adult Bible study today because of the Voters' Meeting. Soon we are nearing the end of our topic of Proverbs. Watch for announcements for the next topic.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: This group is done meeting for the calendar year. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 7th. Small group adult Bible study is in the process of selecting a new topic.

Meets at 9:30am until 11:00am.

Men's Bible Study: All men are invited to our small group study. Watch the calendar and bulletin announcements for the next meeting.

See Pastor Adelsen if you have questions.

This group meets at Feature's t 5:00pm on certain Tuesdays.

Women's Bible Study – (*this group meets online*) You don't even have to leave the house! Meets on most Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. on Facebook Messenger.

Current topic is "Promised Rest" by Michelle Diercks.

See Carrie Horstman or Debbie Dunnun if you'd like to join.

Supporting the Leyh Family at CTSFW: The Lord continues to answer the prayers of His Church to "send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

Josh Leyh, a member of Prince of Peace, has begun studying for the Office of the Holy Ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne this academic year. As he, along with his wife Faith and son Peter, takes up this task, we, as Christ's flock at Prince of Peace, are encouraged to support the Leyhs in every possible way through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Throughout his seminary education, please consider financially supporting the Leyh family through the Concordia Theological Seminary Adopt-A-Student program.

When Pastor Adelsen was studying to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, their Adopt-A-Student program was greatly beneficial to him and Melissa. Pastor has been forever grateful to the congregations and individuals that supported him while in seminary. Even when Seminarian Leyh graduates, the seminaries' Adopt-A-Student program is always worthy of supporting as a mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Prince of Peace has a special offering box for the Leyh family placed in the narthex which will be prepared and sent later this month to the Concordia Seminary Adopt-A-Student program.

If you wish to send support to the Leyhs directly:

The Leyh Family
6305 Reed Rd. Apt. 1
Ft. Wayne IN 46835



One Thing's Needful

In Luke 10:42, Jesus says, "one thing is needful," referring to the importance of prioritizing time with God and listening to his word, as exemplified by Mary, over being consumed by worldly tasks like Martha's serving. It emphasizes that nurturing one's spiritual life through intimacy with God is more essential than getting caught up in external activities, even those done with good intentions.

INVOCATION In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MEDITATION Psalm 24 – Martin Luther viewed Psalm 24 through a Christocentric lens, emphasizing Jesus as the true "King of Glory" who ascended to heaven, conquering sin and death, and whose resurrection opens the gates for believers, making the psalm a powerful call to faith, pure living, and seeking God's presence not just in temples but in serving neighbors, all rooted in Christ's merits, not human perfection. The world is God's, and humans must seek Him with clean hands and a pure heart (through Christ), not ritual.

DAILY READINGS

21 Dec	Is 42:1–25	Rev 9:1–12	
22 Dec	Is 43:1–24	Rev 9:13 – 10:11	
23 Dec	Is 43:25 – 44:20	Rev 11:1–19	
24 Dec	Is 44:21 – 45:13, 20–25, 48:1–22	Rev 12:1–17	Dan. 10:1 – 12:13
25 Dec	Is 49:1–18	Matt 1:1–17	
26 Dec	Is 49:22–26; 50:4 – 51:8, 12–16	Matt 1:18–25	
27 Dec	Is 51:17 – 52:12	Matt 2:1–123	

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- That those wandering from the Body of Christ would return to His fold
- The Leyh family, Josh and Faith, and their pre-school age son Peter currently attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne Indiana, at the loss of their unborn baby.
- Pray for: Willie Danielson, Gary Adelsen, Barb Alsobrooks, Travis Glick, Lyle Anderson, Bill & Sal Stichman, Tom Schran

LEARN BY HEART Matt. 1:23^a *“Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.”*

COLLECT Page 5

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24-26)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jeremiah 31:15-17; Rev. 14:1-5; Matt. 2:13-18