

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 27

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Issue 8

"Tidings" refers to news, good news or information especially about God's plan of salvation we have through Jesus Christ. It signifies the message of hope and salvation found in the Gospel.

## What is Confirmation? Part 3



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

*“Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?”*

*“Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?”*

*“Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?”*

*“Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?”*

*“Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?”*

How well are we as a congregation and as a Synodical Church body in adhering to the Confirmation vows? To be honest, not really good. We are truly sinners in thought, word, and deed. And this includes everyone who comes to the Lord’s House at His invitation each and every week. As Jesus teaches us, “First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:5).

Now that we see our sin and we see our need for the Lord’s forgiveness to which He always gives to His faithful children, we can focus on the elephant in the room at every congregation: Where have the confirmed gone?

But first, let’s look at how we got to that dilemma: Maturity. One of the historical problems, which has a way on constantly returning, is Pietism. Pietism has an emphasis on individual piety and living a holy Christian life. That all sounds good, and it is good to have piety and live a holy Christian life. But there is a problem. This piety referred here required an expression of “true conversion” and according to Pietism, this “true conversion” could only happen when the individual was 14-16 years old. For Pietism, anyone younger could not be truly converted.

But wait, there’s more to this! Along with Pietism is its wacky cousin called Rationalism. Rationalism came out of the Enlightenment. This way of thinking puts human knowledge and reason above faith. In the Age of Rationalism, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was minimized, and the Rite of Confirmation was emphasized. After all, a sacrament is a mystery as God works beyond our own human understanding. Meanwhile, Confirmation was a time the youth or adult would publicly confess the Christian faith. During this Age of Enlightenment, Confirmation took off as it became a major event: “the great festival of youth,” “the most-important day of a child’s life.” A vow in connection with the confession of faith is a dramatic moment in the Rite of Confirmation: “Do you ...?” “Do you ...?” “Do you ...?” etc.

The Rite of Confirmation is very sentimental. It is like a graduation ceremony. It’s often in April or May. Any idea why? Spring planting. Certainly, for most people, Confirmation is seen today as a graduation ceremony. *(continued on page 2)*

Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church



Our mission 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.

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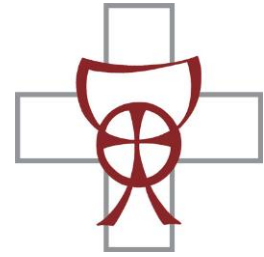
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The history of Confirmation in the Church is certainly flawed. The history of the practice of this rite is based on spurious and non-Biblical tradition. And the way we have done Confirmation in the last century or so would not have been supported by Martin Luther.

The influence of Rationalism has shaped what most people now conceive as Confirmation. Confirmation today is built up as an event in a way that minimizes Baptism. Confirmation takes center stage as a cultural and family event. And sentimentalism is a driving force.

In the last century or so, Confirmation has been seen a terminal event. Confirmation as presently practiced allows unfaithful parents to feel assured that they have done their spiritual duty. And parents are the almost infallible indicator of youth behavior after Confirmation. If parents and youth attend the Divine Service regularly before Confirmation, their attendance will continue after Confirmation. If parents and youth did not attend the Divine Service regularly before Confirmation, they will return to this pattern after Confirmation.



As we have it now, First Communion at Confirmation teaches the non-sacramental life. The common practice among Lutherans is for 8th graders to be confirmed and then receive the Sacrament of the Altar for the first time. I wish to change this practice. As we have now, we make children and youth wait more than a decade after they know what the Sacrament of the Altar is and wish to receive it. And there is no Biblical or theological justification for holding back this Sacrament to those who know what it is and what it means. This is a remnant of Pietism and Rationalism. This practice contradicts Luther and his fellow reformers and the Early Church Fathers.

With our current practice, we are teaching that the Sacrament of the Altar is a non-essential part of the Christian faith. Our actions here certainly speak louder than words.

