

**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 17, 2023  
9:30 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

815 East Farm Road 182  
Springfield, Missouri 65810

Liturgy Setting 8

December 17, 2023

**THEME:** *Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## PRELUDE

**WELCOME** *(Please note: the order of worship is completely printed in the bulletin)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** ( \* indicates stand as you are able)

## GATHERING

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**C** Amen.

**P** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

**C** Amen

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Everlasting God,

**C** you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess our fear, greed, and self-centeredness.

We choose comfort over courage.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

**P** Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

**C** Amen

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn, vs. 1,2,4* **ELW # 242**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen  
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P** The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**\*CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN** (the congregation sings the following after the three advent candles are lit)

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

**ELW # 240**

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

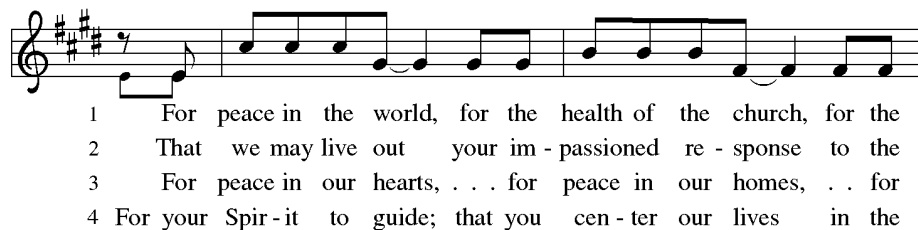
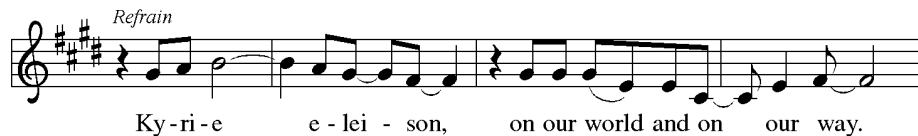
**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

**\*KRYIE**

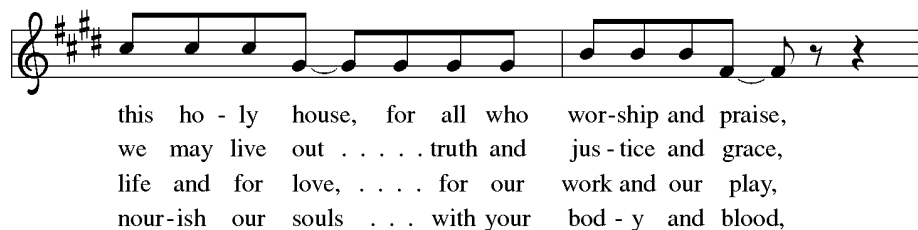
**Setting 8**



2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**A** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord, God,

**C** and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**A** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 126** (*Worship Asst. reads the non-bold print; congregation reads the bold print*)

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**A** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 8

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Gospel according to the first chapter of John

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## \*GOSPEL READING

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

*Pastor Carl Gauck*



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*The response to "Merciful God," is "receive our prayer"*)

