PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Disciple Making Community"
"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 27th, 2026

They asked Jesus, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Matt. 21:23

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

(staffed voluntarily – office hours vary widely)

Accompanist: Deb Dunnum Choral Director: Sarah Kolander

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 about 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. *Thank you!*

Theme for Today's Service: The way of Christ stands firm against all transgressions. God's chosen, sinful people frequently gripe, complain, and hurl insults against God, daring to challenge His authority. But God heartily desires that His people would be transformed with a new heart and a new spirit. God's people receive all of His incredible goodness, when they turn from transgressions, confess guilt, acknowledge His authority and receive His grace.

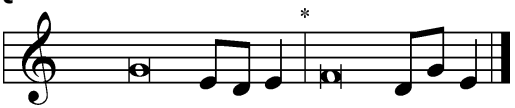
Order of Service: Divine Service 3, pp. 184 ff.

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation: 869 With the Lord Begin Your Task

Confession of Sins and Absolution *LSB 184 & 185*

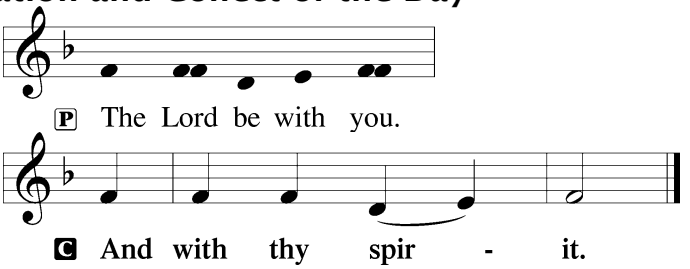
Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

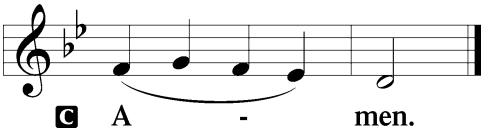
Kyrie *LSB 186*

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 187*

Salutation and Collect of the Day



℗ Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32*

[1]The word of the LORD came to me: [2]"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? [3]As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4]Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . .

[25]"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? [26]When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. [27]Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. [28]Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely

live; he shall not die. [29]Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

[30]"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. [31]Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32]For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

[1]If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2]complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

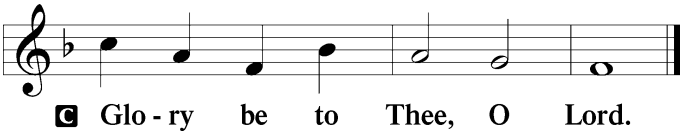
[14]Do all things without grumbling or questioning, [15]that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, [16]holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. [17]Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. [18]Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB 190*

Holy Gospel *Matthew 21:23–27*

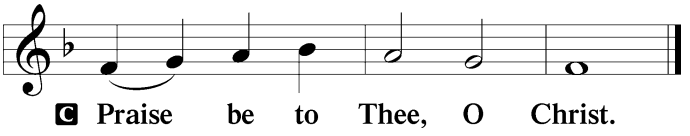
℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



[23]When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

[28]"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29]And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30]And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. [31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. [32]For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon: "A Call to Repentance" *Matthew 21:23-32*

Prayer of the Church

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

Offering

Offertory *LSB 192*

Service of the Sacrament *LSB 194-202*

Distribution Hymn: 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Distribution Hymn: 543 What Wondrous Love Is This

Distribution Hymn: 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

Salutation and Benedicamus *LSB 201*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Hymn to Depart: 920 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

Announcements

Go in peace, Service the Lord! Thanks be to God!

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SERVING OUR LORD AND ONE ANOTHER

	Today	Next Week	October 11th
Song Leader	Sara K.	Brooklynn S.	Leatta D.
Ushers	Dosland	Women of the LWML	Emmons
Counters	E. Schmidt C. Leis	O Child D. Dunnum	Alsobrooks Hinds
Acolyte	Greydanus	Kolander	Sheffer
Altar Guild for October: DeAnne Otto, Melissa Adelsen			

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFTS

Last Week's Sun. & Mon. Attendance: 55
Weekly Need 2026 Budget: $3,172.46
Week of Sep. 20th Offering: $3,378.16
(Full Financials are posted on the kiosk in the lobby.)