I propose that we begin a practice of First Communion. I propose to allow children who are interested and whose parents believe they are mature enough, to receive catechesis leading toward First Communion. During this process, we will continue having parents attend with their child during catechism class. The parents would also be expected to review the particular part of the Small Catechism with their child during the week. Likewise, the catechism student is expected to know the Catechism by heart. Following First Communion, there would be another year of more in-depth catechesis.

I believe it would be a good practice to emphasize First Communion as an important event in the Christian life. With all the worldly distractions these days, especially in the middle and high school years, and with so many youths eager to receive the Sacrament of the Altar, I believe this would be a positive change here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. So, parents if you believe your child is eager to receive the Lord's Supper, and he or she is willing to learn, come and see me! I am eager to welcome them to the Lord's Table! One thing's needful, Lord; this treasure!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Peter Adelsen

# BIBLE STUDIES



## Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*



## Men’s Bible Study

*(5 p.m., MEETS NEXT Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> at Feature’s)*

### 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 online)

### MEASURED BY GRACE

The focus of the study is writings by Sharla Fritz, and it’s called “Measured By Grace.” In the Bible, you’ll find people with no lack of sinfulness, shortcomings, rejections, and brokenness. Note, this group meets online on Saturdays. See Ginny Emmons or Debbie Dunnun about how to join online.

## 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 – except Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>)*

### 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, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at Feature’s in West Salem.

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



**The Lunch Bunch:** Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with Feeding the Children Summer Lunch Program. Barb Hinds, Patty Horstmann, Elaine Schmidt, Lori Peters, Ona Childs, Renee Schwinefus, Carolyn Dosland, Leatta Danielson, Lisbeth Novak and Coordinator Sharie Brunk.



### **Many Hands Make Light Work**

Thanks to all that worked on the face-lift for the storage barn: Roger Emmons, Kurt Childs, Tim & Heidi Tabat, Willie Danielson and Randy Otto.

(Yes, it was hot those days!)

*Thank You*

*It's been an honor and a pleasure to be your church secretary for the last 23 years! Thank you for the party and the cards and the gifts. It's much appreciated.*

*Your sister in Christ,  
Debbie*



**Deb Dunnum** Pastor Adelsen and Elsie during the appreciation on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025.

LIFE NEWS—AUGUST 2025



LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE

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



## Life Newsbytes

On July 25, the Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released the results of a poll of over 1,400 adults in mid-July. The findings contain good news for pro-lifers. The results indicate that the percentage of adults who think abortion should be illegal in “all cases” or “most cases” has increased by seven percentage points since June 2024. Overall, this AP/NORC poll reports the highest level of pro-life sentiment since the leak of the Dobbs decision in May 2022. The survey asked respondents about whether “your state should allow someone to obtain a legal abortion” in each of four different circumstances. For each circumstance, support for legal abortion fell during the past year. Notably, the percentage of people who supported legal abortion if the woman “does not want to be pregnant for any reason” fell by five percentage points. Considering the media’s consistently negative coverage of pro-life laws, this gain in pro-life sentiment is welcome news. This is the second major poll this summer to show an increase in pro-life sentiment. In June, Gallup released the results of its annual poll on sanctity-of-life issues. Gallup found gains in the percentage of people who identified as “pro-life” and the percentage of people who felt that abortion was “morally wrong.”

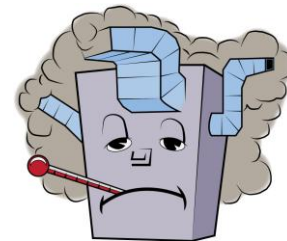
Source: Michael New | [lifeneews.com](http://lifeneews.com)

## Speaking Up For Life

“If the Christian church is passionate about protecting every life, then we will need to learn how to meet relational needs. When an unplanned pregnancy happens, the baby’s parents often have massive needs to help them grow as people and, perhaps, as a couple. Could you be God’s way of meeting such needs?” Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace

“We live in the presence of evil. Some of it is twisted to sound good. We hear of ‘the compassionate relief of suffering’ or ‘death with dignity’ or ‘right to health care’ or ‘simple medical procedure.’ You know many more. God calls us to confront these with His truth, to reveal the evil behind them. God calls us to educate fellow Christians in His truth so they do not end up ‘possessed’ by this way of thinking. God calls us to call evil what it is but also to share the truth of what God has done about evil. For that we fix our gaze upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He speaks to us through His Word of truth and grace.” Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

**Trustees Update** - The plan to replace one of the aging church furnaces this fall. This a project that is intended to prevent catastrophic furnace failure during winter months and anticipates the staged replacement of all the 25 YEAR OLD furnaces over several years. Fund raising efforts for that project continues. Please consider designated offering as a contribution to fund this project.



**(Evangelism Committee Report)** - The Village of West Salem is hosting their annual National Night Out event on **Tuesday, August 5, 2025** from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Village Park, West Salem.

All are invited to attend National Night Out with free food, beverages, music and games.

National Night Out is a community event that brings citizens together to get to know their community neighbors and local police while celebrating against crime and disorder in the community.

The Evangelism Committee and Pastor will staff a table at this event to provide information on POP and games for the children. You can also check out other local businesses. If you have additional questions, please see Sharie Brunk

### The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.



*Mission Statement : As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, August 9**. We'll be meeting at the church at 9 a.m.



**Outdoor Worship and Potluck Fellowship**  
**Sunday, August 31st (weather permitting)**

Sign-up sheet for a dish to pass is on the table in the narthex.

A few chairs are provided, but please bring your own seating.

# Prince of Peace

## Birthdays



Willie Danielson	August 3
Blake Hundt	August 11
Austin Hinds	August 12
Kari Moen	August 16
DJ Riniker	August 18
Eric Grube	August 21
Hannah Moen	August 23
Paul Zezulka	August 24
Carly Otto	August 26
Melissa Adelsen	August 28
Jeff Schmidt	August 30
Peter Adelsen	August 31

## & Anniversaries

Barb & Mel Alsobrooks	August 7
Ginny & Roger Emmons	August 7
Linda & Les Mull,	August 8
Jodi & Jose' Soto	August 14
Marlene & Bob Wilhelm	August 21
Amy & Vern Ruffi	August 22
Desha & Tyler Hodgkins	August 30

Serving our Lord and One Another						
	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31 <i>Outdoor Worship</i>	September 7
<b>Usher</b>	Randy & DeAnne Otto	Elaine Schmidt Chris Leis	Roger & Ginny Emmons	Russ & Sharie Brunk	Dan & Kari Moen	Willie & Leatta Danielson
<b>Greeters</b>	Prince of Peace Family					
<b>Money Counters</b>	Ona Childs Barb Alsobrooks	Barb Hinds Lori Peters	Deb Dunnun Elaine Schmidt	Chris Leis Barb Alsobrooks	Lori Peters Deb Dunnun	Barb Hinds Ona Childs
<b>Song Leader</b>	Sarah Kolander	Holly Ford	Brooklynn Scholze	Sarah Kolander	Holly Ford	Brooklynn Scholze
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Elaine Schmidt & Carolyn Dosland					