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

# MEAL

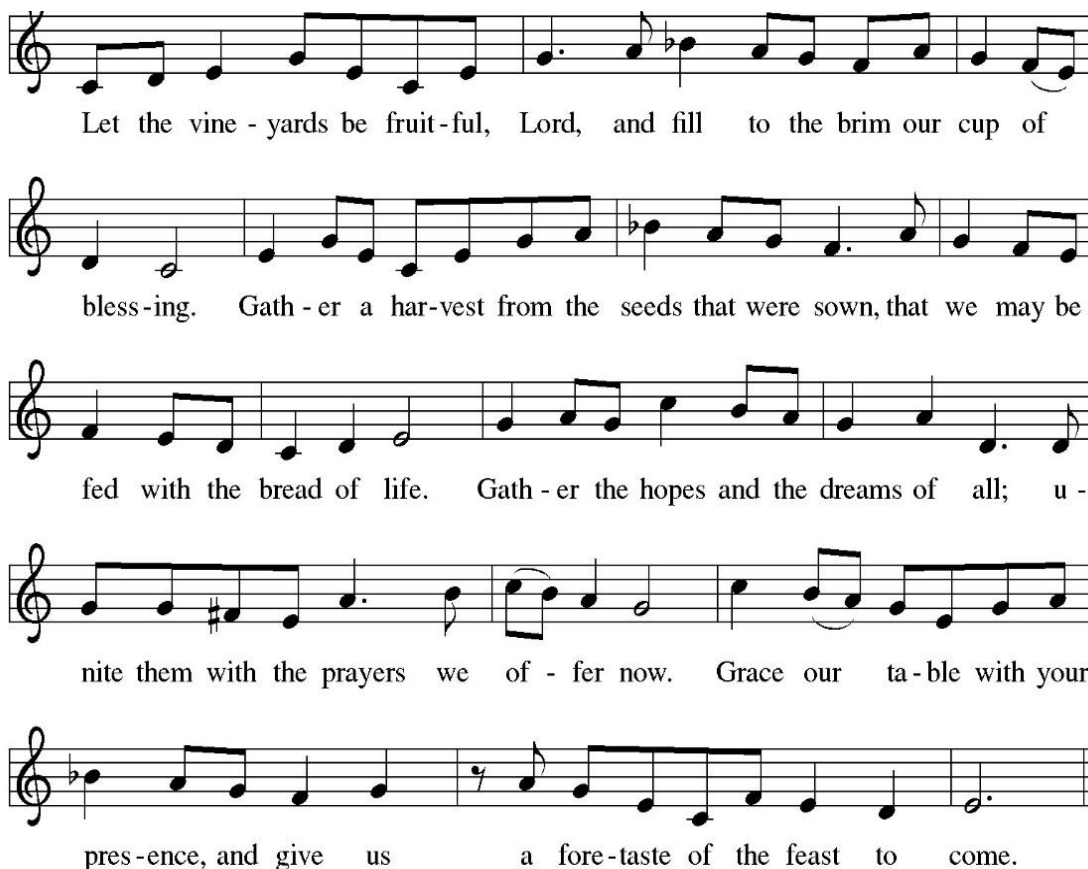
## OFFERTORY

## OFFERTORY SPECIAL MUSIC

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

*ELW # 182*



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*SEASONAL SENTENCE

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord. We welcome our guests to commune with us today in the faith that Christ is present in this Sacrament. Those who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. All bread is gluten free. White grape juice is in the center of the tray, or upon request. If you are unable to kneel, please feel free to stand at the communion rail. If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher and the Holy Supper will be brought to you.*

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**P** The body of Christ, given for you.

**P** The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## \*LAMB OF GOD

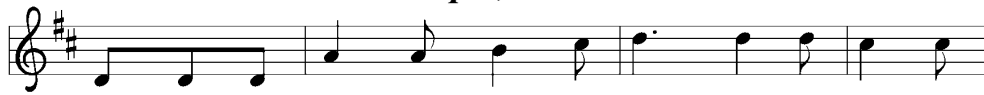
*Setting 8*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

# COMMUNION HYMN

## *People, Look East*

ELW # 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
Music: BESANÇON, French carol  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

# COMMUNION HYMN

## *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW # 815

### \*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

### \*THE BENEDICTION

**P** The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**C** Amen.



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

\*DISMISSAL

- P** God has a vision for us through the resurrected Christ!
- C** To be Spirit Led and Love Driven.
- A** Go in peace. Keep awake.
- C** Thanks be to God.

\*POSTLUDE

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## PRINCE OF PEACE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME EVERYONE**, especially our visitors! As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are a community of faith gathered together by the Spirit, fed with the Word and with the Sacraments, and sent to serve in the name of Christ.

**PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER LIST**: Call or email the church office with prayer requests for the congregational prayer list and/or the email prayer group who will also lift up your prayer concerns.

**REMINDERS**: Please remember to turn off cell phones and/or place them on airplane mode prior to the beginning of worship. Thanks!

**FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR AREA** are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving and celebration of our granddaughter Esme's birthday by Sue and Rodney Stelford.

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE**: Join us Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. Pre-service meal at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up in the narthex to bring sandwiches, soup and/or desserts as well as to either set-up before and/or clean-up afterwards.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING RETREAT**: The Long Range Planning Committee has been meeting weekly since September and have now set dates for an entire congregation retreat. They need everyone's input on determining our strengths, weaknesses and developing a plan for the next five years for Prince of Peace. **It will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Prince of Peace on Friday, January 12, 2023 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, January 13, 2024 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.** Food will be provided. The retreat is based on Kennon L. Callahan's book: *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God*. Mark your calendars and prayerfully consider attending. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. If questions, contact one of the committee members: Pastor Carl, Dave Jahnke, Bill Hake, Gail Ernst, Herb Peterson or Sue Wilford.

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** is resuming in January with a study on the Book of Acts. We will meet on Mondays, starting on January 8th (tentative) in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We will be using a Navigators Life Change series Study Guide. Heather usually orders the books for the group so we get a discount, so let her know if you would like a book, or contact Tracy Richter, coordinator. From the publisher: *"After Jesus left His followers with a mission, the Spirit of God moved mightily through them to fulfill it...Discover the exciting and challenging first few years of the church, the things we have in common with them today, and how that applies to our faith in the modern-day church."* <https://www.navpress.com/p/acts/9780891091127>

**SEWING & CRAFT DAY AT THE CHURCH**: Every second and fourth Thursday of the month, 9 am until ? in the Fellowship Hall. We also enjoy a sack lunch together around noon. Join us and bring a sack lunch with you!

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**: Please check your mail slot for 2024 Offering Envelopes, unless you give regularly electronically or use your bank's online bill pay option. Thanks!

**2023 CHRISTMAS IN JAIL:** What a hard time to be isolated – for inmates and their



families. This year we are again collecting **crossword, Sudoku, or other word puzzle books** (without staples please) (PAPERBACK ONLY as hard covers are not considered safe) **for the Christian County Jail. There is a marked container under the Outreach Table in the Cry Room to collect these items.** Please drop off donations by December 10<sup>th</sup>. We are still able to

give the most important gift of all-**PRAYERS** -year round for inmates (and jail staff) and their dear ones and victims. **This note will accompany items:** "Each & every one of us looks to God for love, hope, renewal, guidance, and so much more. We would like you to know that God and our congregation care about you. We have asked our members to pray for you and your families and we hope that the puzzle books & books given to the jail library will be enjoyed. May we all walk together, as God's children, with Christ, who transforms brokenness into wholeness through His grace & love. From Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Springfield." Please also pray for the staff and families of those who work in the jails. They do a challenging, vital, & often under-appreciated job. [We have a good supply of paperback books this year, and we can't use Christmas cards, but if you have either you want to donate, I will take them to other groups that can use them.] Any questions call Gayle Bell 417-268-8563 or 417-268-8566. Outreach Team



**CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:** Remember to check out the church calendar online for the most up to date information on what is happening here at Prince of Peace by visiting our church web page at [www.pop-elca.net](http://www.pop-elca.net)! Additionally, please remember to inform the church office when meeting dates are determined so the meetings can be added to the church calendar.

**BRRRRR! COLD WEATHER IS ON THE WAY.** If you have coats that you no longer want, please take them to any Glo Cleaners. They will clean them free of charge & they will deliver them to Council of Churches who will give them to children & adults who need to not be cold this winter! (They cannot handle leather. If you have a leather coat that doesn't need any cleaning, you may take it directly to Council of Churches – or leave it at church for Gayle Bell to take to the Council.) Any questions please contact Gayle Bell at 417-268-8563.

