

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"A Disciple Making Community"*

*"KNOW, GROW, and GO"*

West Salem, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026



*For*  
*God's foolishness*  
**is wiser**  
*than human wisdom,*  
*and*  
*God's weakness*  
**is stronger**  
*than human strength.*

*1 Corinthians 1:25*

***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:** While the wisdom of this world promotes prosperity, Jesus teaches humility. Those characteristics that the world might look down on, God calls blessed. While we might be persecuted for these things, God reminds us that our reward is in heaven. For what may seem wise to the world is truly foolish, and what seems foolish to the world – Christ crucified – is wise. Just as He redeemed the Israelites and calls them His own people, so also has He rescued us from our sin.

**Order of Service**

**Divine Service 2, p. 167 ff.**

**Opening Hymn**

**LSB 904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

**Confession and Absolution**

**LSB p. 167**

**Introit**

*Psalm 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
**and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,  
**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Kyrie**

**LSB p. 168**

## Hymn of Praise: *Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB p. 170

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB p. 172



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### First Reading

**Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8*

Praise the Lord, all nations!

**Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

### Epistle Reading

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB p. 173



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

LSB p. 174

### Teaching the Faith from the Catechism: Confession

How Christians should be taught to confess:

**P** *What is the Office of the Keys?*

**C** **The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.**

**P** *Where is this written?*

**C** **This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22-23)**

**P** *What do you believe according to these words?*

**C** **I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.**

## Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

LSB 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



Prince of Peace News and Notes for February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Serving the Lord and One Another Today:** *Accompanist:* Deb Dunnun, *Song Leader:* Brooklynn Scholze; *Ushers:* Willie & Leatta Danielson; *Money Counters:* Barb Hinds, Ona Childs; *Acolyte:* Caleb Kolander; *Altar Guild for February:* DeAnne Otto, Melissa Adelsen

**Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday:** *Song Leader:* Sarah Kolander; *Ushers:* Russ & Sharie Brunk; *Money Counters:* Elaine Schmidt, Chris Leis; *Acolyte:* Elska Sheffer

**Our Response to God's Gifts**

Last Week's Attendance, Sun & Mon: 47

Weekly Need 2026 Budget: \$3,172.46

Week of January 25<sup>th</sup> Offering: \$5,721.88

(Full Financials are posted on the kiosk in the lobby.)

**THIS WEEK AT PRINCE OF PEACE**

February 1 through February 8

<i>Today</i>	<b>9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion</b> <i>after .....fellowship time</i>
	10:30 am..... Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am..... Sunday School
	11:30 am..... Elders' Meeting
	Noon ..... Catechesis Class
<b>Mon. Feb. 2</b>	<b>7:00 pm .....Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Tue. Feb. 3</b>	5:00 pm ..... Men's Bible Study at Features
	6:15 pm ..... Lutheranism 101/New Member Class
<b>Wed. Feb. 4</b>	9:30 am ..... Adult Bible Study
	7:00 pm ..... POP Choir
<b>Thur. Feb. 5</b>	10:00 am..... Lutheranism 101/New Member Class
<b>Sat. Feb. 7</b>	9:00 am..... LWML Breakfast & Bible Study at Features
<b>Sun. Feb. 8</b>	<b>9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>

**LWML, PRINCE OF PEACE – Ladies:** *Our next LWML gathering will be **Saturday, February 7** at Features in West Salem. All the women of the church are invited to meet at 9:00am for breakfast, a Bible study and fellowship. Please tell Debbie or Sharie if you plan on attending.*

**LUTHERANISM 101/ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASSES HAVE STARTED -** 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? This class is for potential new members and all current members who would like to learn more about the basic teachings of Christianity. We have two offerings of class times – Tues. evenings at 6PM or Thursday mornings at 10AM. For more information, or to sign-up, see Pastor Adelsen.