THIS WEEK AT PRINCE OF PEACE

Today	**9:00 am**	**Divine Service with Holy Communion**
	after	*Fellowship time*
	10:30 am	Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Catechesis Class
Mon. Sep. 28—Wed. Sep. 30		Rev. Adelsen at SWD Fall Pastors' Conference
Mon. Sep. 28	**7:00 pm**	**Divine Service**
Wed. Sep. 30	*Note:*	*No Small Group Bible Study*
	7:30 pm	POP Choir
Sat. Oct. 3	9:30 am	Prayer Service Refreshments & Coffee
	10:00 am	Prayer Service
Sun. Oct. 4	**9:00 am**	**Divine Service with Holy Communion LWML Sunday**

Prince of Peace News and Notes for September 27th, 2026

TODAY! 40 Days for Life – La Crosse Area Opening Rally! at 1:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, 130 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse (use the Losey Blvd. doors)

Come and hear Tallulah Caulfield from the Pro-Life Wisconsin Speakers Bureau share her personal experience. Connect with others who share your passion for life and learn how you can make a difference during this 40-day campaign. Followed by a free soup lunch. For more information, go to https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/lacrosse

Women of POP LWML would like to share that everyone is invited to this year's

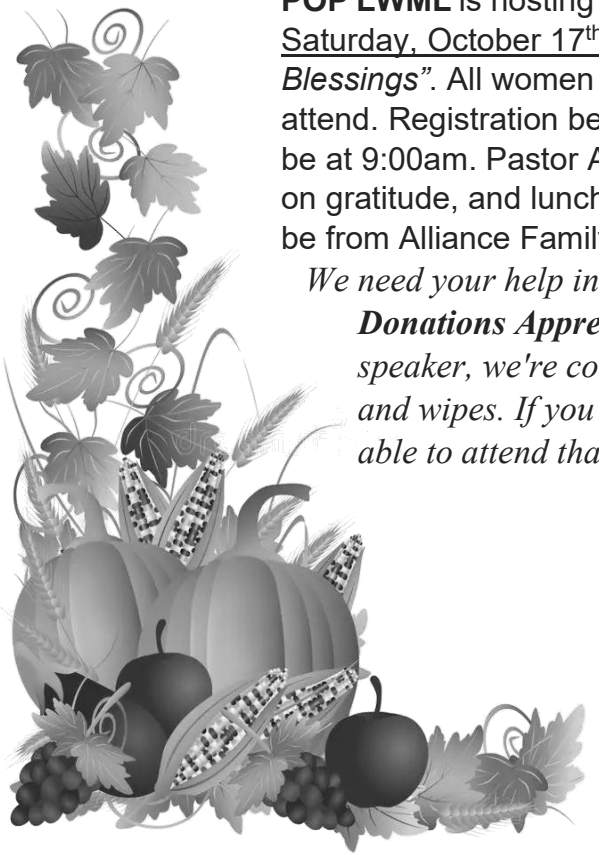
Prayer Service at Prince of Peace on Saturday, October 3rd

this year's theme is

"Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice" = PRAYER"

Refreshments will be served at 9:30am then program at 10:00.
Pastor Adelsen and Pastor David Weber (from St. Matthew in Warrens) will be leading the service.
No one is asked to pray in front of the group.
It's a time for learning and renewal.

The Evangelism Committee is planning to participate in **TRUNK-OR-TREAT** **Friday, October 30th** from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. downtown West Salem and the Village Park. The Committee is asking the congregation for help providing candy for the children attending. Donations can be dropped off at POP by Sunday, October 25th. Thank You!



POP LWML is hosting this year's **Zone Fall Rally** on Saturday, October 17th with the theme *"Harvest of Blessings"*. All women from the congregation are invited to attend. Registration begins at 8:30am, and the program will be at 9:00am. Pastor Adelsen will be leading a Bible study on gratitude, and lunch will be served. Our guest speaker will be from Alliance Family Services.

We need your help in support of this event!

