

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 27

July 2025

Issue 7

What is Confirmation? Part 2

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

All my life, I have heard the conversations about “losing youth” after being Confirmed. So, what can be done? What can we do?

Clearly, what the Church has done has not exactly worked. Here is what I have often seen. First, a child is Baptized as an infant. And this is exactly what God wants! He wants all children to be given faith through the Holy Spirit! But what often happens?

That child and his parents vanish until catechism classes begin in sixth grade. Then, when the catechumen is confirmed, what typically happens? The catechumen, who just stated that he would remain faithful in his Christian faith is never seen again, along with his parents. Yes, it is awesome to have a child confirmed into the Christian faith, but is that catechumen really confirmed? Is he really ready to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? Yes, it is true that Eighth Graders can't yet drive, so it is up to their parents. But often, the parents believe they have done their duty. Afterall, they got their child confirmed.

But the thing is catechesis does not end at “Confirmation.” If it was the case that catechesis ended at “Confirmation,” then there would be no more need for Bible Study, Christian colleges and universities, seminaries, and of course, coming to the Divine Service. But we know that we continually learn. If we don't learn from the Church, then we will learn what is necessary elsewhere. If Christ isn't teaching, then the world is teaching.

So, what does Martin Luther say about “Confirmation”? Well, Luther never minces words on any theological issue. He rejected the Sacrament of Confirmation writing, “In particular, avoid that monkey business, confirmation, which is really a fanciful deception. I would permit confirmation as long as it is understood that God knows nothing of it, and has said nothing about it, and that what the bishops claim for it is untrue. They mock our God when they say it is one of God's Sacraments, for it is purely human contrivance” (*The Estate of Marriage* [1522]; Luther's Works 45.24-25).

Luther rejects Confirmation because:

- it cannot be proven from Scripture to be divinely instituted
- there is no divine word of promise

Now, Luther and the Reformers did support a proper process in leading children to the Sacrament of the Altar. So, what was this proper process? Well, we read of this in his Small and Large Catechisms. Luther writes, “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” He writes this before each of the Six Chief Parts of the



Catechism. In his Large Catechism, Luther writes: “Therefore let all heads of a household remember that it is their duty, by God’s injunction and command, to teach their children or have them taught the things they ought to know. Because they have been baptized and received into the people of Christ, they should enjoy this fellowship of the Sacrament so that they may serve us and be useful. For they must all help us to believe, to love, to pray, and to fight against the devil” (Large Catechism 5.86-87).

The description of this practice is the following:

- Home has the primary responsibility for instruction that flows from Baptism
 - The head of the family (the father) is to teach the Catechism in a simple way
 - Sponsors (God Parents) are to admonish and encourage the parents to fulfill their responsibility, or if necessary, to take on this duty.
- The primary setting in church for catechesis would be the Divine Service
 - Through the liturgy
 - Catechism often read from the pulpit before the Gospel lesson so that the congregation is accustomed to the text
 - Sermons on the catechism (especially during Lent) for the entire congregation for general education of the parish
 - Catechism hymns
 - Examination of children

So, if it is the parents’ duty to raise their child in the Christian faith, what is the role of the pastor in all of this? Well, there is a major role. That will be my topic in August.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in the one true faith!

In Christ,

Pastor Adelsen



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is grateful for the time and talents of Debbie Dunnum over her decades of service to our Lord through our congregation! With great sadness, Debbie’s gift as our secretary will be concluding on July 15. On Sunday, July 13, Prince of Peace will appreciate all that Debbie has done here through her secretarial work and will continue to do here through music and the LWML. Following the Sunday Divine Service, you are invited to an appreciation potluck in honor of

Debbie’s service at Prince of Peace!

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:23a).

***Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Congregational President's Report
July 2025***

Greetings to everyone. Summer has certainly arrived with a bang. I write this report after experiencing several days of high heat, humidity and heavy, heavy rain. Happily, I had no severe damage at my home after 8.5 inches of rain with more on the way. God is truly protecting all of us through these weather events and all the storms we experience in our lives. Thanks be to God!

The congregational voter meeting was held this past June 15 where the congregation was updated regarding the financial health of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Church attendance has averaged approximately 45-50 people per week (including children and visitors). The church operates financially much like every family or charitable organization where spending must be limited to sources of income. The church survives by way of general contributions of the congregation which are directly related to our membership numbers and church attendance. God has blessed us with a number of new and transfer members, but membership/attendance numbers have not increased to the extent that the COVID 19 pandemic and the general religious malaise we experience in our sectarian life every day. Expenses have, in general, been exceeding revenues (general contributions) by \$3500-\$5000 each and every month. The analysis of "cash on cash" management and budget variance tell us that Prince of Peace Lutheran Church cannot survive financially without significant changes in church operations.

