



PRINTS OF PEACE

The Monthly Church Newsletter of
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
802 EAST DOUGLAS STREET – ST. JOSEPH, ILLINOIS – 61873-9026

217/469-7422



NALC
North American Lutheran Church

WWW.POPSTJOE.COM

December 2017

Serving at Prince of Peace

Ministers:

All Members

Pastor:

+ The Rev. Seth J. Jersild

Director of Christian Education:

+Shane Remington

Church Office:

+ Lori Bensyl,
Secretary

Service Times

+ Saturday, 5:00 PM
+ Sunday, 9:00 AM

Sunday School

+ September – May
+ Class, 10:30-11:15 AM
+ Adults - Main Sanctuary

2017 Congregation Officers:

+ Roger Koss,
President
+ Mike Wallace,
Vice President
+ Leslie Froeschl,
Secretary
+ Ryan Fisher,
Treasurer

MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a family of
believers, united to
know Christ, and to
make him known.*

KIDSZONE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DECEMBER 17TH



Our KidsZone youths will present a Christmas program during worship on Sunday, December 17th. We thank our KidsZone teachers and students for all the time and effort they are putting into preparing this special day of worship for us!



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT PRINCE OF PEACE: 6:00 p.m.

A candlelight worship service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th, to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. Come and join your congregation in giving thanks to God for the precious gift of his Son on this holy night.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

We will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the East Fellowship Hall to celebrate Christmas Day (Monday the 25th) with a service of Holy Communion and many Christmas carols. Come and sing praises to the Newborn King!



Christmas Day
Worship Service



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHURCHES: Living Word Family Church in Saint Joseph is holding an emergency preparedness educational event for churches on **Friday, December 1st from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** All are invited to attend. Please let Pastor Seth know if you will be coming. Living Word is located at 1000 Park Avenue in St. Joseph.



**CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP DINNER
FOR SATURDAY WORSHIPERS:
DECEMBER 16TH**

All members and visitors who regularly attend the Saturday worship services are invited to enjoy a Christmas Fellowship Dinner immediately following worship on Saturday, December 16th (about 6:00 p.m.) Main courses and drinks will be provided; if you would like to bring a side dish or a dessert, that would be great! Please sign up if you are coming when the sign-up sheet becomes available. Come and enjoy the fellowship and good food as we prepare to celebrate Christmas!

**"BLUE CHRISTMAS" WORSHIP SERVICE,
THURSDAY DECEMBER 21ST, 7:00 p.m.**

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations can make parties and joviality difficult during the holiday season. On Thursday, December 21st (the longest night of the year), Prince of Peace will hold a "Blue Christmas" service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. which focuses on the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. The service will be reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope through the promise of God which has come into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Keep this service in mind for that friend, family member or neighbor who is going through a hard time right now, and invite them to come with you!

**SALT AND LIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED,
TUESDAY DECEMBER 12TH:** Salt and Light Ministries is working towards the Grand Opening of their new location in Urbana in December. They are in need of volunteers to help them organize for the opening! If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Seth as soon as possible (255-2118). They would like to know how many people from Prince of Peace will be coming. We will meet at the new location at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12th. The address is 1819 S. Philo Road in Urbana. For information on Salt and Light's ministry and philosophy, go to www.saltandlightministry.org. They are a great organization and a blessing to our community. We hope you can come!



**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT BIBLE
STUDY**

Everyone is encouraged to attend our Wednesday night bible classes; you can jump in any time! We meet at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Sunday School room. Our discussion schedule for the remainder of 2017 will be as follows:
December 6: Ephesians chapters 1-2
December 13: Ephesians chapters 3-4
December 20: Ephesians chapters 5-6

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:
DEALING WITH GRIEF –**

The death of a loved one is painful at any time, but the shorter days of winter and approaching holidays can be especially challenging, whether our loss is recent or one that occurred years ago. Join Melissa Idleman for a 4 week discussion of grief and mourning. Where is God in our suffering? Will it always hurt this much? How can I support and encourage others who are dealing with loss? The adult Sunday School class is a safe place for conversation and sharing. Class begins in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. and will meet on December 3, 10, and 17th. All are welcome!

