



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Easter Message

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ.

This year Prince of Peace Lutheran has two confirmands, Kaleb and Cael. They have completed instruction in the basic teachings of Scripture as outlined in Luther's Small Catechism. Their examination consisted of answering near 200 questions and memory work.

Luther's Small Catechism asks the following question and gives the answer. What is confirmation? Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community.

The confirmands will renew their baptismal vows spoke on their behalf by their sponsors at their Baptism. They will profess their faith in the Triune God —Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They will also acknowledge that the Bible is the true Word of God and continue to be nurtured in their faith life through a study of the Scriptures. They will also profess their faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, being saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and promise to remain faithful to their Lord even in the face of death. John wrote, "Be thou faithful to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life" Revelation 2:10. This is but one more step on their journey of faith.

Join our Confirmands on May 11th, "Mother's Day," and recall your day of confirmation. Join them and renew the promises that you made on that special day in your spiritual journey. Join them and be reminded that of the words found in the Book of Hebrews, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, Hebrews 12:1-2" Remember you are one of the cloud of witnesses that surround our confirmands. Continue to remember them in your prayers and offer them the encouragement that comes with your faithfulness to the Lord. Encourage them to remain faithful to their Lord and He will bless them, forgive them, offer them encouragement and strength to face the future.

May our gracious Lord continue to bless our confirmands and each one of you and your families as together we remain faithful to our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His name
Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether

THE CALL FOR A CANDIDATE

Pastor Meyer announced to the congregations on March 27th that the joint parish did not receive a candidate to fill our call request. He indicated that more 50 calling congregations requests for a candidate failed to receive a candidate. The parish will be making a call to a pastor from the field. We will continue to serve as your pastor as we seek counsel from the District President of someone to take our place. It is an honor and privilege to serve the Lord and you as your pastor.
PR

KEEP YOUR FORK

The following was emailed to us. It comes from Encore Ministry Foundation and was written by Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, Jr.

My good friends, Rev. Ward Tanneberg, who lives in Issaquah, Washington, writes a blog titled, "Perspective; Living, Learning and Leading in Life's Third Age". In a recent blog post, he shared a story that has appeared over the years in various forms. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, I thought it would be appropriate to retell the story:

There once was an old man who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and given three months to live. As he was getting his affairs in order, he contacted his pastor to come to his home where they would discuss his final wishes.

He told the pastor which songs he wanted sung at the service and what scriptures he would like read. He even shared what out fit he wanted to be buried in when the time came.

Everything was in order, but as the pastor was preparing to leave, the old man suddenly remembered something very important.

"There's one more thing," he said excitedly.

"What's that?" the pastor asked.

"this is very important," the old man said, "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor stared at the old man, not knowing quite what to say.

This surprises you doesn't it," the old man said,

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The man explained, "In all me hears of attending church socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and said, 'Keep your fork'

It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming – like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!

"So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'"

"Then, I want you to tell them, 'Keep your fork...the best is yet to come.'"

The pastor hugged the old man good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see him before his death, but he also knew the man had a better grasp of heaven, than he did, He had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people. He knew

because of his faith and the joy of Easter that something better was prepared by God.

At the funeral, people were walking by the old man's casket and they saw the suit he was wearing and the fork placed in his right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" and over and over the pastor smiled.

During the message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the old man shortly before he died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to him.

The Pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them they probably would not be able to stop think about it either.

He was right. This Easter, when you are sitting down to your Easter dinner and you reach down for your fork, let it remind you – even so gently – the best is yet to come.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

We have conclude the study "One Week" . Our Wednesday Morning Bible Class will resume on September 3rd. The video study is titled "DEBORAH – Unlikely Heroes of the Book of Judges." This study illustrates the era of the Judges by means of the archaeological record, historical geography, cultural context, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world. This eight-session Bible study draws you immediately into the grand tale of Deborah and Barak, Jabin and Sisera, and of course the most unlikely of leader's, Jael. This study challenges you as a Christ follower to ask yourself where God wants to expand his kingdom in your sphere of influence today.

FUNERALS

Pastor Raether conducted two funerals for two individuals who had ties to Prince of Peace Lutheran, as well as, a funeral for a member of Prince of Peace. They were:

WILLIAM HENNINGS of Rinard. Bill was born March 22, 1953 and passed away on April 12, 2025. Funeral service was held at the Gunderson Funeral Home on April 18, 2025. The comital service was held at Cedar Cemetery, Rinard.

GERALD DENCKLAU of Fort Dodge. Gerald was born May 3, 1933 and passed away on April 19, 2025. Funeral Services were held at the Gunderson Funeral Home on April 22, 2025. The Committal service was held at the Colfax Cemetery South Vincent.

STEVEN BAEDKE of Dort Dodge and a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran, was born May 28, 1949, and passed away on April 27, 2025. Funeral services for Steve will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran on May 2, 2025. Committal service will be at the Otho Cemetery.

Pastor will conduct a committal service for Dr. Philp Lonning at the Union Cemetery in Humboldt and Ronald Dwayne Trusty at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Fort Dodge.

CONFIRMATION

A special Confirmation service will be held on Sunday May 10 during our regular worship. The following have completed their study of the basic teaching of Scripture as outlined in Luther's Small Catechism. They will be questioned individually before their parents and representatives of the Church Council. Those professing their faith and renewing their Baptismal Vows are:

KALEB RICKY JOHNSON the Son of Benjamin Johnson and Kari Johnson.