**POINSETTIAS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS:** If you would like to order a poinsettia for \$9 each in thanksgiving, in memory of a loved one, or just because, please sign-up on the sheet located in the church narthex. Make checks out to 'Prince of Peace,' and note "poinsettia" in the memo section of the check and place in Sue Stelford's mail slot in the narthex (or in the offering plate with "poinsettia" in the memo section of the check) by no later than this Sunday, December 17th.

**CARE RIDES:** Need a ride to church, church events, doctor appointments, picking up medication, and/or grocery shopping, etc.? The Congregational Care Team can help! We do need sufficient notice and a specific time frame to schedule. If you need this service or want to volunteer with this ministry, please call Sue Bergeson at 641-750-1144. If she does not answer, please leave a message and she will return the call. *Thank you and God's Blessings, Your Congregational Care Team*

## **JANUARY 2024 NOISY OFFERINGS FOR “CONNECTING GROUNDS CHURCH:**



Noisy Offerings January 6 & 7, 2024 will go towards Connecting Grounds Church provide clothing, meals and support to families in need, as well as the homeless. They also have counseling services to help unify families. They have weekly church services where everyone is welcome and are currently raising funds to build temporary shelters for the homeless.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Remember to check the voice mail message on the church phone (417-881-0833) and/or facebook or the church webpage (pop-elca.net) when inclement weather could impact worship services or events planned at the church

# **WORSHIP WITH US!**

**The Season of Advent and Christmas**

## **Wednesday Advent Worship**

**December 6, 13, 20 @ 7:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve + 10:00 am**

**Holy Communion**

**Christmas Eve + 6:00 pm**

**Holy Communion, Candlelight**

# **PRINCE OF PEACE**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**815 E Farm Rd 182 + Springfield + [pop-elca.net](http://pop-elca.net)**

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD:** If you are unable to serve on a Sunday for a job assignment, please find a replacement on your own. You may then call the church office with changes.  
*Patty Killian*

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE December 24-10 AM</b>	<b>December 30</b>
Acolyte	Raelinn Baker	Bryce Messner	Bentley Messner
Worship Asst.	Gayle Bell	Brandon Messner	Gayle Bell
Greeter	Peggy McCabe	Darrel & Betty Arnold	Peggy McCabe
Usher	n/a	Ross Jahn	n/a
Hosts	n/a	Sue Wilford & Chris Hingst	n/a
Musician	Lauren Jackson	Donna Mohr	Lauren Jackson
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE December 24-6:00 PM</b>	<b>December 31</b>
Acolyte	Bella Guillen	Oliver Kavanagh	Bella Guillen
Worship Assistant	Dave Jahnke	Leania Carter	Gail Ernst
Greeter	Darrel & Betty Arnold	Patricia Van Aken	Kathy Corwin
Usher	Joel Karlson	Barry Killian	Bill Ernst
Hosts	Barry & Patty Killian	n/a	Diane Washburn & Caroline Wake
Communion Set Up	Paula Kavanagh & Kathy Teaster	Angie Messner @ 10 am Patty Killian @ 6 pm	Patricia Van Aken
Musician	Donna Mohr	Katie Ernst	Donna Mohr
Tellers	Kathy Corwin & Cherie Guillen	Dave & Tammy Jahnke	Kathy Corwin & Gail Ernst