**EAT, PRAY, CARDS:
WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.**

Each Wednesday, you are invited to meet in the newly revamped Sunday School room for a light brunch, a brief devotion led by Pastor Seth, and a few rounds of cards. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday (except for December 20th and 27th this month).

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

As we enter the Advent-Christmas holiday season, I want to lift up the word **incarnation**. It's an awesome word which basically means "in the flesh." Christianity is unique in that we believe and proclaim that Jesus was God in the flesh. He was fully human and fully God at the same time.

Why did God become fully human? He did it because he loved us, and because he always wants to be with us. It has been his plan from the beginning of creation to live with us in the flesh forever (Rev. 21:22). When Jesus came into the world bringing the Kingdom of God with him, the world rejected him. We tried to kick Jesus out. We killed him, but he rose from the dead in order to be in the flesh with us forever. Why did we try to kick him out? The power of sin makes us reject God in the flesh. Incarnation means God is too close to us, and that his living voice will actually make a difference in our daily lives. Instead, we want our own space apart from God, where we choose how we live according to our feelings, our likes and dislikes. We don't want to have to answer to anyone outside ourselves. So we prefer to keep God out of the flesh, or *disembodied*. We want a purely "spiritual" god, like the gods of other religions. It's a way we try to maintain space for ourselves in this world apart from the Holy Trinity.

Unfortunately, as we try to live in our own space, we start to experience a kind of slavery: slavery to our work, to our obligations, to the "powers that be," to our own choices and desires, and even to some of our closest relationships. We aren't built to give ourselves life. No other human being—including our families—can give us the life we need, either. So, when we try to go it alone in our own space, we constantly feel our little space shrinking. The fear of death begins to rule over us. As believers, we know that that uncomfortable feeling is actually from God. He never gives up on us. Even when we give him the cold shoulder, he will use the daily pressures of our lives to try to turn us around so we can look at him face-to-face. He doesn't want us to miss the One who has come into this world in the flesh to give us new life in the middle of death. We were meant to be united with him, in a face-to-face, personal relationship.

The good news is, God would rather not "muscle in" to our lives. He doesn't want us to experience him as judgment and pressure coming through our work, our obligations, the government, our wrong choices and our troubled relationships. He knows that sinful human beings tend to turn away from external pressure. Tragically, we will choose death before giving in to him, as long as we feel him as a power of coercion (law). So, there's a new way he's reaching us, since the first Christmas. He is now *incarnate*. The resurrection confirms that nothing—not even the power of death—will keep God from living in the flesh with us forever. He is close to us. We can turn to him and meet him now, and see him for who he is, face to face. We see God's true face in Jesus.

Where does this "in the flesh" meeting take place nowadays? Through the *body of Christ*, the Church. Since Easter, God chooses to come to us enfleshed in other people. He wants us to be free to respond to his call and his invitation, so he meets us on our level. He doesn't want to force anything on us, so he invites us to faith through other people who are just as small and flawed and as messed-up as we are. God continues to work *in the flesh*. As the Church, we share our gifts with each other: the living Word of scripture, the sacraments, our love and support for each other. He sends us out into the world to invite strangers into his body. Through these earthly vessels and everyday people, God reaches people with his invitation: "come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." If God is not working through flesh, then none of this happens. Christianity without embodiment is just another religious idea we carry around in our heads—and that space, cut off from the living Word, is shrinking.

A lot of things in our world today are working to separate us from the incarnation of God. We are tempted, more and more, to try and take God out of the body. Our screens (computers, smart-phones and etc.) are great tools, but as much as they are connecting us data-wise, they are also isolating us from living relationships with other human beings. They make it possible for us to go a long time without direct human interaction. They often enable us to bypass the "bother" of groups and to plug ourselves directly into the show we want. The

Church is slowly adjusting to conquer this new reality. We need to adjust; there is more work to do than ever. For one thing, all Christians need to understand that the way they act and speak—even in the most trivial of situations—can have a much farther-reaching impact than it used to. For example, when one Christian says something snide about another person in the context of church, it is more likely they will drive ten others away from the church for good. In our modern context, people shut each other out very quickly and quickly go to their private space. So we have a bigger responsibility as believers to be the people 1st John tells us to be: loving, welcoming, and inviting towards strangers, to be less clique-ish, and to be more gracious with the people we've known for a long time. We have to understand that we are literally called to be the body of Christ. Christ wants to work through our flesh. This is how new people come to know him, and old friends grow in love and faith together.

