



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, the one whose birth we prepare to celebrate.

St. Luke wrote, "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.(2:6-7) While the Christmas story centers on the birth of the Christ Child, Paul Harvey told the story of a man and the birds which is often repeated on Christmas. The story captures the meaning of God becoming one of us. The following is the story that he relayed to his radio listeners:

*The man I'm going to tell you about was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family and upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe in all of that incarnation stuff that the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, about God coming to Earth as a man.*

*He told his wife I'm truly sorry to distress you, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said he would feel like a hypocrite and that he would much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. So he stayed and they went to the midnight service.*

*Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then he went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.*

*Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another ... and then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against the living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled outside miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. That is what had been making the sound.*

*Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures just lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter. All he would have to do is to direct the birds into the shelter.*

*Quickly, he put on a coat and galoshes and he tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light so the birds would know the way in. But the birds did not come in.*

*So, he figured that food would entice them. He hurried back to the house and fetched some bread crumbs. He sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail of bread crumbs to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs.*

*The birds continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them but could not. He tried shooping them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction ... every direction except into the warm lighted barn.*

*And that's when he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Any move he made tended to frighten them and confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooped because they feared him.*

*He thought to himself, if only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm ... to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see ... and hear ... and understand.*

*At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind.*

*He stood there listening to the bells, Adeste Fidelis, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.*

*And he sank to his knees in the snow ...*

Reread the story of the man and the birds and remember that our God sent His Son into our world to reveal to us His love. Jesus was one of us. He experienced all that we experienced, pain, sorrow, joy, laughter, family and friends. In Jesus we have One who understands what we go through and can come to our side in time of need. He speaks to us through His Word, He lays claim to us through the waters of Baptism and offers Himself to us in Holy Communion. This is our God, He understands what we go through but also has the power to help in every time of need. The joy and peace of Christmas centers on our gracious God and the gift of His precious Son, Jesus, Christ our Lord and Savior.

On behalf Barb, Joy and Steve, Myka, Joslyn, we wish you a blessed Christmas. May the hope, joy, peace and love of Christmas be yours now and always.

In Christ,  
Pastor J. K. Raether

*Pastor Raether*

His Ways Are Not Our Ways

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels with "... the glory of the Lord [shining] around them ..." They heard the message the angels brought: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord ... You will find a baby ... lying in a manger" (Luke 2:9,10). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. "When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? "All who heard it were amazed," Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and "spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child."

God wants all believers to be willing to tell others what He is doing in their lives. He exhorts us to proclaim the Gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world.

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Class will conclude the Max Lucado Bible study "Tame Your Thoughts: with two sessions in December. We will meet on December 3 and 10. The Wednesday Morning Bible Class will resume on January 7, 2026, at 10:00am. The topic of this study will be announced in the bulletin later in December.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

The Advent season for 2025 begins on November 30th which is the First Sunday in Advent. The sermons for the Sunday's in Advent will be based upon the Gospel lessons appointed for the day. The reading focus on the coming Messiah as we prepare to celebrate His birth. The theme for each Sunday in Advent and December are the following:

Nov. 30	Advent I	Matthew 21:1-11- "Who is This Man?"
Dec. 7	Advent II	Matthew 3:1-12- "Are You Ready" Pastor Haney from the District Office will lead our worship and may change the theme.
Dec. 14	Advent III	Matthew 11:2-15 -"Waiting Without Wondering" Holy Communion will be celebrated
Dec. 21	Advent IV	Matthew 1:18-25 – "Nothing to Figure Out"
Dec. 28	Christmas 1	Galatians 4:4-7 – "A Son and Heir of God" Holy Communion will be celebrated

### MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP "Every Heart Prepare"

The theme for this year's Midweek Advent services is "Every Heart Prepare." We begin to decorate and prepare for Christmas in November and early December. We spend hours putting up lights and ornaments. The Christmas tree is put up and eventually there are presents under the tree. These decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation of Christmas.

