

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 27

March 2025

Issue 3

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

“Lex orandi, lex credendi” means “the rule of worship, determines the rule of belief.” For our Lenten midweeks, we will focus on the hidden theology taught in the worship space and in the Divine Service.

You may have

wondered, why do we worship the way we do? Or what is the significance of stained-glass windows? Or why is the sanctuary arranged in the way it is?

These questions and more will be answered during our Lenten midweeks! Come and join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ this Lenten season as we grow in understanding the theology that is always before us!

# Lent



In Christ,  
Pastor Adelsen

Wednesday, March 5 @ 7 p.m.	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 12 @ 7 p.m. (Meal @ 6 p.m.)	Lenten Midweek
Wednesday, March 19 @ 7 p.m. (Meal @ 6 p.m.)	Lenten Midweek
Wednesday, March 26 @ 7 p.m. (Meal @ 6 p.m.)	Lenten Midweek
Wednesday, April 2 @ 7 p.m. (Meal @ 6 p.m.)	Lenten Midweek
Wednesday, April 9 @ 7 p.m. (Meal @ 6 p.m.)	Lenten Midweek
Thursday, April 17 @ 7 p.m.	Maundy (Holy) Thursday
Friday, April 18 @ 7 p.m.	Good Friday
Saturday, April 19 @ 7 p.m.	Easter Vigil
Sunday, April 20 @ 6 a.m.	Easter Sunrise
Sunday, April 20 @ 9 a.m.	Easter Day

## First Friday Fellowship at POP

Mark your calendar for the First Friday of March: March 7 at 5 p.m.! Each first Friday will begin with prayer and devotions and then move on to activities such as movie night and game night. For our March First Friday, POP will include a chili cookoff, which will benefit the furnace fund. See you on First Friday!

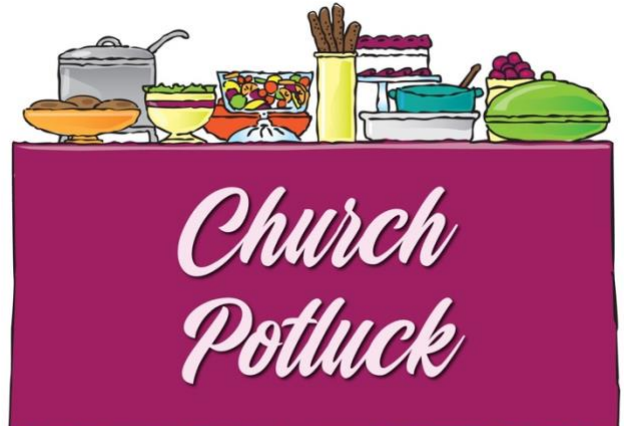


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## *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck & Trivia*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30! Following the Sunday Divine Service, Prince of Peace will be having a great time of food, fellowship, and trivia! What sort of trivia? Have you ever participated in a trivia night at a local restaurant or bar? It will be much like that, except with a focus on the Church! The questions will be based on our Bible studies, Church year, basic Bible trivia and current events.



## **Sunday Adult Bible Study: Will the Real Church Please Stand Up?**

Meet the Campbells: Ben, Jessica, and their two children have recently moved to Midway. They are looking for a church family to call their own.

Follow along as the Campbells experience the sights, sounds, blessings, and struggles of seven different churches that leave them longing for something more. Will the real church please stand up?

On the journey, you will discover the purpose and unity of each false church before finally encountering the real church and learning what exactly makes a church real or false. The real church is standing, ready to welcome you with the true gifts of Christ. When we finish this study, you will know a real church when you see it.



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## God's Instruments, God's Stewards

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed. The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

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## Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 2 Peter & Jude

Christians around the world often contend for their faith. In some parts of the world, Christians must strive against armed threats. Other believers must fight against false teachings both within and without the Church. Striving for the Gospel truth both in faith and life is a common theme in 2 Peter and Jude.

Jude specifically writes that Christians are “to contend for the faith” (Jude 3). Peter urges his readers to “be all the more diligent in making their calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10).