During this Advent-Christmas season, I encourage you to think about 1) ways we are tempted to take God out of the body, and 2) the ways that Christ truly embodies himself in our lives. Church attendance, regular observance of the Sabbath, bible discussion, loving service, outreach to strangers, care and support for people in need, and encouragement to other believers—all of these are ways that Jesus embodies himself in the world through what we do today. We do all of this so well at Prince of Peace! We are truly blessed as a congregation to have so many humble people who are willing to pour themselves out in love for others so that we can experience the joy, peace, and life of our Lord more fully in our congregation. They are just being thankful, and they probably don't realize it, but we can glimpse the kingdom of God in what they do.

Let's let go of our shrinking personal spaces, and welcome the Lord in the flesh. The Incarnate Word continues to break into our lives to shake us from our easy certainties. He comes to give us what our hearts are yearning for: full, joyful communion with the Holy Trinity right here and now. This Christmas, let's welcome him for real, in the flesh.

Christmas blessings to you all!
-Pastor Seth



Pastor Jersild is available to Prince of Peace church members at all times. Monday is his designated day off; but do not hesitate to call him in case of emergency. His cell phone number is 217-255-2118 and his church email address is pastor.seth.jj@gmail.com. His cell phone number—voice or text—is the quickest way to reach him.

Our church secretary, Lori Bensyl, is in the office **every morning, Monday through Friday**. You can reach Lori at the church office at 217-469-7422, or email her at lori.bensyl@popstjoe.com. Lori will relay phone and email messages to Pastor promptly.

If you leave a message on the church answering machine in the early afternoon, it may not be heard till later when Pastor comes back from visits and/or comes in for meetings in the evening. Just call him on his cell phone if you want no delay!

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE:



Pastor Jersild visits hospitalized and homebound members of our congregation on a regular basis, and is available at all times to meet with you. Monday is his designated day off, but he is always available in case of emergency. If you know of anyone who is hospitalized or who needs help, please let Pastor Seth know by calling him on his cell phone (255-2118) or at church (469-7422).



KidsZone

KIDSSZONE SUNDAY CLASSES! All youths aged pre-K through 6th grade meet in the West Fellowship Hall after worship. After singing together, the children break into three separate groups (pre-K-K; grades 123, grades 456) for the rest of class. Parents, please pick your children up at 11:15 in their separate classrooms!

KIDSSZONE LEADERS' SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:

December 3 (Session 11)

Song Leader: Stacy Fisher

Attendance: Lindsay Beeler

Offerings: Darci Wilson

Opening Prayer: Tracey Mathis

PreK-2nd Discussion Leader: Tracey Mathis

3-6 Discussion Leader: Mary Benoit

Pre-K-2nd Crew Leaders: Darci Wilson and Katrina Hueber

3-6 Crew Leader: Carmine Dwyer

December 12 (Session 12)

Song Leader: Stacy Fisher

Attendance: Lindsay Beeler

Offerings: Darci Wilson

PreK-2nd Discussion Leader: Open as of Nov. 15th

456 Breakout Discussion Leader: Open as of Nov. 15th

PreK-2nd Crew Leader: Nichole Jones

3-6 Crew Leaders: Darci Wilson and Sherrill Mohr

POP 4/5/6

The POP 456 kids will be getting to spread some Christmas cheer on December 17th, after church. We will be heading out to the homes of some of the elderly in our congregation and a few local nursing homes to sing some Christmas Carols. Parents are welcome to join us for this fun event!

Confirmation

The Confirmation Students will be serving with Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries in December. We will be going over to Rantoul on Saturday, December 9th, to help them pick out gifts for kids and then wrap them. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM and will be returning at about 1:00 PM.