Advent is the church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we will reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the crèche. Then, on Christmas, we will focus on the wrapped presents, which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. Our Midweek Advent Services will be held at 1:00PM on Wednesdays. The schedule including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is as follows:

Dec. 3	Midweek Advent I – "Decorations: Evergreens" Revelations 22:1-2
Dec, 10	Midweek Advent II – "Decorations: Lights" Isaiah 9:2
Dec. 17	Midweek Advent III – "Decorations: "Crèche" Matthew 1:18
Dec, 24	Christmas Eve 7:00 PM – "Wrapped Gifts" Luke 2:11
Dec. 25	Christmas Day 10:00 AM – "God Became Flesh" John1:14 – Holy Communion Celebrated

### ADVENT HYMN SING

Prince of Peace is hosting a special Advent Hymn Sing" on Wednesday December 17th at 7:00 pm. LC-MS pastors from the Fort Dodge area will each deliver a brief message. The service will include favorite Christmas hymns and Carols. You are encouraged to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this special evening as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Prince of Peace will have no New Year's Eve Worship, as is past custom. You are invited to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul Lutheran for their New Year's Eve service on December 31. The service with Holy Communion will be at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to join your Brothers and Sisters in Christ and bid farewell to 2025 and welcome in 2026.

THE ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING  
December 14, 2025

The Annual Voters Meeting will be held following our worship service on December 14th. The agenda includes the following: the Election of officers; the 2026 budget; the Foundation Report, and an update on the vacancy and call process.

FUNERALS

The month of November saw the Lord calling to Himself in heaven the souls of three members from Prince of Peace Lutheran:

- FLORENCE A. SANDGREN, 91—Called home to be with the Lord on November 1, All Saints Day. The service celebrating her life was held on November 5, at Prince of Peace.
- CAROL A. LOCKE, 83- Called home to be with the Lord on November 17. The service celebrating her life was held on November 21 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.
- JUDY K. DOROTHY, 72 - Called home to be with the Lord on November 17. The service celebrating her life was held on November 22 at Laufersweiler Funeral Home.

A special thank you to the ladies of Prince of Peace who faithfully provided cakes and refreshments for the services. We thank them for serving the three funerals.

We thank Larry Hughes for coordinating and everyone who helped with the set up for each funeral. We thank you for your prayers during this hectic time.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CALL OF A PASTOR

The following is a summary of the information that we received concerning the calling process for our Dual Parish. FIRST there will be a pre-call meeting and the forming the call committee which will be made up of two members from Prince of Peace and also St. Paul Lutheran. SECOND: A pre-call meeting to be held on Sunday January, 4th after the 10:45 service at St. Paul (this is a tentative date). The purpose of this meeting is to review the pastoral call and the pastoral office, outline the process of putting together a call list, discuss the timetable for the call process, and the beginning of the congregational self-study process. THIRD: After this meeting the congregations may submit the names of eligible pastors for the call list. The district president then reviews the list, adds names and presents the list to the call committee for review. FOURTH: Once the call list has been received from the District President and reviewed by the Call Committee. Then a Call Meeting is announced and then at a joint call meeting of St. Paul Lutheran and Prince Of Peace Lutheran, the parish decides to call a pastor from the call list. FIFTH: Pastors typically take 2-6 weeks to prayerfully consider a call when one is extended.

Board of Education

November 5, 2025

**Members:** Jill Davis, Sue Macek, Pastor Raether

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm. Pastor opened with prayer. October minutes were approved as written

**Library:** We have a new book, "Why I Trust the Bible" by William P. Mounce. He is a past member of the ESV translation Team and current member of the NIV translation Team. He gives answers to real questions and doubts people have about the Bible. This book is a clear guide to help readers understand why they can trust the Bible.

**St. Paul:** None

**Catechism and Sunday School report:** We are learning the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer. After the conclusion to the Lord's Prayer our next study will be the Books of the Bible. Our attendance has expanded to seven.

**Family Fellowship report:** We had an enjoyable brunch in October. We served around 30 members. The children made a pumpkin craft while the adults brainstormed answers on Luther and the Reformation.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** They are studying Max Lucado's "Tame Your Thoughts". He explores three key thought management tools and then applies them to the common thought problems - anxiety, guilt, rejection, and others. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Cradle Roll:** Kari continues to reach out to baptized children.

