



Prince of Peace
Faith, Family, Community
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Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Education Hour
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The Promoter

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Rockton, Illinois
MARCH 2018

More about Covenant Concepts

As a biblical concept, covenant stands in the bright spotlight, center stage. Covenant shapes the core themes of the Bible. Covenant concepts create a context to understand the relationship between YaHWeH and His people. Covenant ideas grant pictures or images that can seep through biblical texts, both Old Testament and New. In this article, I will add some meat to the bones of covenant in the Bible with greater depth and apply these ideas to several texts. Specifically, I want to look at how covenants transform relationships, and some of the ways that the Lord uses covenant to communicate His grace and love.

Individuals (Genesis 24), tribes (Genesis 31:43ff.), and nations (Joshua 9-10) cut (cleave the sacrifice) covenants. Simply put, a covenant is “an agreement enacted between two parties in which one [the vassal in the case of suzerain-vassal agreement] or both [in a parity arrangement] make promises under oath to perform or refrain from certain actions stipulated in advance” (*Covenant Anchor Bible Dictionary*). Unfortunately, that simple definition makes covenant sound like a legal arrangement – and it is. But, it is much more.

Essentially, a covenant establishes a kinship relationship between the parties. While fictive, kinship-by-covenant grants all the rights and obligations owed to blood relatives in tribal cultural settings. The kinship nature of covenants can be found in the titles of address adopted by the parties. In parity covenants, the parties address each other as brothers. The lesser calls the suzerain, ‘father’ or ‘lord’ and is called ‘son’ or ‘servant.’ This is household language, introducing another cultural reality, the importance of a patriarch’s house.

That covenant partners use household forms of address, father and son or lord and servant, highlights the cultural effects of entering this relationship. In the patriarchal tribal world, the context into which the Bible first spoke, the individual’s relationship to the clan, tribe, and nation solely came through connection to the father (*The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament*). The family patriarch linked all individual family members to the legal and economic structures of the society. Without a kinship relationship to a patriarch, a person would be marginalized, an alien, a nonperson. Covenant with YaHWeH swept Israel into a national identity. In the New Covenant, even when formerly strangers and aliens, Christians have been swept into membership in Abba’s household.

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Pastor's Message

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By evoking intimacy ties through familial language, the covenant ritual taps into well established and carefully defined cultural expectations – both obligations and rights. The patriarch shoulders the mantle of responsibility for the financial well-being of the family and he dons the magistrate's robes to enforce tribal norms in the beth ab. A son or servant owes him obedience, honor, and the products of his labor.

A covenant alters the relationships of the covenant parties by imposing these familial expectations on them. Paul uses the family images residing in the covenant context in his teaching on life in the Spirit in Romans. For instance, in his lengthy discussion of the relationship between promise in the covenant with Abraham and curse under the law of Moses (Romans 4-11), Paul asserts an obligation to live by the Spirit in the promise, not by the flesh under law. In this context, he uses family terminology. He calls believers "sons of God," "children of God," "heirs of God, and puts "Abba, Father" into our mouths. As members of His household, we owe Him obedience, honor, and the fruit of our lives. He shoulders the mantle of responsibility to provide for us. By the Spirit at work in us, He enforces covenant norms.

While these ideas seem abstract and impractical, they have important implications. In time past, for instance, as I would sit at worship and look around, knowing the back stories of some of the worshippers, I would find it difficult to see them as children of God. Sometimes when the blinders slip and I see more clearly my own heart and life, I struggle with God addressing me as son. I can be so judgmental, lustful, prideful, or jealous. I know about my records of wrong-doing, my rejoicing with unrighteousness, and my boasts. Truly, the evidence of divine DNA in my life can be quite skimpy. But one thing I do have, I have a covenant with God. In that covenant, my status and that of my fellow worshippers has been altered. My kinship is not of likeness, my sonship is not natural; my relationship is covenantal, my sonship by adoption. By covenant, rightfully I am called son of God. By covenant, we are all children of God. By covenant, I call God, Abba or in our context, Daddy.

For Him and His,

Pastor Hank (AKA the Rev. Dr. Henry Corcoran, M.Div., Ph.D.)



Supper & Lenten Services

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Each mid-week service focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day. Please join us for a time of fellowship and worship!

Wednesdays, February 14-March 21
6:00pm Supper - Nicholas Hall
7:00pm Worship Service - Sanctuary

Service

Save the Date! – Join us for a Potluck Lunch and the Men's Cake Auction following worship on March 11th. All monies will go toward the military Christmas Fund which supports wounded veterans and their families.

Potluck +  = FUN

Fill Those Bags! - Our church shopping cart is ready for groceries again so we plan to provide everyone with a grocery bag and list for the Old Stone Pantry on Sunday, March 4th. The food donation bags will be collected on March 11th and the following Sundays in the narthex.

Tuna
Beef Ravioli
Ramen noodles
Canned Soup

Tuna Helper
Kraft Mac N Cheese
Pork and Beans
Manwich



Church Directory - The 2018 Prince of Peace Directory is now available for pick up in the narthex. Many thanks for Jacqueline Eggers for taking photos, designing, and printing our new directory!

What's Your Idea? – We plan to revitalize our monthly newsletter (The Promoter) in the future months. We need suggestions for a new name for the publication. Put your thinking caps on, write down your idea/s (anonymous), and place it in the white mailbox in the narthex.

Discipleship

Please Note: Children's Sunday School will not be held on March 25 and April 1 due to spring break and Easter Sunday.

Prayer Shawls - The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to give comfort and support to church members and friends by providing prayer blankets. If you plan to give a blanket to someone, please use the green "PoP Prayer Shawl Records" notebook located in the Sunday School office. Contact the office with any questions.

Mary - Rachel Circle will meet at the church with Karen Lowery hosting on March 27, 2018. We will be studying lesson 1, from our new book Ambidextrous Christianity. We will be serving a Lenten dinner on March 7. A monthly donation will be taken up for a local cause.

AWANA is a children's ministry for K - 6th grade students that includes really fun games, a great time with friends, and learning about Jesus. The club meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm at the church.

MARCH

Worship

Messages

March 4 - "Let It Be According to Your Word"
March 11 - "Spirit Baptism"
March 18- "Christ's Strength"
March 25 - Palm Sunday



Home Eucharist Ministry - The team will have a brief meeting with Pastor Hank immediately after worship on March 4th.

The Eucharistic Team will be visiting those that are home bound, providing communion and fellowship. If you know of anyone that would like to receive such services please call the office (815-624-2115). Their next scheduled visit will be Sunday, March 4th.

Prayer Huddle - The group meets every Monday at 9:30am at the church. All are welcome to join us in praying for the requests that are listed on the Connection Cards from Sunday's worship service.

Weekly Children's Bulletins – Each Sunday we will have children's bulletins available for youth ages 3-6 and 7-12 during the worship service. The bulletins include activities related to the gospel for that day. Please ask the ushers for a copy for your youth.



CHOIR will rehearse on Thursday nights at 7:00pm beginning March 1st.

Easter Lilies and Tulips

We will be decorating the sanctuary on Easter with lilies and tulips. If you would like to order a flower in memory of/or in the honor of a loved one for Easter, please complete the order form and place it in the offering basket/church office by **March 11th**. The tulips cost \$9.00 and lilies \$10.00 each. Please make checks payable to the Prince of Peace Altar Guild.



Fellowship

March Movie Night – Join us for the movie “Jesus” on Saturday, March 10th at 6:00pm in Nicholas Hall. The film follows the life of Jesus from his time as a carpenter to his ministry and the fulfillment of His prophecy.

Church Council

The Prince of Peace council members meet monthly. If you have questions or ideas, please contact one of the council deacons or attend a monthly meeting.

Tom Lenhart President, 815-389-4203
Wayne Schmidt.....Vice President, 815-298-0750
Stacy Diemel..... Secretary, 815-629-9698
Dan King.....Treasurer, 815-494-3919
Sue Ducett.....Discipleship, 779-475-1907
Richard Mackenthun.....Facilities, 815-389-2480
John SaarinenFellowship, 815-623-6460
Sue Peterson.....Service, 815-282-2715
Lora Conrad.....Witness, 815-289-7171
Wendy Goldsworthy.....Worship, 815-389-3796



HEALING & STRENGTH

Julie, Chad, Pam, Chuck VanderKooi, Cindy Lee, Kim, Lori, Jalen Heath, Norm Larson, Billy, Lucy, Yolanda, Corbin, Christine Gustafson, Cyndy, Rhonda, Wilma Keller, Cheryl C., John Walker, Duke, Darlene Parr, Jan, Katie, Anita Patterson, Steve Heavilin, Dona, Josh, Karen Phelps, Merci, Stephanie, Bob, Norbert, Ann Stewart, Connor Diemel, Marlene, Merna, Alice, Ada, Bob, Kristan, Jackie, Dixie, Beckie, Nancy, Terry, Jenna, Judy P., Vance, and Judy Lynde.