HIGH SCHOOL:

BAKED GOODS AUCTION!

It is December and it is finally time for the Bake Goods Fundraiser for the 2018 Workcamp Trip. The sale will be held on December 3rd during the Sunday School hour, starting at 10:15 AM, in the East Fellowship Hall. If you are a baking wiz, we would love to have your baked goods to sell! For everyone that is going on the Workcamp trip, it is very important that you are there to help with the sale of the baked goods. This fundraiser is a real TREAT!

On Wednesday, December 20th, we will be having the High School Christmas party from 6:00-9:00 PM. We will be having supper together, playing a bunch of games, and read the Christmas Story. Please bring a \$5-10 wrapped gift to take part in the White Elephant gift exchange.

The Christmas Party will be the last time we have YGG until January.



WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR:

- +**Gerald Sappenfield**, for representing Prince of Peace at the Great Rivers Mission District Conference on October 28th.
- +**Pastor Donna Smith** for leading the "Great Figures of the New Testament" Sunday adult class in October and November.
- +**Melissa Idleman** for leading the "Facing Grief" Sunday adult class in November and December.
- +**Our Confirmation Parents**, who do such a great job supporting their children in their church studies and activities.
- +**Members of the Landscape Committee**, for their hard work keeping our church grounds so beautiful throughout the year.
- +**Lisa Wallace, Janice Koss, Stephanie Gilliland, Lori Stewart, Lisa Wallace, Sarah Olson, and Renee Osterbur** for their important work serving on the Board of Managers for the Early Learning Center.
- +**All** who support the continuing mission of our congregation through regular worship, prayer, financial giving, evangelism, fellowship, and service for Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU, PRINCE OF PEACE!

Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift of \$1,215.83 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are providing emotional and spiritual care, supplying emergency relief, and addressing long-term recovery.

With your gifts you are making possible the support of unmet needs, the coordinating of volunteers in the United States through our local affiliates, and the promoting of disaster risk-reduction internationally, expanding knowledge and ability.

Thank you for this gift and all your faithful generous gifts. Thank you for encouraging others to learn, act, pray and give with you. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

In God's grace,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

WE COMMEND INTO ETERNAL LIFE...

+A graveside service was held for **Thelma Hastings**, the mother of Mike and Vicky, in Decatur on October 26th.



Baptism

BAPTISMS IN NOVEMBER

+ **Kyler Grayson Walls**, the son of Kendric and Christine, was baptized at Prince of Peace on Saturday, November 11.



Thank you
Prince of Peace
for your

contributions to the St. Joseph Food Pantry during this holiday season. Your generous donations helped supply the pantry with 55 meals-in-a-bag as well as 90 bags and boxes of additional food and necessities for our neighbors in need. Altogether Prince of Peace donated 1,737 pounds of food and household supplies! Thank you!!!!

WOMEN'S COFFEE AND PRAYER

Need a midweek dose of powerful prayer? How about support from other women who are ready to listen?

All women are invited to Geschenk Coffee and Tea Haus, 228 East Lincoln, in St. Joseph, on Wednesdays at 7 AM. Each week we'll hear a word of scripture, pray together and inspire one another for a new day -- all while sharing delicious morning coffee or tea -- and you'll still be in time for work or school! See you there!

**OFFERING / BOOKKEEPING
INFORMATION FOR 2017
YEAR END**

Before we know it, we will be at the close of 2017! Please be sure to get your receipts in on time for reimbursement by mid December, if possible, so we are sure to get a check cut before year end. In the same manner, sometimes we have members who wish to make an offering for the end of the year to be included on their financial giving report. If you plan to do this, please have your offering into the church office by 9:00 AM on Thursday, December 28, so that we can process the proper paperwork to get your offering in the records for 2017.



Classroom of the Month -- Green Frog 4/5 year olds

The Green Frogs have been very busy doing lots of learning! So far we have learned all the short vowel sounds, nine consonants, number concepts to 6, and letter blends with the vowels. We have also memorized 9 Bible verses and are getting ready to start the Bible stories in the New Testament.

