

The MESSENGER

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From the Pastor

Greetings, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

November is just around the corner as I write this to you. The thought came to mind as I listened to Ephesians being read the other morning: How often are the words "thanks," "thanksgiving," "I give thanks," or "gratitude" used in the Bible? The numbers vary between the Old Testament and the New Testament, with numbers of 25, 72, 102, and 157 depending on the words. We read these words in the Psalms, but the best example is when Christ gives thanks at the Passover meal before His death. We hear them when the Words of Institution are said weekly:

Mark 14:22-26 (NIV) ²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had **given thanks**, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had **given thanks**, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ "This is my blood of the ^[c] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22:19-23 (NIV) ¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he **gave thanks** and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, **gave thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Each account is slightly different, but they portray Jesus giving thanks even knowing that betrayal and death are to come. He demonstrates an example of giving thanks to His Father and sharing love and a deep relationship with His disciples as He prepares Himself for the cross.

How do we give thanks? What is on our minds as we do it? Can I bring one more thing to our attention in the scriptures above? Afterward, the disciples left singing a hymn. Can we look around at ourselves throughout our day, give thanks, and then sing a hymn this Thanksgiving season?

I close with this verse from Ephesians 1:15 (NIV). The Apostle Paul writes:

"¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

It is not about me but all about Him,

Pastor Cassandra

PRAYER FOCUS

November is traditionally the month of Thanksgiving.

Psalm 100:4 says “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name”. The Bible also tells us to “give thanks **in** all circumstances” (1Thessalonians 5:18) and “give thanks to God **for** everything” Ephesians 5:20.

Research has shown that the practice of gratitude is associated with many positive effects in a person's physical and mental health. Expressing gratitude can improve sleep, mood and immunity, and can decrease depression, anxiety, chronic pain and disease.

If you do not already have a habit of thanking God, start a gratitude journal this month. What if you woke up tomorrow morning with only the things that you had thanked God for the day before. That is a sobering thought.

Or try **only thanking and praising** God during your prayer time – no requests- just thanking and praising Him several times a week.

Don't wait until Thanksgiving Day to be thankful. Be thankful all through the month and see how you feel on Thanksgiving Day.

Blessings,

Nancy Freedlund, Worship and Discipleship Deacon

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Are you a member or a disciple? That is the theme of the Stewardship Campaign 2024. Do you look at church membership as you do a “Y” membership or North Pointe? Do you look on your offering as your dues? Or do you look on your commitment as discipleship where you are giving back to God what is already his, where we share the blessings (financial and otherwise) we have been given?

So, are you a member? Or a disciple?

Sherre Faulkner, Stewardship Deacon

IN OUR PRAYERS

Healing, strength, and guidance for:

Arianna, John, Marcy, Theresa, Jeff, Chris, John, Kathy, Sue, Amy, Levi, Logan, Pam, Norm, Marilyn, Jenny, Brendt, Sadie, Alice, Rhonda, Vic, Bill, Sue, Tammy, Justine, LeAnn, Lacey, Andrew, Stephanie, David, Joe, Jack, Bryon, Dave, Mary Jo, Linda, Wayne, Cathie, Lora, Jimmy, Thomas, Jerry, and Phil.

Prayers for our Service Men and Women:

Carl Specht, Ella Pearson's grandsons Rob & Samuel Walker, Sherre Faulkner's nephew Rod Flom, Penny Pfile's nephew William Kerr II, Bob & Karen Lowery's grandson Steve Broomfield, Dorothy Bush's nephews Christian and Cody Bush, and Gabe McNames.

For those suffering loss:

Family and friends of Jenny, friends and family of Carol Miller.

Celebrations



Happy Birthday

11th: Carol Schmidt
13th: Cheri Saarinen
14th: Lynn Denham
25th: Jenell White



15 Art and Ellen Goldsworthy



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

President, Pam Novotnak
779-423-8093

Vice President, Dan King
815-494-3919

Secretary, Wendy Goldsworthy
815-389-3796

Treasurer, Amy Lynch
815-624-2433

Discipleship/Worship
Nancy Freedlund
815-624-6363

Facilities, Brad Mueller
815-218-2944

Fellowship, Sue Peterson
815-282-2715

Service, Kathy Leahy
815-243-0831

Stewardship, Sherre Faulkner
815-629-2200

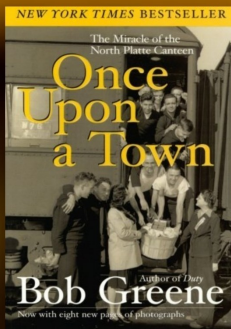
Witness, Lora Conrad
815-289-7171

*Please consider joining the Church Council. Open positions: **Discipleship Deacon, Worship Deacon.** Contact Dan King for information.

Book club for November



November 20th is our next meeting for lunch and fellowship.



Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen

by Bob Greene

New Church Office Hours

TBA: Please check your bulletins for updates



NOTE: December Newsletter articles due by November 18st by noon!