**PRAYER CHAIN POP PRAYS!** - Do you know that Prince of Peace has an email prayer chain? If you have a prayer request or want to be on the prayer chain to pray for others, please email Bill Stichman. We rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances. [wstichman@charter.net](mailto:wstichman@charter.net)

**CHURCH CLEANING -** We have made progress winning the battle to balance our expenses and contributions. Last year, Council discontinued our commercial janitor and trash removal services. We have depended on (our awesome!) volunteers for our janitor services since then. **Volunteers can sign-up** for one-month periods to provide those services. It takes about an hour or two a week to complete the checklist. A sign-up sheet is **on the table in the narthex**. Instructions are on a clipboard on the cleaning cart in the storage closet. As part of this discontinuation of paid service, volunteers are asked to take with them the recyclable materials and the trash. Thanks!

**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 it out:**

- Sounding the Scriptures POPcast on Spotify & Apple Podcast
- [Facebook.com/WSPOPLCMS](https://www.facebook.com/WSPOPLCMS)
- Our website at [WSPOP.org](http://WSPOP.org)



## *Bible Studies at Prince of Peace*

• **Sunday Adult Bible Study (10:30 a.m.), THE APOCRYPHA** As Lutherans, how should we regard the Apocrypha? You know, those “books not held equal to the Scriptures but useful and good to read,” as Martin Luther says. Oddly enough, and contrary to popular belief, Luther did include the apocryphal books in his German Luther Bible. We will explore what we, as Lutherans, think about the Apocryphal Books.

• **Wednesday Morning Bible Study (9:30 a.m.), ISAIAH** Like Israel of old, we, too, sometimes look to other “gods” for help in time of need. We obey God’s Law – when it’s convenient and when we’re afraid of getting caught. Our love is halfhearted, and our other sins, many. The Law thunders from Isaiah’s pages as the Prophet reminds us that we can’t fool God. But in the pages of Isaiah, the prophet brings comfort and hope, especially as he describes the coming Savior.

• **Certain Tuesdays, at Features (5:00pm), Men’s Bible Study 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. At the same time, 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. *Dates for February are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>.*

• **Saturday’s Online, Women’s Bible Study (9:00am), PROMISED HOPE** – After finishing *Promised Rest* by Michelle Diercks, we are turning to another study by the same author, *Promised Hope*. Participants will discover what eight different names and characteristics of God say about who He is and the hope He promises. See Debbie Dunnun or Carrie Horstman about how to join online.

**Weekly Life Thought from Lutherans for Life** – Tragically there are many people who do in fact sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for the sins of their soul (Micah 6:7), killing their own children to undo or cover up the sinful choices they’ve made. How foolish is the so-called “wisdom” of the world (1 Cor. 1) that calls death life! And though the Lord could rightly bring an indictment against His people for this evil (Micah 6:2), He instead shames the “strong” and “wise” among us by sacrificing His only begotten Son to cover the sins of the entire world (1 Cor. 1:27-28). In Christ crucified, all who believe will inherit the kingdom of heaven, and those who mourn the wanton destruction of life will be comforted forever. (Matt. 5:3-4)

## 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.

**INTROIT** Page 3

**MEDITATION** Psalm 15 – A Psalm of instruction that teaches true understanding of the Law, the truly good life, and true good works. These are all fruits of the Spirit and of faith: to live blameless before god through true faith, to do right to the neighbor, and to turn away from the evil ways and from the hypocrisy of the ungodly, by which they serve God with fraudulent works and omit the true works. [READING THE PSALMS WITH LUTHER]

### DAILY READINGS

1 Feb	Zech 11:4-17	2 Tim 4:1-18
2 Feb	Zech 12:1 – 13:9	Titus 1:1 – 2:6
3 Feb	Zech 14:1-21	Titus 2:7 – 3:15
4 Feb	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
5 Feb	Job 2:1 – 3:10	John 1:19-34
6 Feb	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
7 Feb	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12 18

### 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.
- Pray for: Gary & Marietta Adelsen, Barb Alsobrooks, Travis Glick, Bill & Sal Stichman, Tom Schran, Jeff Schmidt

**LEARN BY HEART** Matthew 5:3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

**COLLECT** Page 4

### 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:** Isaiah 58:3, 1 Cor. 2:1-12, Matt. 5:13-20