On Halloween morning we started practicing our songs for our Christmas program on December 14th. The children are getting excited about singing the 'long songs' this year.

Our class is very busy throughout our day with free playing, circle time, playing with friends, playing outside, writing letters and numbers, singing, and playing some more. They are looking forward to learning to read their own booklets starting next month, too.

We want to wish all our friends and family a Very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Ms. Darla and Ms. Paula, Green Frog Room Teachers

Miss Ashley made the Employee Honor Roll!

Thank you, Ms. Ashley, for being very dependable and helping us when we need you!

Ashley has been employed with Prince of Peace since April of 2017. She loves working with children every day, learning new ways to connect with them and teach them the best of her ability.

Miss Ashley has 3 children, Evan, Ella, and Emilia. She is from Charleston and she currently lives in Fithian. She has one sister Tara and one nephew Jackson. Her birthday is on October 6th, her favorite color green, and she loves rooting for the Chicago Cubs!

Her favorite restaurant is Red Lobster. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend Dennis. She loves doing things with her friends, shopping, and eating out!

Thanks again, Miss Ashley!

Ms. Shelbie made the Employee Honor Roll!

Ms. Shelbie is a floater teacher. She enjoys sharing new experiences with the kids and watching their reactions to learning new things.

She is a very important part of Prince of Peace!

Ms. Shelbie's Fun Facts:

Ms. Shelbie's birthday is on August 13th. She is from Oakwood and lives in Danville. She lives with her husband Tyler and son Atlas. ☺

Her favorite color is blue and her favorite place to eat is El Toro. She enjoys binge watching shows on Netflix, hula-hooping, cooking, spending time with her family, and DIY on Pinterest. She says she loves the relationships she gets to share with the children. Seeing them get excited to see her makes her so happy.

Be sure to tell Ms. Shelbie, "Thank you!", when you see her!

Director: Diane Williams popcelcdirector@comcast.net
Assistant Director: Jennifer Nirider popcelcad@outlook.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR---

There is nothing like a group of four year olds to bring one down to normal size. ---Dorcia Zavitkosky

Grace, a retired librarian, comes weekly to her daughter Josie's classroom to read and tell stories to a group of four year olds. Today she reads The Little Engine that Could and then tells about the traveling she has done by train through high mountains and many miles. When the story is over, kids begin to ask questions all at once. Grace asks them to raise their hands, so they would each get a turn to talk. She calls on Leslie, who had listened intently, her eyes riveted on Grace all through the story. Leslie asks, "Do you know you have a lot of wrinkles?" Surprised, Grace thinks quickly about how to stay on topic of trains and travel. "Yes, but they're really adventure lines," she answers. The Jackie, sitting next to Leslie, pipes, "Maybe you shouldn't a'venture so much."

Your "You-gotta-love-em" attitude is precious to kids because it allows them to learn by being openly curious and candid, which is natural to them.



STEWARDSHIP



Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church

Winston Churchill reportedly said that **“we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”**

According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.



of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said **“It is more**

blessed to give than to receive”
(Acts 20:35).

lcms.org

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas



Ladies Day Out

The Ladies Day Out group will meet at Monical's in St. Joseph at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 11.

All ladies are welcome to attend. Please email Donna Weaver at jjake66@aol.com or phone 377-2728 if you would like to come. After the lunch at Monical's, we will come back to the church to send out cards, if necessary.

New Women's Bible Study – Love Rules; A Study of the Ten Commandments by Christina Hergenrader Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm beginning January 2nd

“What do the Ten Commandments do for you? Do they send you on a guilt trip? Are they a mirror of your frailties? Or do they hold life-changing love? The miracle of the Commandments is that even after thousands of years, they still hold everything we need to live in relationship with God and with one another.

The forty short chapters in Love Rules are shards of real, gritty life. In this women's Bible study, you will see yourself and how pride, insecurity, grudges, and coveting damage relationships. Love Rules tells the story of spiritual transformation, shows how God wants us to love better, and helps us see how we can. This Bible study addresses one commandment each week, then follows up with four devotions that approach the topic from different angles.”