**Old Business:** None

**New business:** The Sunday School children will not be able to participate in a Christmas Service this December.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm. Next meeting is December 3rd.

Sue Macek  
Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

October 2, 2025

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on October 2 at 1:00 p.m. Nine members attended the meeting. Pastor Raether began the meeting with prayer. Sally Zuspenn called the October meeting to order. Missy Huseman presented the mites devotion with Psalms 131 and Mites Prayer. The minutes of September 2 were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

### Old Business

**Rally Sunday Prince of Peace:** Twenty-Six attended and guest speaker, Dani Rogers from S.A.L.T. center. Suggestion that S.A.L.T. be possible 2026 Mission.

### New Business

**Honoring Pastor:** Women's Fellowship honored Pastor Raether with a card and gift. Sally Zuspenn gave a prayer, "Prayer of Ministry".

**October 10 Set up time for Quilt/ Craft/Bake Sale: 1 P.M.** Vickty Escobedo handed out sign up sheet for Quilt/Craft/Bake sale. Baked and craft items need to be priced when bringing them on Friday.

**October 11 – Quilt/Craft/Bake Sale:** Time: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Mission: D/SAOC and Home Missions

Lunch menu: Loose meat sandwiches, chips, bars, coffee and water. Items not sold at sale will be in church basement to purchase after church service.

**October 19 LWML Sunday.**

**October Mission:** D/SAOC.

**October Funeral Committee:** Carol Locke, Nancy Herzberg

**Shut-ins' birthday:** Mary Escobedo

**Birthdays:** Sue Macek

**October Hostess:** Jean Martinson, Connie Tyrrell.

Sally Zuspenn closed meeting with Lord's Prayer and table prayer at 1:40 PM. All in favor to adjourn meeting.

LaVonne Peters  
Secretary

### ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	\$28,453.15
2025 YTD Received	\$ 5,557.60
Reimbursed to Foundation	\$31,000.00
Organ Fund	\$ 3,010.75

## DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Catherine Maher -(12/2), Margaret Maher -(12/2), Cael Lindner -(12/5), Emile Barber -(12/6), Liam Elsberry -(12/12), Whitney Comstock-(12/15), Adam Thanupakorn -(12/16), Monty Read -(12/17), Luther Lawrence -(12/19), Beyontae Terrell -(12/20), Bridget Jones-(12/23), Jason Trost -(12/26), Huxley Malm -(12/28), Cynthia Schoenfisch -(12/30), Elaine Janssen -(12/31), and Jean Martinson-(12/31).

No Anniversaries.

## Membership Report for November 2025

### GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

### LOSS

Confirmed -

Baptized -

Florence Sandgren

-Deceased

Carol Locke

-Deceased

Judy Dorothy

-Deceased

**Communicant 155-3=152**  
**Baptized (not confirmed) =51**  
**Total baptized souls 206-3=203**

## Financial Report October 2025

### Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$9,775.00, Missions Budget \$112.00, Loose Offerings \$2.00, Thanksgiving \$25.00, Miscellaneous \$72.00, Organ Fund \$68.00.

**Total Offerings \$10,054.00**

### Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,021.98, Organist \$300.00, Pastoral Expenses \$794.50, Ministry Expense \$20.19, Television Ministry \$38.26, Office Supplies \$28.77, Computer/Internet \$190.74, Water \$113.75, Pest Control \$41.00, Gas & Electric \$615.00, Sanitation \$42.80, Property Repairs \$179.15, Miscellaneous \$21,250.00, W/H Tax \$186.18, Missions \$112.00, Advertising \$240.00.

**Total Expenses \$ 27,174.30**

**Net Income \$ -17,120.30**

\*\$21,000.00 of the expenses was a check to open a liquid CD. Not counting that, November's net income would be \$3,879.70.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion
11/2	39	
11/9	34	33
11/16	35	
11/23	36	33
11/30	Canceled due to weather	