NOVEMBER Serving Schedule

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

| <u>WEEK BEGINNING 11/03/2024</u> | | <u>WEEK BEGINNING 11/17/2024</u> | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| AV | Darran Landenberger & Ava Lynch | AV | Stacy Diemel |
| ACOLYTE | Damon Lynch | ACOLYTE | Dan King |
| GREETERS | Greg Bartz & Nancy Freedlund | GREETERS | Debbie Tracy & Darran Landenberger |
| USHERS | Dan King & Pam Novotnak | USHERS | Jim Freedlund & Debbie Tracy |
| READER | Connor Diemel | READER | Andrew Langr |
| COMM ASST | Nancy Freedlund, Lora Conrad & Volunteer | COMM ASST | Steve Shrider, Richard Mackenthun, & Amy Lynch |
| COUNTERS | David Baird & Greg Bartz | COUNTERS | Sandy Buske & Dorothy Bush |
| <u>WEEK BEGINNING 11/10/2024</u> | | <u>WEEK BEGINNING 11/24/2024</u> | |
| AV | Stacy Diemel | AV | Kara Wallace |
| ACOLYTE | Greg Bartz | ACOLYTE | Ava Lynch |
| GREETERS | Steve & Denise Shrider | GREETERS | Nancy Freedlund & Pam Novotnak |
| USHERS | Jim Freedlund & Debbie Tracy | USHERS | Sherre Faulkner & Darran Landenberger |
| READER | Wendy Goldsworthy | READER | Andrew Langr |
| COMM ASST | Wendy Goldsworthy, Richard Mackenthun & Pam Novotnak | COMM ASST | Nancy Freedlund, Richard Mackenthun, & Lora Conrad |
| COUNTERS | Steve Shrider & Kara Wallace | COUNTERS | Kathy Leahy & Tom Lenhart |

Volunteers are needed for the 11:15 am worship services. A sign-up sheet is available in the church narthex.

Stock Pew Racks for November: Kara Wallace

Worship Schedule

**Sunday, November 3rd
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship**

**Sunday, November 17th
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship**

**Sunday, November 10th
9:00 am & 11:15 am Worship**

**Sunday, November 24th
10:30 am**



2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <p>The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to sow <u>FAITH IN CHRIST</u>, strengthen <u>FAMILIES</u>, serve our <u>COMMUNITIES</u>.</p> | | | | | 1 <i>Office Closed</i> | 2 Men's Group 7:00 am |
| 3 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Christian Education Hour 10:15 am | 4 Prayer Group 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer Gathering 10:30 am | 5 Election Day <i>Office Closed</i> | 6 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am – 12:30 pm | 7 10:30 am-3:30 pm Ann. Co-op | 8 <i>Office Closed</i> | 9 <i>Fellowship hall not available</i> |
| 10 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am | 11 Prayer Group 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer Gathering 10:30am | 12 Rockton Quilt Group 6:15 pm – 9:00 pm Council Meeting 6:30pm | 13 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Altar Guild 6:30 pm | 14 10:30 am-3:30 pm Ann. Co-op | 15 <i>Office Closed</i> | 16 Men's Group 7:00 am |
| 17 Worship 9:00 am & 11:15 am Education Hour 10:15 am | 18 Prayer Group 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer Gathering 10:30 am | 19 Mary Rachel Circle 1:00 pm Naomi Circle 1:00 pm | 20 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Book club 12:00 pm | 21 10:30 am-3:30 pm Ann. Co-op | 22 <i>Office Closed</i> | 23 |
| 24 Worship 10:30 am (only one service) | 25 Prayer Group 9:30 am Intercessory Prayer Gathering 10:30 am | 26 | 27 C.A.L.M. Coffee Club 9:30 am – 12:30 pm | 28 Happy Thanksgiving! | 29 <i>Office Closed</i> | 30 |
| <p>Thanksgiving Break</p> | | | | | | |

Events and the Community



Fall Clean-up 2024



Service Award presentation for Brad Mueller



Rockton Trick-or-Treat



Thank you for supporting your community!



Upcoming Events and Calls to Action

November

Operation Christmas Child:

We will be participating in the shoebox project for Samaritan's Purse. Donations are currently being accepted. Final collection date: **November 17th.**

Mary Rachel Circle:

The Circle is accepting contributions for military members during the month of November. You may designate contributions in the offering trays or the basket in the narthex.

November 24th

Hanging of the Greens:

This is a departure from our usual fifth Sunday. After the service, join in decorating the sanctuary for Advent. This will be followed by a Thanksgiving themed POTLUCK. Watch for the sign-up sheet and bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish.

Collecting Christmas Lights: Stewardship Committee will be collecting non-working Christmas lights beginning November 24th. The recycling container will be in the narthex until January 5th. After that they will be send to Belson Steel, Kankakee, IL.

One service:

November 24th will only have one worship service at 10:30 am. Please join us afterwards for the Hanging of the Greens with food and fellowship.

December 7th

Gingerbread Lane Cookie Walk: Back by popular demand, Gingerbread Lane Cookie Walk, sponsored by Naomi Circle, is returning this year on Saturday, December from 9 am to 11 am. This is an opportunity for all who love to bake to join in the festivities of the holiday season. This event is only for PoP families and will not be part of the Rockton Christmas Walk.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2336 Freeport Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Phone: 815-624-2115
E-mail: info@poprockton.com
Web page: www.poprockton.com
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 & 11:15 am
Fellowship Hour: Sunday 10:15 am
LCMC Website: www.lcmc.net

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November 2024