GRIEF

The families of Jason Chambers, Belinda, Aileen Glasscoe, and Dr. Dan Richardson. Caryl on loss of mother Sally Olds. Kim upon loss of husband. Judy Hines on the loss of her son.

LEADERSHIP

- ◆ Our Council Members: Tom Lenhart, Wayne Schmidt, Stacy Diemel, Dan King, Sue Ducett, Richard Mackenthun, John Saarinen, Sue Peterson, Lora Conrad, and Wendy Goldsworthy.
- ◆ Our Staff: Pastor Hank Corcoran, Administrative Assistant Kara Wallace, Music Director Sara Lemen, Custodian Phil Martin

FAITH & COURAGE

Carl Specht, Ella Pearson's grandsons Rob & Samuel Walker, Sherre Faulkner's nephew Rod Flom, Tom & Jean Lenhart's grandson Cody Merrette, Penny Pfile's nephew William Kerr II, Joan Sabin's grandson Jeremy Crandell, Pastor Hank & Beth Corcoran's son-in-law James McLaurin, Bob & Karen Lowery's grandson Steve Bloomfield, and Dorothy Bush's nephew Cody Bush.

March Serving Schedule Reminder...

If you are not able to make your allotted time slot, please find a substitute and notify the church office.

March 4

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Seth Hedman
Greeters: Bob & Nancy Mohns
Ushers: Cathie & Wendy Goldsworthy
Reader: Nancy Mohns
Communion Assist: Lora Conrad, Tom Lenhart, & Sherre Faulkner
Counters: David Baird & Denise Hoaglund

March 18

AV: Garrett Schmidt
Acolyte: Ashton Rowlett
Greeters: David & Vicki Rowlett
Ushers: Richard & Mary Mackenthun
Reader: Wendy Goldsworthy
Communion Assist: Darran Landenberger, Steve Shrider, & Kathy Walker
Counters: Cheryl Hill & Wayne Schmidt

March 11

AV: Cameron Schmidt
Acolyte: Sidney Schmidt
Greeters: Jerry & Carol Yarolimek
Ushers: Ron & Ann Stewart
Reader: Dorothy Bush
Communion Assist: Duke Ducett, Sue Ducett, & Richard Mackenthun
Counters: Luann Bartz & Ron Stewart

March 25

AV: Derek Hoaglund
Acolyte: Josiah Hedman
Greeters: Pam Novotnak & Debbie Sillanpaa
Ushers: Sherre Faulkner & Denise Hoaglund
Reader: Ron Stewart
Communion Assist: David Corcoran, Daphne McNames, & Pam Novotnak
Counters: Daphne McNames & Brad Mueller



March 2018 Coffee Prep & Host Schedule



We need volunteers for **Coffee Prep & Hosts**. The sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Thank you.

Stock Pew Racks for March: Nancy Mohns



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1	Kenneth Hausvick	25	Vanessa Corcoran
	Stephanie Schelm	26	Amy Ekberg
2	Judy Hines		Sophia Lemen
12	Lily Corcoran		Cathy Martin
15	Garrett Schmidt	28	Marianne Mueller
17	Linda Chartrau	29	Dorothy Bush
	Ed Specht		
18	Richard Mackenthun		



March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir 7:00pm	2 Annunciation Homeschool Co-op 8:00am-2:30pm	3 Men's Group 7am
4 Cares and Concerns Eucharist Team 4-H Robotics 2-5pm	5 Prayer Group 9:30 am	6	7 Supper 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Awana Club 6:30-8pm	8 Choir 7:00pm	9 Annunciation Homeschool Co-op 8:00am-2:30pm	10 Movie Night 6:00pm
11 Potluck & Men's Cake Auction 4-H Robotics 2-5pm	12 Prayer Group 9:30 am Church Council 6:30pm	13	14 Supper 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Awana Club 6:30-8pm Altar Guild	15 Choir 7:00pm	16 Annunciation Homeschool Co-op 8:00am-2:30pm	17 Men's Group 7am
18 4-H Robotics 2-5pm	19 Prayer Group 9:30 am PROMOTER deadline	20 4-H Club 6:30-8pm Naomi Circle 7:00pm	21 Supper 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Awana Club 6:30-8pm	22 Choir 7:00pm	23 Annunciation Homeschool Co-op 8:00am-2:30pm	24
25 No Children's Sunday School 4-H Robotics 2-5pm	26 Prayer Group 9:30 am	27 Mary Rachel Circle 1:00pm Rockton Quilt Group 6-9pm	28 Rockton Women's Club 10:30am-3pm	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm	30 Good Friday 7:00pm	31