The church council has determined that a number of austerity measures will be applied in order to keep Prince of Peace financially afloat. Many churches have made similar determinations and analyzed certain services as "necessary" and those paid services that may be considered a convenience to the congregation. The church council has applied the following austerity measures:

- Paid custodial/church cleaning service has been terminated. Volunteers will now perform that function (Many thanks to Lucas Horstman for past service);
- Paid refuse removal service (Hilltopper Refuse) has been terminated. Volunteers will now dispose of church refuse with personal disposal;
- Paid secretarial services will end July 15. Volunteer(s) will staff that position as necessary moving forward. (Thank you to Debbie for her many years of service);
- Mission payments to South Wisconsin District of LCMS have been discontinued. Payments were 7.5% of general contributions monthly.
- The emergency fund for facility repairs (2% of general contributions) has been discontinued.

The church council continues its financial review of software subscriptions, internet service, pastoral benefits and call assignment to perhaps assist with additional congregations. Gratefully, Prince of Peace carries no capital or operational debt! Savings ideas are welcome!

Let's challenge ourselves to prioritize the worship of our God over everything else at least once each week! Remember everything that the Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed for us. He will guide us through everything. Keep our church in your thoughts and prayers.

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

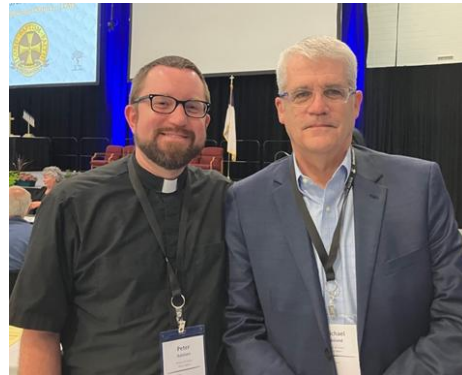
Recent Events Here at Prince of Peace... *more Good Tidings!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: On Sunday, May 18, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church celebrated the end of the children's Sunday School year with food and games! Everyone had a great time!



DOXOLOGY: From May 30 through June 1, many pastors with their lay leaders participated in DOXOLOGY: Encore in Middleton, Wisconsin. Included among those were Pastor Adelsen and Keith Novak. While at DOXOLOGY, we were immersed in worship and in how to better handle real church challenges.

SWD CONVENTION: From Monday June 9 to Tuesday June 10, Prince of Peace Lutheran sent delegates to the South Wisconsin District Convention at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon. Pastor Adelsen and Mike Dosland represented Prince of Peace.



FAREWELL AND GODSPEED: On Sunday, May 25, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church bid farewell and Godspeed to the Leyh family. May God's richest blessings be upon Josh, Faith, and Peter Leyh as Josh begins his seminary studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana!



SUNDAY SCHOOL: On Sunday, May 18, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church celebrated the end of the children's Sunday School year with food and games!

Sounding the Scriptures POPcast

Going away for a weekend? Would you like to listen to the sermon again? Did you know that you can listen to Prince of Peace sermons online? Check out the Sounding the Scriptures POPcast on Spotify, WSPOP.org, and [facebook.com/WSPOPLCMS!](https://www.facebook.com/WSPOPLCMS/)



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

LIFE NEWS—JUNE 2025



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske has accepted the divine call to serve as the next Executive Director of Lutherans For Life!

Dr. Fenske began his duties with LFL on May 1. On accepting the call, Dr. Fenske said, “I pray that God will strengthen and equip me to serve faithfully for the benefit of His Church.”

The Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske is a 2011 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Since that time, he has served as the pastor of two dual parishes in the North Wisconsin District – LCMS, where he has been active in several different pro-life organizations. Dr. Fenske earned his Doctor of Ministry in 2019, again from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He and his wife, Marie, have four daughters—Madison, Alexis, Hailee, and Marta—along with two grandsons, James and Rustyn. Please pray for Dr. Fenske, his family, and the Lutherans For Life community that our Father would bless this time of transition, and our Savior would continue to abundantly provide for the needs of His people at Dr. Fenske’s former congregations.

The outgoing Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, Pastor Michael Salemink, will soon transition to a new vocation of service to the Church. The details will become public once final. Pastor Salemink said, “A delightful decade is drawing to an end. It makes me somewhat sentimental to reflect on what the time together with Lutherans For Life has taught me. No doubt I have learned far more than I have delivered and gained well beyond what I’ve given.”



Sunday Adult Bible Study (10:30 a.m. Sundays)

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The central theme of Proverbs is wisdom: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

Wednesday Morning Bible Study (9:30 a.m. Wednesdays)

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John’s Gospel focuses beautifully on both the promise of everlasting life and the bodily resurrection of those who trust in Jesus. Throughout the study, we will take comfort in Christ’s many great and precious promises to His flock. His words are spirit, and they are life!