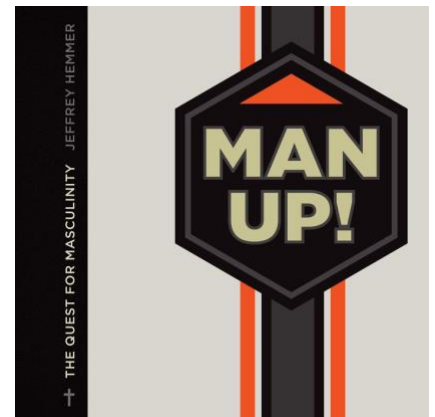
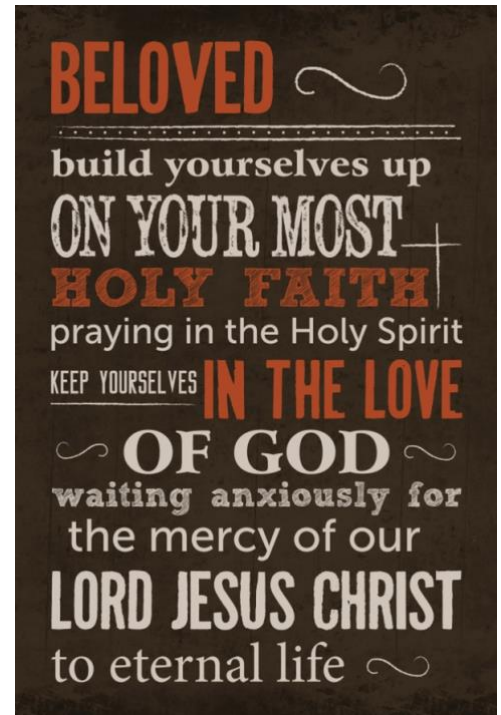
The message of God’s grace and forgiveness through Christ Jesus binds together the Christian Church. Satan seeks to destroy that holy communion. After the apostles and evangelists established congregations, Satan delighted in sending false teachers into those congregations to untie what Christ had bound together through faith. Satan does the same today.

Peter and Jude wrote their letters to strengthen and encourage God’s people to remain faithful to Christ’s calling.

Come and join us **each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.** as we continue our study on 2 Peter and soon begin our study on Jude!

## Men’s Bible Study: The Quest for Masculinity

What does it mean to be a man? How are men featured in the culture? What is the role of a man? We discuss these issues through the lens of God’s Word! Men, join your fellow brothers in Christ on **Tuesday, February 4 at 5 p.m.** at POP and **Tuesday, February 25 at 5 p.m.** at Features in West Salem.



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

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

**LIFE NEWS—MARCH 2025**



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

**lutheransforlife.org**



## Life Newsbytes

**Alex Schadenberg:** On December 11, 2024, Canada's Ministry of Health released the Fifth Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying, which found that there were 15,343 reported euthanasia deaths, representing 4.7% of all deaths in 2023. The number of Canadian euthanasia deaths was up from 13,241 in 2022 and 10,092 in 2021. Based on the 2024 MAiD data from Ontario and Alberta, I predict that there were approximately 16,600 Canadian euthanasia deaths in 2024. How did I make my prediction? The Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario released the December 2024 MAiD data, which indicated that there were 4,957 reported euthanasia deaths in 2024, which is up from 4,641 in 2023 and 3,934 in 2022. Ontario represents almost 40% of Canada's population. The data indicates that, as of December 31, 2024, there have been 23,333 Ontario euthanasia deaths since legalization. The city of Alliston had a population of 23,253 in 2021. Alberta Health Services released their MAiD data, indicating that there were 1,116 reported euthanasia deaths in 2024, which is up from 977 in 2023 and 836 in 2022 ... [We] will be trying to obtain the provincial euthanasia data to provide insight into Canada's experience with killing. (Read more: [www.lifenews.com/2025/02/12/almost-5-of-all-canadians-who-died-in-2023-were-euthanized](http://www.lifenews.com/2025/02/12/almost-5-of-all-canadians-who-died-in-2023-were-euthanized).)

## Speaking up For Life

"[W]e were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation ... Cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons,

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through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope.”  
*Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life*

“With gentleness and respect, we witness to our faith in Jesus so that others will come to believe in Him and eagerly await His return. All who confess Jesus as Lord look forward to His Second Coming with a joy far greater than idle mirth. We are encouraged as we remind each other that our Savior is coming back, and we pray that He would ‘hear and grant our fervent plea.’ Come, Lord Jesus!” *Dr. Carol Geisler*

“God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, ‘For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand’ (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us.” *Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, who has Down syndrome*

## Lutherans For Life | Love Life | House of Refuge by Pastor Michael Salemink



Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce an exciting new opportunity! Save the date for spring 2025, because we’ll be inviting your congregation to participate in the House of Refuge initiative.

We’re collaborating with our friends at a fellow sanctity-of-life ministry known as **Love Life**, who developed the **House of Refuge** project. The House of Refuge represents a brilliantly simple Gospel-motivated witness and service to our communities. A House of Refuge congregation commits publicly and lovingly to active surrounding and ongoing supporting of neighbors experiencing surprise pregnancies.