CAEL WALTER LINDNER the son of Simon and Mallory Lindner

Please remember our confirmands in your prayers as they prepared to be questioned and then profess their faith.

Board of Education

April 9, 2025

Members: Kari Johnson, Rhonda Waddell, Sue Macek, and Pastor Raether.

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm. Pastor opened with a prayer. February minutes were approved as written.

Library: Our new book is titled, "Woke Injustice.", a Biblical response to Critical Race Theory by Bryan Osborne. Wokeism and social justice are some of today's pervasive false teachings that threaten the church. In this book the author has done a skillful job exposing this compromise and returning Christians to the truth and authority of God's Word.

St. Paul: April 2nd is Parent-Teachers Conference, April 4th no school - Comp Day, April 16th - 4th grade field trip (Fort Museum), April 18th - to 20th is Easter break, April 25th is 4th grade Field Trip (Blanden), April 29th is K-8 Spring Program.

Catechism report: discussed Confirmation gowns, boutonnieres, and banner. Questioning for Cael Lindner is Tuesday, May 6th at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm for Kaleb Johnson. Confirmation pictures will be taken on May 11th after church.

Sunday School report: April lessons include Paul & Barnabus, Jerusalem Council, Lydia, and Paul in Athens. Kari Johnson donated a new TV and DVD player for the Sunday School.

Family Fellowship report: Will discuss this in our May meeting.

Wednesday Bible Study: Will finish "One Week" in the middle of May.

Cradle Roll: Simon Lindner made the little lambs for baptisms. Eight of them have been painted and finished.

Old Business: None.

New business: We have received the 2025 VBS curriculum titled, "Epic Australian Adventure". An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus. Dates will be discussed at a later time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is May 7th.

Sue Macek, Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

April 3, 2025

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on April 3, 2025. Sally called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Ten members present. Pastor opened with a prayer. Florence presented an Easter devotion (Story of our Easter Faith) about Jeremy and his plastic egg. She also shared a devotion "Were You There-When they Crucified My Lord", and a substitute mite prayer from I John 4:19, "We Love because He First Loved Us".

The February minutes were approved as written. Sally shared information from our Zone President: No Spring Rally, Fall Rally to be determined. Might include prison ministry and a work project. Disciples of the Way sent handmade pouches called "Sewing Seeds of Faith". A donation was collected for the pouches.

Committee reports:

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

We received an invitation to St. Paul's Craft and Bake sale on April 26th. Invitation on the church bulletin board.

A motion was made by LaVonne Peters and seconded by Nancy Herzberg to have the Fellowship and kitchen drapes cleaned by Advanced Interior Care in Algona, Iowa. The Funeral Fund and Lutheran Women's Fellowship each pay half of the cleaning bill. Motion approved.

Two Confirmation gifts have been purchased for the Confirmands.

Birthdays: Vicky Escobedo

May 1st Hostess: Vicky Escobedo, LaVonne Peters

May Shut-In birthday: Fay Hansen

April Funeral Committee: Carol Locke and Nancy Hezberg

On our May 1st meeting, Pastor will have a Bible Study. We discussed getting a speaker from the Senior Center (Elderbridge) about scam calls for our August meeting. Coffee will need to be made on Easter Sunday after church on April 20th. LWF will make the coffee.

Sue Macek, Acting Secretary.

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	\$28,453.15
2025 YTD Received	\$ 2,952.40
Reimbursed to Foundation	\$26,000.00
Organ Fund	\$ 5,405.55

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Joan Gilleland -(5/4), Jordan Castor -(5/9), Dezirae Terrell -(5/14), Kari Johnson -(5/18), Grace Martinson -(5/23), Brian Carlson -(5/24), Quinnlynn Owens -(5/24), Lucas Durand -(5/26), Madelyn Davis -(5/27), Steve Baedke -(5/28), Starla Hoover -(5/28), Faye Hansen -(5/29), Tabatha Ball -(5/30), and Robert Ford -(5/30).

Simon & Mallory Lindner	5/2	16th
Pat & Rhonda Waddell	5/3	39th
Ron & Mary Brown	5/16	44th

ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
4/6	37	
4/13	36	33
4/20 (Easter)	58	41
4/27	43	36
<u>Lent</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
4/2	22	
4/9	24	
Maundy Thursday	24	24
Good Friday	33	

Membership Report for April 2025

GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

LOSS

Confirmed - 1

Steve Baedke
deceased

Baptized -

Communicant =155-1=154
Baptized (not confirmed) =50
Total baptized souls =204

Financial Report April 2025

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$6,779.12, Missions Budget \$116.50, Loose Offerings \$48.00, Lenten \$308.45, Maundy Thursday \$106.00, Good Friday \$215.00, Easter \$472.00, Special \$119.00, Miscellaneous \$340.00, Organ Fund \$663.80.

Total Offerings \$9,167.87

Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,151.21, Organist \$480.00, Pastoral Expenses \$803.60, Ministry Expense \$334.58, Television Ministry \$25.51, Office Supplies \$78.11, Computer/Internet \$190.60, Water \$112.40, Pest Control \$41.00, Gas & Electric \$615.00, Snow Removal \$110.00, Sanitation \$42.80, Property Repairs \$157.56, W/H Tax \$168.66, Missions \$116.50, Charities \$119.00, Advertising \$300.00.

Total Expenses \$ 6,846.53
Net Income \$ 2,321.34