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 6</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>January 27</b>
Acolyte	Raelinn Baker	Bryce Messner	Bentley Messner	Raelinn Baker
Worship Asst.	Brandon Messner	Rick Lewis	Gayle Bell	Brandon Messner
Greeter	Ed & Sarah Derr	Peggy McCabe	Ed & Sarah Derr	Peggy McCabe
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 7</b>	<b>January 13</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>January 28</b>
Acolyte	Elijah Otzelberger	Oliver Kavanagh	Lila Teaster	Bella Guillen
Worship Assistant	Julie Karlson	Brett Onstott	Nyssa Brockhoff	Caroline Wake
Greeter	Jim & Carol Kerns	Ken & Leania Carter	Mark & Pam Duneman	Patricia Van Aken
Usher	Joel Karlson	Herb Peterson	Bill Ernst	Ross Jahn
Hosts	Jan Gauck & Jessica Stelford	Dave & Tammy Jahnke	Sue Stelford & Sue Wilford	Greg Verheyen & Jackie Higgins
Tellers	Susan Stelford & Ross Jahn	Kathy Teaster & Paula Kavanagh	Kathy Corwin & Cherie Guillen	Dave & Tammy Jahnke

## Our Prayers This Week (Updated as of 12/14/2023)

*When a prayer request is given to the church office the names are included on the prayer list for three weeks and then removed. Sometimes it is requested for names to remain on our prayer list longer than three weeks. We are asking for your help to keep our congregational prayer list current by incorporating a new section called "Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving." Please let us know when someone's health and/or situation has improved, and they will be placed in the new section for three weeks and then removed. This revision will provide all of us the collective opportunity to pray for all current needs as well as give prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God.*

**We pray for:** *The congregations and ministries of the Central States Synod and for our companion Synod in Russia and Papua New Guinea; Russian Bishop Alexander Scheiermann . Pr. Alexander Lapochenko and the congregation of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Arsenyev, Russia, for the leaders of Russia and its neighbors; for the church in Russia. Prayers for Russian lay preacher Andrei Olzols and his wife, Viktoria. Prayers for Rev. Bradn Buerkle, Natasha and sons Matvey, Martin, & Lukas and mother in law Alla; St. Paul Lutheran, Pastor Vitaly Mohr, Pastor Manfred Brockmann, and all who seek to spread God's mercy in word and deed.*

**We pray for POP members:** Paul Potthoff, Jenny Mattison, Butch & Donna Hayden, Andy Derr, Guy Kolie. Preston Kolie, Darrel Arnold, Les & Julie Rohr, Rick Lewis, Mike Lambert, Jim and Sherry Smith, Becky Skare, Peggy McCabe; Dave and Tammy Jahnke, Cherie Guillen, Joan Harrell and Jerry Van Aken.

**We pray for loved ones and friends:** { "◀" indicates a continuing prayer request }

Ronnie Bell (daughter in law of Amos & Gayle Bell) ▶

Anna Fisher and family, daughter of Amos & Gayle ▶

Jackie Milan,( health concerns) and Tammy Milan (breast cancer) Friend of Amos and Gayle Bell. ▶

Rita Wirtz and daughter Tammy; both are battling breast cancer. Friends of Gayle and Amos Bell ▶

Susan Griffiths, chronic health concerns; friend of Angie Messner ▶

Jan McCoy, battling cancer ▶

Chris Artis Johnson, daughter of Jan Artis ▶

Norman Beaver, cousin of Gayle Bell, health concerns ▶

Oliver Jones, struggling with autism. Grandson of Chuck & Sherry Jones ▶

Bev Hall, aunt of Angie Messner, who has MS ▶

Sandra Doudna and Carolyn Allen, sisters of Herb Peterson who have serious health conditions ▶

Eleanor Lambert, mother of Mike Lambert; Mark Butcher, who has cancer and Jeffrey Roberts, friend who has severe medical issues -friends of Mike Lambert ▶

Peter Harootunian & parents Jack & Kathy (Jack & Kathy are neighbors of Diane Washburn- Peter has been missing since 5/15/2022) ▶

Terry Broderick, younger brother of Tammy Jahnke. ▶

Suzanne Day, daughter of former POP member Albina Born who has serious health concerns post accident ▶

Mary Ellen Day, sister of Ed Derr whose bronchial tubes are only functioning at 30% and will not get better. ▶