Donations Appreciated: *In support of our guest speaker, we're collecting baby items such as diapers and wipes. If you would like to donate, but aren't able to attend that day, bring your items to church.*

Donations Appreciated: *We will need breakfast items like muffins, breads and fresh fruit. We will also need items for lunch such as salads and desserts. A sign-up sheet is located in the kitchen if you would like to bring food items for our guests that day.*

The Zone Rally is a big regional event hosted by the Prince of Peace women of the LWML anticipating an attendance of about 40-50 people. See Deb D. or Sharie B. for follow-up questions.

This Week's Life Thought from Lutherans for Life: *The consistent refrain of the foes of life is something like, "You are more significant than others" or "Look to your own interests." This refrain seeps into the everyday routine of many because it resonates with our sinful nature. In fact, we grumble at the slightest infringements on our lives of convenience. The Apostle Paul instructs each of us to "look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). The world tries to drum into our minds that raising up children, serving those in need, caring for the elderly, and tending to those who are dying are useless pursuits. But in Christ we see the value of each life and the joy that God provides in seeing people loved.*

Small Group Bible Studies & Christian Education at Prince of Peace

Sunday Mornings after Fellowship: Augsburg Confession - The Augsburg Confession remains the basic confession not just for Lutherans, but for every Christian. Join us!

Wednesday Mornings (9:30 a.m.) **Resumes October 7th.** The Book of Isaiah: In the pages of Isaiah, the prophet brings comfort and hope in the coming of the Savior.

Selected Tuesday Evenings, at Features (5:00pm), Men's Bible Study Focusing on: Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephania The people of Assyria were notoriously brutal. They believed that their kingdom would last forever. Those who feared this cruel nation needed to do so no longer for the Lord would protect and deliver His people. Watch the monthly calendar for dates.

Saturday's – Online, Women's Bible Study (9:00am) Ruth: More Than A Love Story. Embedded in the historical narrative of this short Old Testament book are connections to God's fulfilled promise of a Messiah and how God loves us and cares for us in Christ. See the wonderful picture of how God watches carefully over every little detail so His grace may come to fruition and fully abound. See Carrie Horstman about how to join online.

Catechesis Early Communion & Youth Confirmation classes have resumed. See Pastor for follow up and watch the calendar for dates.

Adult Information/New Member Class for any adults interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church or would like to seek membership to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Adelsen. (There are no obligations on membership.)

PRINCE OF PEACE PRAYER CHAIN: *We have received the gift of prayer from God to receive gifts from God in prayer. We pray to receive the gifts that God has for us and others. And best of all, prayer itself is a gift! If you have prayer requests for the email prayer chain, send them to Bill Stitchman at WStichman@charter.net if you would like to be added to receive emails about prayer requests to pray for others, email WStichman@charter.net*

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 25 V 1-10: The 25th psalm of prayer in which the righteous pray that God will make them godly, forgive their sins, guard them from sin and shame, and finally deliver them from all enemies and all evil. The psalm mocks the false, self-centered spirits and teachers.
[Reading the Psalms with Luther]

THIS WEEK'S DAILY READINGS

27 Sept	Mal 3:6—4:6	Matt 4:12–25
28 Sept	Deut 1:1–18	Matt 5:1–20
29 Sept	Deut 1:19–36	Matt 5:21–48
30 Sept	Deut 1:37—2:15	Matt 6:1–15
1 Oct	Deut 2:16–37	Matt 6:16–34
2 Oct	Deut 3:1–29	Matt 7:1–12
3 Oct	Deut 4:1–20	Matt 7:13–29 1

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- The Leyh family, Josh and Faith, and their pre-school age son Peter currently attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- Shepherd of the Hills, in calling a faithful Pastor
- Faith Lutheran Church, in calling a faithful pastor
- Pray for: Gary & Marietta Adelsen, Barb Alsobrooks, Travis Glick, Bill & Sal Stichman, Tom Schran, Jeff Schmidt, Jeramy Schaub, Anna Wachholz (niece of the Kolanders); Deb Dunnum

LEARN BY HEART Matthew 28:18 — All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Alleluia!

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 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46