They undertake this by:

- registering their leadership’s consent to readiness and pastoral endorsement of it with Lutherans For Life;
- declaring the House of Refuge pledge in the worshiping assembly at least twice annually and displaying it in a prominent location in their facility;
- designating a parish House of Refuge ambassador;

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- publicizing their contact information on Love Life's online nationwide House of Refuge locator;
- and preparing access to material, emotional, social, and spiritual assistance in the event that a community member accepts the House of Refuge invitation. (This may include companionship and mentoring, pastoral counsel, referrals to aid agencies, transportation and housing arrangements, facilitating medical care, and the like.)

The House of Refuge pledge promises to anyone undergoing surprise pregnancy that this congregation regards the condition as a blessing instead of a sin and the child as a privilege rather than a punishment. The congregation affirms they hold precious both the child's life and the welfare of the parents and asserts they will unite their efforts toward whatever it takes to help mother and father carry and care for the little one. The congregation also vows not to subject mother or father to gossip or shame or pressure toward abortion. The congregation devotes themselves to sympathy and solidarity for mothers, to encouraging and commending, and to holding men accountable for their God-given vocations. And the congregation insists on extending the Heavenly Father's forgiveness and healing in Christ Jesus to any who mourn already having aborted their own children.

We believe that formally and frequently proclaiming this pledge makes churches safe places. Rather than running from the household of faith when surprise pregnancy occurs, neighbors both within and without the Body of Christ will turn to them as a first resort. Young people will come of age formed to know that this security awaits them should they fall into such a situation, and the fellowship will gain a public reputation for the kind of compassion that renders abortion unnecessary. And we hope this gentle and winsome entrance into sanctity-of-life advocacy, devoid of any political dimensions, will lead to greater courage for both the entire congregation and individual members to voice their convictions about these matters.

We are currently completing the process of finalizing program parameters and preparing orientation materials and support resources. Please begin getting ready by informing your congregation that House of Refuge is forthcoming and monitoring Lutherans For Life communications for further details!

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## LWML Notes

Our March meeting will be March 1 at 9 a.m. Elaine Schmidt will be leading the Bible study.

The quilts the ladies have been making are available to purchase for a donation. Talk with Leatta if you are interested in buying one.



## Our March birthdays

Tim Pralle	March 3
Elaine Schmidt	March 7
Debbie Greene	March 9
Barbara Hinds	March 13
Elsie Adelsen	March 16
Krista Durnin	March 16
Nicholas Seefeldt	March 17
Nathan Novak	March 19
Taylor Seefeldt	March 21
Damian Ford	March 24
Daniel Kolander	March 24

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Our March anniversaries

Josh & Faith Leyh

March 26

## March Schedules

### Ushers

March 2-Russ & Sharie Brunk  
March 9-Randy & DeAnne Otto  
March 16-Dan & Kari Moen  
March 23-Willie & Leatta Danielson  
March 30-Barb Hinds & Chris Leis

### Greeters

March 2-POP Family  
March 9-POP Family  
March 16-POP Family  
March 23-POP Family  
March 30-POP Family

### Money counters

March 2-Elaine Schmidt & Ona Childs  
March 9-Debbie Dunnum & Barb Hinds  
March 16-Chris Leis & Lori Peters  
March 23-Elaine Schmidt & Barb Alsobrooks  
March 30-Barb Hinds & Ona Childs

### Song Leaders

March 2-Sarah Kolander  
March 9-Holly Ford  
March 16-Patty & Nancy Horstmann  
March 23-Brooklynn Scholze  
March 30-Sarah Kolander

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Altar Guild

Carolyn Dosland

Elaine Schmidt

**\*\*Will members please volunteer to usher during our Midweek Lenten services\*\***

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# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 LWML: 9:00 a.m.
2 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Elders: 11:30 a.m.	3 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	4	<b>Ash <u>Wednesday</u> 5</b> Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Lent: 7 p.m.  Choir: after the service	6	7 Pastor's day off First Friday Fellowship	8 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
9 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Council: 11:30 a.m.	10 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	11 Men's Bible Study at Features in West Salem: 5 p.m.	12 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Lent: 7 p.m.  Choir: after the service	13	14 Pastor's day off	15 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
16 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	17 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	18	19 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Lent: 7 p.m.  Choir: after the service	20	21 Pastor's day off	22 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
23 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	24 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	25	26 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Soup Supper: 6 p.m. Midweek Lent: 7 p.m.  Choir: after the service	27	28 Pastor's day off	29 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
30 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck	31 Divine Service: 7 p.m.					

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