Men’s Bible Study (5 p.m., Tuesday July 8th and 22nd)

1 & 2 TIMOTHY and TITUS

St. Paul’s two letters to Timothy are vivid reminders that the early Christians faced trouble and even the threat of death for their faith. And yet, the joy that stirred and encouraged their hearts is unmistakable! As we study the letters to Timothy, we will see how God blesses His Church through the Office of the Holy Ministry through which Jesus brings salvation to the whole world.

St. Paul’s letter to Titus also makes it clear that holy living and pure teaching are two sides of the same coin. What we believe affects what we do, and what we do grows out of what we believe. Paul begins his letter to Titus by referring to this truth writing,

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness ...”
(Titus 1:1; emphasis added).

Women’s Bible Study (9 a.m. Saturdays)

We’re starting a new study in July by Sharla Fritz called “Measured By Grace.” We would love to have you join us! Interested? Talk to Carrie Horstman, Sarah Kolander, Ginny Emmons or Debbie Dunn!!

LWML Notes

Prince of Peace next LWML meeting is **July 12** and we're meeting at **Features Restaurant in West**



Lutheran Women in Mission

Salem at 10 a.m. for a time of food and fellowship.

Bring your Bible. We'll share a meal together and Chris Leis will lead our Bible study.

Evangelism Committee Report

The Evangelism Committee will again be assisting the West Salem School with the Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program.

This is a project that is requested by the West Salem School District, coordinated by Our Saviors Lutheran Church and supported by the other churches in West Salem. Reaching out and serving children in West Salem free lunches twice a week during the summer. Prince of Peace has committed to making sack lunches on July 15th and 17th.

If you are interested in assisting or would like more information, please talk with Sharie Brunk.



Can you pitch in?

Our Church Needs Your Help and Support



We have made some progress in order to win the battle to balance our expenses and contributions, Council has discontinued our commercial janitor and trash removal services.

Since May 1, we have depended on volunteers for our janitor services. We are now asking for volunteers to sign up for one-month periods to provide those services. It takes about an hour a week to complete the check-list.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Instructions are on a clip-board on the cart.

As part of this discontinuation of paid service, volunteers are needed to take with them the recyclable materials and the trash. Thanks!

Special Note: *Prince of Peace monthly newsletter will be distributed via email (unless specifically requested paper copy). We are taking this opportunity to review what email addresses we have for your household. You can send an email to Office@WSPop.org*

or use this QR Code



[BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

July Birthdays Here at Prince of Peace

Brooklynn Scholze July 1
 Lyle Anderson July 4
 Lily Soto July 6
 Mike Dosland July 10
 Joshua Seefeldt July 14
 Luke Grube July 15
 Sophia Grube July 18
 Chris Leis July 20
 Kim Steenberg July 21
 John Hammes July 26
 Katharine Horstman July 27

Anniversaries this month:

Jeffrey & Renee Schweinefus
 July 22


 Karl & Carrie Horstman
 July 25

 Daniel & Sarah Kolander
 July 31

Serving our Lord and One Another				
	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Usher	Ginny & Roger Emmons	Mike and Carolyn Dosland	Randy & DeAnne Otto	Chris Leis Barb Hinds
Greeter	Prince of Peace Family			
Money Counter	Elaine Schmidt Chris Leis	Lori Peters Deb Dunnum	Ona Childs Barb Hinds	Barb Alsobrooks Chris Leis
Song Leader	Nancy & Patty Horstmann	Sarah Kolander	Holly Ford	Brooklynn Scholze
Altar Guild	Sharie Brunk Lizbeth Novak			

July

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 29	June 30	1	2	3	4	5
Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study 10:30 Elders Meeting 11:30	Divine Service: 7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study at Feature's at 5pm	Bible study: 9:30 a.m.		Independence Day  <i>(No First Friday Fellowship)</i>	Women's Bible Study (online) 9a.m
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study 10:30 Church Council 11:30am Deb Dunnum Appreciation	Divine Service: 7 p.m.	Divine Service: 7 p.m.	Bible study: 9:30 a.m.		Pastor's day off	LWML at Feature's 10am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study: 10:30 Church Council 11:30am Deb Dunnum Appreciation	Divine Service: 7 p.m.	Feed Our Children Summer Lunch at Our Savior's WS	Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	Feed Our Children Summer Lunch at Our Savior's WS	Pastor's day off	Women's Bible Study (online) 9a.m
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Outdoor Worship Divine Service: 9 a.m. Potluck Picnic following (weather permitting)	Divine Service: 7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study at Feature's at 5pm	Bible study: 9:30 a.m.		Pastor's day off	Women's Bible Study (online) 9a.m
27	28	29	30	31	August 1	August 2
Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study: 10:30	Divine Service: 7 p.m.		Bible study: 9:30 a.m.		Pastor's day off	Women's Bible Study (online) 9a.m Pastor at Doxology