Doug & Tina Reynolds, Doug is the son-in-law of Amos & Gayle ▶

Terry McDonough, good friend of Gail Ernst, who lives in St. Louis and struggling with Parkinsons Disease ▶

Simon, grandson of Amos and Gayle Bell – health issues ▶

Wallis McCraw, wife of Diane Washburn's cousin, medical issues ▶

Amanda, friend of Tina Bell Reynolds, prayers for support and strength as she grieves the loss of her daughter who died in a car accident (submitted by Gayle and Amos Bell) ▶

Prayers for Jean Sommer, friend of Sarah Derr, and family-Jean is receiving a new kidney! ▶

Becky and husband Steve, friends of Sarah Derr - Steve is on hospice due to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Andy Love, friend of Amos & Gayle Bell, prayers of healing and support for him and his family-take to hospital unconscious (9/16)

Linda Lynch, her husband Mark, & family. Mark who has lung cancer & is dealing with a lot of fluid retention. They hospitalized him 9/19 to monitor the rate of fluid retention and try to slow it. Linda is a friend of Sarah. ▶

Lisa Martin, daughter of Herb Peterson's cousin who lost both of her legs to diabetes (10/12)

Linda Newman, 42 year old daughter of a friend of Diane Washburn who has 3 bad heart valves and in need of a heart transplant (10/14)

Janet Lumby, submitted by Barb Gielow (11/1) ▶

Hank Washburn, brother of Diane, Parkinsons stage IV; underwent another heart valve procedure November 30 and is now recovering at home as of 12/3 ▶

**Prayers of thanksgiving for:**

Steve Kruse, son of Edie, who has recovered from open heart surgery a couple months ago and relocated to the west coast  
Katie Corwin, granddaughter of Kathy Corwin as Katie has been seizure free since August 1

**We pray for those who grieve:**

The family of Brian Hayes, nephew of Pr. Carl Gauck



## PRINCE OF PEACE CALENDAR

<b>Saturday, December 16</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Ozark Mtn. Gem &amp; Mineral Society Christmas Party</b> ( <i>Fellowship Hall</i> )
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Saturday Evening Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck
<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b> ( <i>Dani's Room</i> )
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Ozarks Antique Automobile Club Meeting</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Tuesday, December 19</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	G.R.O.O.V.E. Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Wednesday, December 20</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Pericope Team Study ( <i>ZOOM</i> )
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Advent Pre-Worship Service Meal</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Saturday, December 23</b>		<b>NO Saturday Evening Worship Service</b>
<b>Sunday, December 24</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Pre Worship Service Special Music</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck
	<b>5:45 pm</b>	<b>Pre Worship Service Special Music</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion and candlelight</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck
<b>Monday, December 25</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Saturday, December 30</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Saturday Evening Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> led by Pr. Carl Gauck

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES!

- 1) Place your offering in the offering plate located at the back of the church either before or after the worship service;
- 2) Mail offerings to the church at 815 E. Farm Road 182, Springfield, MO 65810;
- 3) Give electronically by downloading the "VANCO MOBILE" app on your telephone or tablet via Google Play or the App Store; select Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Springfield, MO and give at your convenience;
- 4) Go to pop-elca.net home page, scroll to the bottom where you will see the opportunity to give online;
- 5) Scan the QR code. Once scanned with a QR reader on your phone or tablet, it will immediately take you to where you can give your offering through the "VANCO MOBILE" app



### PRINCE OF PEACE STAFF

**Carl R. Gauck, Pastor**  
**Dr. Tammy Jahnke, PMA**  
 Heather Roberts, Office Manager  
 Susan Stelford, Financial Secretary  
 Custodians: PoP Members  
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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

## Prayers of Intercession December 16 & 17, 2023

- A** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

- A** Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need (*especially all who are currently on our congregation's prayer list, on our hearts and on our minds.....*). Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- A** With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C** **Amen.**