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 27</b> Divine Service: 9 a.m. Fellowship after Adult Bible study 10:30	<b>July 28</b> Divine Service: 7 p.m.	<b>July 29</b>	<b>July 30</b> Bible Study 9:30am	<b>July 31</b>	<b>1</b> (Note: No First Friday) Pastor at Doxology Aug 1-4	<b>2</b> 9:00am - Noon Vacation Bible School <b>at Faith Lutheran in La Crosse</b>
<b>3</b> Divine Service: 9 a.m. Fellowship after <u>Note: No Adult Bible Study</u>	<b>4</b> Note: No Divine Service	<b>5</b> <b>National Night Out 5:00pm – 7:30pm Village Park WS</b> Note: No Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b> Bible Study 9:30am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Pastor's day off	<b>9</b> LWML Meeting 9 am at PoP Elders at Adeisen's
<b>10</b> Divine Service: 9 a.m. Fellowship after Adult Bible study 10:30 Church Council 11:30	<b>11</b> Divine Service: 7 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bible Study 9:30am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Pastor's day off	<b>16</b> Women's Bible Study- Online
<b>17</b> Divine Service: 9 a.m. Fellowship after <u>Note: No Adult Bible Study</u>	<b>18</b> Note: No Divine Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Note: No Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Pastor's day off	<b>23</b> Women's Bible Study- Online
<b>24</b> Divine Service: 9 a.m. Fellowship after Adult Bible study 10:30	<b>25</b> Divine Service: 7 p.m.	<b>26</b> Men's Bible Study at Features 5pm	<b>27</b> Bible Study 9:30am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Pastor's day off	<b>30</b> Women's Bible Study- Online
<b>31</b> <b>Outdoor Worship 9:00am With Potluck &amp; Fellowship after</b>	<b>Labor Day Sept. 1</b> Divine Service: 7 p.m.	<b>Sept. 2</b> Men's Bible Study at Features 5pm	<b>Sept. 3</b> Bible Study 9:30am	<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>Sept. 6</b> Women's Bible Study- Online

## A Closer Look at the Hymn of the Day, Divine Service This Month



*The Hymn of the Day (Sermon Hymn) reinforces the message of the Gospel and form the first “preaching” on it as they draw us further to the Scriptures.*

### **July 29 – Our Father, Who from Heaven Above (LSB 766)**

Martin Luther wrote this hymn to help us understand the Lord’s Prayer. He also wrote hymns for each of the Six Chief Parts of the catechism: The Ten Commandments (LSB 581), the Creed (LSB 954), Baptism (LSB 406), Confession (LSB 356), and the Sacrament of the Altar (LSB 617). Each stanza of this hymn explains the meanings of each petition of the Lord’s Prayer. Luther and the reformers wrote hymns to help plant the truths of Scripture into the hearts of the people.

### **August 3 – Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings (LSB 782)**

This hymn presents both God’s care for His creation and the caring stewardship of His faithful people. Stanza one is based on Lamentations 3:22-23: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” Thus the hymn begins by remind us of the Lord’s care for us and His loving faithfulness to His covenant promises.

### **August 10 – O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe (LSB 666)**

Buildings often skip the 13<sup>th</sup> floor, and some states skip “666” in the license plate numbers. We have all sorts of fears and superstitions. Maybe some are surprised that a hymnal would include a hymn numbered “666” – the familiar number of the beast from Revelation 13:18. Even saying the number can send shivers up our spines. This hymn chosen for this place in the hymnal directly confronts these fears with the power, presence and promises of God.

### **August 17 – Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)**

In the first part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, not only was the young Lutheran church dealing with the conflicts of the Reformation, but the Ottoman Empire was also making inroads onto the European continent. At the same time the Lutheran Reformers presented their confession of faith, Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent was leading the armies of the Ottoman Empire into the Kingdom of Hungary, attacking Hapsburg Vienna, and taking over the cities of Buda and Pest. Martin Luther included this joint threat in this hymn in 1542. The original opening stanza listed both enemies of the Gospel: “the murderous Pope and Turk.” In time, these particular enemies became the more general enemies of Christ’s Church as we sing today.

### **August 24 – A Multitude Comes from the East and the West (LSB 510)**

In the banquet parable in Luke 13:22-30, Jesus speaks of the struggle of repentance. The struggle is not getting through the narrow door itself, but rather between faith and the sinful nature, a struggle that the Lord’s call produces in the human heart. This hymn focuses solely on the Lord’s invitation to the great banquet.

### **August 31 – Son of God, Eternal Savior (LSB 842)**

This hymn reflects John 17:1-26, a prayer Jesus prayed for us the night before He died. Each of the four stanzas alternates praise and supplication, making reference to Christ’s eternal attributes and earthly ministry and praying that we live our lives according to His example.

Sounding  
the  
Scriptures  
POPcast



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Sermons  
Are Available Online

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!



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