January 2nd is discussion of the first commandment. No homework. Interesting conversation. And, chocolate. Bring a friend! Questions? Contact Melissa Idleman – 469-2786 or melissa.idleman@comcast.net.

The **Altar Flower Sign up sheet for 2018** has been posted outside Lori's office. Flowers are \$20 per vase, if you are interested in signing up.

Annual Report Information

All reports that need to be published in the Annual Report are due in the church office by Friday, January 5, 2018. You may email them to Lori at lori.bensyl@popstjoe.com.

POPS PLUS EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

POPs PLUS is a friendly group of older Prince of Peace members who get together monthly for fellowship, good food, and interesting activities. All are welcome and encouraged to come and enjoy our nice gatherings! Below is a list of people who have volunteered to plan POPS PLUS events in 2018. You'll notice that we still have three months open! If you'd like to sign up to plan an event in February, March, or October of 2018, please call Lori or Pastor Seth at the church office (469-7422) today and let them know!

JANUARY: Green

FEBRUARY: _____

MARCH: _____

APRIL: DeWeese

MAY: Carmichael

JUNE: Taeger

JULY: Sappenfield

AUGUST: Behrens/Weaver

SEPTEMBER: LeRette

OCTOBER: _____

NOVEMBER: Green/Sappenfield



Christmas 'Angel' Tree

Gifts for DCFS Wards of Champaign County

Would you like to give a **GIFT OF LOVE** to a less fortunate child? You can help by:

- ★ Selecting an ornament from the Christmas tree in the narthex (boy or girl 8 or older.)
- ★ Purchasing a gift or gift card for the child/youth.
- ★ Returning the unwrapped gift – with the tag from the tree attached – to the box in the narthex by Sunday, Dec. 17.

Any questions, please call Pamela Wendt at 202-9506.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Penny Bates Sherry Bivens Lucille Conrad Bev Goldenstein Mike Hastings
Katrina Hueber Linda Johnson Tom Long

Don Alsip; father of Michelle Trame
Anna Lee Bouslog; mother of Annette Ackerman
Dalton Brownfield; son of Lee Jannusch
Christine Brucker; mother of Stacy Fisher
Danny Carter; brother-in-law of Barb & Paul Swinford
Sandy Cheek; friend of Joyce Kesler
Betty Clark; mother of Teresa Clark
Ted Collins
Josh Conrad; nephew of Lucille Conrad and Donna Guzy
Sonja Cully; friend of Wendt family
Joseph D'Antonio; father of Nichole Jones
Debbie Ellis; friend of Sherrill Mohr
Stephanie Erickson; friend of PoP members
Chuck Evans; brother of Dee Evans
Donna Ferguson; mother of Gary Ferguson
Jeff Finis & family; friends of Paul & Barb Swinford
Twila Freeman; friend of Gerry Windler
Owen Giertz; nephew of Ed and Tonya Dunn
Bill Gilbreath; brother of Nancy Bishop
Roger Grace; friend of Terri Modd and Mary Rolfe
Mike Halbach; father of Michelle Shaw
Linda Halleck; friend of Micki Suits
Jason Holt; friend of POP members
Phil Hudson; brother of Pam Franzen
Gayle Jannusch; daughter-in-law of Mardella Jannusch
Mike Kerner; friend of the Pence family
Shaun Knipfer; cousin of Susi Huls
Cheryl Kopmann; mother of Kari, Kelli and Kristi
Leah McDowell; cousin of Terri Modd & Mary Rolfe
Marcia McQueen; friend of Annette & Rick Ackerman
Pete Meier; father of Melissa Idleman
Lowell and Ellen Mennenga
Ryan and Heather Miller; co-workers of Jason Emmert

Dan Mills; father of Greg Mills
Sam Morris; son in law of Jim and Dea Taeger
Jean Motsinger; sister of Ray Moorhous
Suellyn Norton; friend of Tom and Doris Long
Dottie Olson; mother of Gary Olson
Earl & Carole Olson, parents of Debi Johnson
Heidi Ostrowski; niece of Norris Schlueter & Verna Hasty
John Otloe; uncle of Doug Wendt
Rex Phillips; friend of Tom & Sue Grindley
Bryan Pinaire; friend of Greg and Sadie Immke
Murelle Plotner; grand-daughter of Paula Plotner
Barbara Reinhold; sister of Bev Goldenstein
Mildred Rincker; mother of Sharan Carmichael
Glenn Rothermel; father of Susan Allen
Bob Rudolph; father of Rob Rudolph
Arcie Sapato; grandfather of Shelley Altenbaumer
Josh Stone; co-worker of Susi Huls
Jeff Welch; friend of PoP members

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

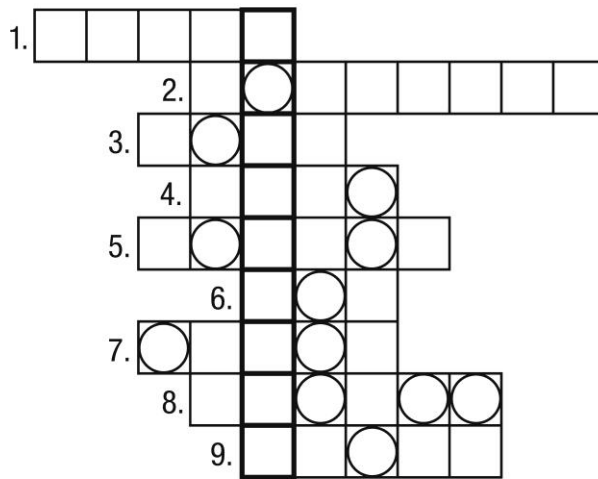
+**Shane Remington**, our Director of Christian Education, in his service to the families of our congregation.
+**Pastor Matt Bahnfleth** as he begins his ministry with the people of American Lutheran Church in Rantoul.
+The **pastors** of all the Saint Joseph Christian congregations: **Jud Travis, Scott Millis, Gene Turner, and Seth Jersild.**
+**The North American Lutheran Seminary**, the official training and educational institution for pastors of our national church.
+**The North American Lutheran Church**, as we grow in our outreach and mission for Christ.
+**The Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Mekane Yesu**, our full communion church partner in east Africa.
+**Jonathan and Carrie Federwitz** and their children, **Nathan, Julia, Leah** and **Rachel**, as they serve the mission of the Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua, New Guinea.
+**Matthew Sims**, who is teaching English in China and preparing to begin his pastoral education.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Kambri and Lee Austin Friends of Ryley Smith and Smith family – Stationed in Vista, CA
Erin Bensyl Daughter of Fred and Trini Bensyl – Stationed in Fort Hood, TX
Robert Brown Stationed in California
MiReena Burris Niece of Mike and Lee Jannusch – Marine Corp, deployed to Middle East
Kendal Coffey Friend of Steve and Rhonda Littlefield – Stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Matthew Collins Friend of Dale and June Kopmann – Stationed in Fort Campbell, KY
Amy Crane Grand-daughter of Nettie Henry – Stationed at Crane Naval Base, Indiana
Don Cribbett Nephew of Connie Bensyl & Donna Weaver – Stationed at Fort Campbell, KY
Daylan Evans Son of Sara (Evans) & Travis Baker – Stationed at Quantico, Virginia
Tyler Foster Friend of Steve and Leslie Froeschl – Stationed at Cannon AFB, NM
Matthew Giertz Brother of Tonya Dunn – Stationed at Charleston, WV
Traverse Jarman Nephew of Melissa Idleman – Stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX
Jesus Olmedo Nephew of Miguel Lucio – Stationed in Japan
Jose Orozco Nephew of Miguel Lucio – In training for the Marine Corp
Josh Reynolds Nephew of Mike and Lee Jannusch – Stationed at Whiteman AFB, MO
Tommy Rohl Friend of the Gary Olson family – Stationed at Fort Campbell, KY
Dyllan Trautmann Grandson of Gerald and Darlene Sappenfield – Stationed in Eglin AFB, Florida

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth