

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 25

September 2023

Issue 9

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## Why Should I Come to Church?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Third Commandment states: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Martin Luther says this about the Third Commandment: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

In the Third Commandment, God invites us to rest in Him, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness in order to strengthen our faith in Him.

Remembering the Sabbath day is vital for Christians. We sometimes believe that we can worship God by ourselves. We can do that to an extent. We can see God's creation all around us. But like skipping church, what is missing? His Word and Sacraments.

Gathering for worship in the Divine Service is a time of encouragement with fellow Christians. We share our blessings, our burdens, and joys in petitions and hymns of praise with those present, remembering the Church throughout the world and the saints and angels in heaven.

Each weekend, we all make choices. There is so much we can do. As Jesus says in the Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:12-24), it is only natural that we make excuses when we are all invited to church. It's natural, because of our inherited sinful nature. We naturally think of ourselves. Sinful man is great at making excuses. "Sunday Funday" has become engrained in today's culture. Really, Sunday Funday is nothing new. That is the same excuse that those who declined the invitation to the Great Banquet. We plead necessity: "I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused." We plead inconvenience: "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them." We plead pleasure: "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." We are great at making excuses.

But, really, what's so important about attending church services? Why can't I just sleep in? Why can't I sit home and watch tv? Why can't I just relax, stay home, watch sports, or just have a day of recreation? Well, they are nothing bad on their own. There is nothing inherently evil about those things. But what is missing? God's Word. Instead of resting in God's Word and Sacraments, those other things that replace church have become false idols of false worship.

So, gathering together with fellow Christians in public worship is vital. It's vital because God is present as His unchanging Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered. Through these Means of Grace, He freely gives His gifts and blessings, chiefly the forgiveness of sins. In the Divine Service, our Shepherd, Jesus, speaks through the mouth of the shepherd (the pastor) whom He has called to care for the souls of the congregation. The Word of God is not simply information, but the Word actually delivers what it says.

Gathering in public worship is also a public testimony to our faith in Christ to the world. Remember, we live in a fallen world. Satan has his grips on the culture around us. It is his culture. Satan uses sinful men to preach tolerance of vice (sin) and intolerance of virtue. Satan uses his culture to convince people to tolerate worldly sins, but to be intolerant of God's unchanging truth. So, by attending the Divine Service, you are testifying that Jesus is your redeemer from sin, eternal death, and the devil.

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Lastly, we gather in church in the sure and certain hope that Christ is coming. He is coming at an hour that we do not expect. So, the way to be ready for His coming is receive His free gift of His medicine of immortality in His Word and Sacrament. By receiving His gifts, we know that we have nothing to fear on the day of His coming.

So, come, but not only come! Invite others, since God's gifts are for everyone! Everything is ready!

In Christ,  
Pastor Adelsen

## **Staying Connected**

(From *Portals of Prayer*: Wednesday, August 2023)

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20 and Psalm 6.

*“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”* (Ephesians 6:18)

How is your church doing? Really – how are you doing?

At the time of this writing, we're just now coming out of the fog. The long plague that has gripped this planet has had a devastating effect on Christ's Church on earth. So many have died or drifted from the faith. Others have completely disconnected themselves from Christ's gifts or still worship at a distance. No judgment here! Just an ache and a longing for Christ's people to come home.

This was the prayer of Paul as well. He most likely wrote these words from prison just weeks before his death. The Church of God was scattered and harassed. With plagues and persecutions on the rise, Paul sought to embolden and encourage the saints. His weapon? Perseverance through prayer. Continually. Transcending the walls of his cell, holding firm and fast to the promises of God.

I am praying for you today, as well as for your pastor and congregation. It's what the Church has always done in times of distress. Yes, prayer is faith breathing in the Lord's gracious promises and breathing out our cares and concerns. Be encouraged. Yes, even rejoice! You are prayed for, as I am. Along with God's Word, prayer is yet one more gift to help us stay connected to Jesus and to one another.

***Father, thank You for receiving my prayers this day for myself and Your Church. In Jesus' name. Amen.***

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## **Catechism Class Resumes in September**

For all sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, catechism will resume on Wednesday, September 6. This year's subject is on Bible History. Orientation is September 6 at 5:30 p.m. Classes start the following week (September 13) at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Pastor Adelsen.

## **Christian Denominations Adult Bible Study**

It is easy to think that all Christians believe the same teachings, but the differences are astounding. Baptism, Communion, and free will are all examples of some of the major differences among Christian denominations.

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, the Sunday Adult Bible Study will dive into these differences from a Lutheran perspective. We will look at the similarities and differences that exist between Christian denominations, as well as the similarities and differences of church bodies within each denomination.

According to the survey taken during the summer Adult Bible Study, we will be going through the following Christian denominations (in order of votes):

- Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Methodist Church
- Reformed Church
- Baptist Church
- Restoration Church
- Nondenominational Church

Please join us!

## **The Book of Revelation – Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Many early Christians endured unimaginable pain simply because they refused to give up their faith in Jesus. They were thrown to the lions and other wild beasts while onlookers cheered. They were set on fire, hurled down cliffs, skinned alive, and even boiled in oil. The cruelty was off the charts!

It would have been easy to deny their faith in such circumstances. Then steps in the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit inspired John to write to God's people so they would stand firm despite the storms that roared around them. The Book of Revelation has one focused message: Jesus is victorious, and He is coming soon!

We may not face the same persecution and cruelty that the Early Church faced, but persecution has not slowed, and it appears to be increasing. Satan has not suddenly stopped hating Christ's Church. Despite all that Christians have faced and continue to face, God's people have endured for the name of Jesus, since the victory is His and has been won for all who trust in Him. Christ gives us the victory. We are His forgiven, dearly loved sisters and brothers.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will begin a study on the Book of Revelation. Please join us as we will study together the unveiling and revealing pictures that the Book of Revelation reveals in Jesus Christ!

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Congregational President's Comments September 2023

Summer vacation is nearing an end and a new school year is beginning. It seems we are busy year around these days. Let's not forget, no matter how busy we may be, to set aside time for the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ! I encourage everyone to prioritize our walk with God.

I'll repeat the observation I made last month that it appears summer vacations and recreational activities have significantly reduced church attendance throughout the past several months. In fact, the lasting effects of the "covid" closures has continued to cause reduced attendance at all church bodies, including Prince of Peace, whether by change in habits, reduced commitment, or simply convenient neglect. Let's do our best to encourage each other to diligently attend our church services in person. Every Sunday. Invite friends, neighbors and relatives. Everyone is welcome. It is such a joyful gathering when God's house is filled for worship!

The LCMS school feasibility discussion continues among the four area congregations. The number of on-line survey responses have been disappointingly low. You are reminded that an informational pamphlet has been prepared to answer questions about the school initiative tailored to congregation members and another edition specifically prepared for distribution to the general public. The pamphlets are available through Pastor if you are interested. Paper survey forms are available. All congregation members are requested and encouraged to complete the survey.

The financial conditions here at Prince of Peace continue to be challenging. It is tragically typical that general contributions are reduced through the summer months just like attendance. The church mission, however, continues every day. 365 days a year. God is here for us every day. Please pray for an improvement in our finances. Search your hearts and let's support Prince of Peace, whether it be time, talent or tithes.

I am reminded that we are hoping to fill additional Elder positions. Please give thought to serving our Lord and the church in that capacity. I'm sure, as well, that the Trustees and other committees would welcome volunteers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President, Appointed

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## **LWML News:**

Ladies, we will have a meeting September 2 at the church at 9 a.m. After the meeting and Bible study, you are invited to stay and crochet or knit the preemie hats.

Remember your secret sister!

Some dates to remember:

September 29-30: SWD Fall Retreat (talk to Debbie for details)

October 7: Prayer meeting

October 8: LWML Sunday

October 24: Deliver a meal to the West Salem Fire Station

December 2: Advent Tea & Cookie Exchange

Everyone is invited.

## **Evangelism Report for September**

**By Sharie Brunk, Evangelism Board**

The Evangelism Committee is looking forward to another year of events and activities. Some of our activities from the past church year included: Trunk N Treat, June Dairy Day Parade, Feed the Children Summer Program, National Night Out, handing out bookmarks to visitors, "POP Rock" activity, and Friendship Sundays. If you are interested in joining our committee to help plan any of these events and/or come up with new evangelism ideas, please speak with Sharie Brunk. We would love to have you join our group!

## **Trustees Report**

**By Roger Emmons, Trustee**

The dish washer is operable, needs a 'shut off' or 'end of cycle' switch.

### **Projects:**

1. Purchase, install replacement furnace-estimated cost: \$4000
2. Replace remaining Fluorescent T8s with Led T8s (about 32 fixtures)-estimated cost: \$640.
3. Replace lights behind outdoor cross with LED's-estimated cost: \$1200

### ***The following are potential "Thursday Projects"***

4. Redirect down spout, SE corner of porte cochere
5. Clean, repaint scuffed areas on walls, ceilings
6. Repair or replace damaged siding
7. Clean and repaint storage building
8. Install closure for kitchen

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## **IT'S MARLENE WILHELM'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

Come and help celebrate her birthday on

Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll have a potluck and birthday cake. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Thanks in advance for helping to make this a very special occasion.

## **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MISSION QUILTS**

A new outreach project has started at Prince of Peace. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world full of suffering.

Can't sew? Don't worry there are many ways that you can help out. We are not out buying new materials to make these quilts. Ask a neighbor or friend if they have old cotton top sheets or light blankets they want to get rid of. Garage sales, Goodwill, Good Samaritan or any second-hand store is also a good resource to find these items. Sheets cannot be stained; they will be used for backing and light blankets will be quilt filling. There are also many small ways you can help construct quilts. All materials need to be washed, after washing the material needs to be ironed to make it easier to cut into squares. After squares are cut, they are sewed together to make a 60 x 80 quilt top. When we have some quilt tops together, we will have an ingathering. At the ingathering we will put the quilts on a frame to be tied. Quilts are gathered once a year and shipped out. This will be done with other churches in the area that are also quilting.

This is not just for LWML ladies, anyone can join. Have a friend that would like to get together with some ladies for fellowship and a good cause? Invite them to join.

Hope you all can be a part of this worthy project that will be ongoing from year to year if possible.

Ten quilts are finished! The next day to get together is September 18.

There will be a special "blessing of the quilts" during a worship service in October.

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## July Schedules

### Ushers

July 2-Russ & Sharie Brunk  
July 9-Roger & Ginny Emmons  
July 16-Randy & DeAnne Otto  
July 23-Dan & Kari Moen

## Our July Birthdays

### Our July Birthdays

Brooklynn Scholze July 1  
Lyle Anderson  
Lily Soto  
Gracie Cone  
Joshua Seefeldt  
Luke Grube  
Brett Hinds  
Sophia Grube  
Chris Leis July 30-Elaine Schmidt & Chris Leis

### Greeters

July 2-POP Family  
July 9-Barb Hinds & Chris Leis  
July 16-POP Family  
July 23-Randy & DeAnne Otto  
July 30-POP Family

### Money counters

July 2-Schmidt & Dunnum  
July 9-Leis & Childs  
July 16-Hinds & Alsobrooks  
July 23-Peters & Dunnum  
July 30-Leis & Hinds

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Song Leaders

July 2-Sarah Kolander

July 9-Holly Ford

July 16-Brooklynn Scholze

July 23-Sarah Kolander

July 30-Holly Ford

## Altar Guild

Ona Childs

Dinita Bruemmer

## June Anniversaries

Peter & Melissa Adelsen	June 1
Kurt & Ona Childs	June 18
Paul & Dena Zezulka	June 21

Russ Brunk                  June 6

Leatta Danielson          June 6

David Klawitter            June 6

Brian Shockey              June 7

Sylvia Mauss                June 9

Leo Zezulka                 June 11

Paul Hoffmann              June 15

Aaron Nicks                 June 17

Emma Schran                June 17

Karl Horstman              June 29

Addison Kuehn             June 29

Jane Klawitter              June 30

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

Kim Shockey

June 30

## Genesis Project School Study Update

Earlier this year, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church voted to partner with the three other LCMS congregations in La Crosse County (Faith, La Crosse; Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska; and Gift of Grace, Holmen) to enter into a feasibility study through the Genesis Project for an LCMS parochial school in the area.

The Genesis Project is an initiative of the LCMS, which works to start new schools in the synod. Upon submitting the required preliminary information, the four congregations have been accepted into the program and will be assigned a consultant. The consultant will coach the feasibility study steering committee as we prayerfully consider if a new school is achievable and appropriate in our area.

The primary contact person and the main conduit between the synodical offices and the steering committee is Jim Magnuson, a layman at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Magnuson is the lead on assigning projects and tasks for the committee.

On June 12, the steering committee first met at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The committee met primarily to put faces to names and answer any preliminary questions.

In the meantime, what can I do? Pray. Prayer is powerful. Pray for the steering committee and pray for proper discernment that the path may be clear on the feasibility of starting a new school. God's will is always done.

Also, the Genesis Project coordinator has asked parishioners from our four area congregations to fill out a simple, anonymous, ten question survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNT2BNN](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNT2BNN). This survey is being used to get a fuller picture of our congregations' willingness to take on such a task. Even if you do not have young children, please participate in the survey.

The congregational survey may also be found using the QR code:



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

Brian Horstmann July 30

Gracelynn Frederick-Schaub July 31

Erin Luethe July 31

Kendall Mauss July 31



## Our July birthdays:

Brooklynn Scholze	July 1
Lyle Anderson	July 4
Lily Soto	July 6
Gracie Cone	July 12
Julie Reed	July 14
Joshua Seefeldt	July 14
Luke Grube	July 15
Brett Hinds	July 17
Sophia Grube	July 18
Chris Leis	July 20
Anna Flack	July 21
Kim Steenberg	July 21
John Hammes	July 26
Katharine Horstman	July 27

## Our July Anniversaries

Paul & Dana Hoffmann	July 17
David & Jane Klawitter	July 17
Aaron & Rochelle Nicks	July 17
Jeff & Renee Schweinefus	July 22
Karl & Carrie Horstman	July 25
Daniel & Sarah Kolander	July 31

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

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# Prince of Peace Tidings



## Our August birthdays:

Willie Danielson	August 3
Ronda Lavold	August 3
Justin Zezulka	August 5
Warren Oxley	August 10
Sarah Zezulka	August 10
Blake Hundt	August 11
Austin Hinds	August 12
Oliver Nicks	August 14
Kari Moen	August 16
DJ Riniker	August 18
Eric Grube	August 21
Hannah Moen	August 23
Paul Zezulka	August 24
Carly Otto	August 26
LuAnn Fletcher	August 31

Say **Happy Anniversary** this month to Mel & Barb Alsobrooks (Aug. 7), Roger & Ginny Emmons (Aug. 7), Jose & Jodi Soto (Aug. 14), Justin & Sarah Zezulka (Aug. 20), Vern & Amy Ruffi (Aug. 22).

# Prince of Peace Tidings

“That is my wife, Serita.”

## **An old story about a woman who lived on an island in the Pacific illustrates what it means to live like you're loved.**

Serita, described by all her neighbors as plain, even homely, walked with shoulders slumped and head bowed. She rarely looked anyone in the eye, seldom laughed in public.

One day a man named Johnny came to ask for Serita's hand in marriage and offered eight cows for the privilege of marrying her. The girl's father sat stunned—no one on the island had ever offered more than five or six cows as a bride price. He immediately accepted the offer before Johnny could change his mind.

Everyone on the island thought Johnny had gone mad. Who would be foolish enough to pay eight cows for a wife—let alone a plain one like Serita? After the wedding, Johnny took Serita back to his home on a neighboring island. The people on Serita's island continued to laugh at Johnny's madness, but no longer saw the newlyweds.

## Transformed by Love

One day a visitor who had heard of the story of the eight-cow wife came to Johnny's home. Johnny invited him in and as they talked a lovely, graceful woman passed through the room. The visitor thought he had never seen such a beautiful woman. He asked Johnny, “Who was that?”

Seeing the surprise on his visitor's face, Johnny explained that on her home island, Serita felt she had no value. **But since Johnny paid the eight-cow price, she now knew she was worth more than any other woman on the islands. And that realization changed her from the inside out.**

## When We Live Like We're Loved We are Changed

At times, we too, feel like Serita. We feel insignificant in the eyes of the world. We consider ourselves homely and plain, inferior and worthless. We start to believe the lies of Satan, that no one could ever love us. We accept the world's judgment that we don't matter.

But everything changes when we realize that Jesus paid the highest price possible for us. It's true we were nothing much to talk about when He found us. We were stained by sin, stooped over by shame and He could have walked right by us. But instead, Jesus chose us. He paid more than eight cows. Christ paid the exorbitant price of His own life to redeem us and make us His own. His

## September Schedules

### Ushers

**September 3: Roger & Ginny Emmons**

**September 10: Russ & Sharie Brunk**

**September 17: Randy & DeAnne Otto**

**September 24: Danielson's**

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Greeters

September 3: POP Family  
 September 10: Hinds & Leis  
 September 17: POP Family  
 September 24: Otto's

## Money counters

September 3: Alsobrooks & Dunnum  
 September 10: Childs & Peters  
 September 17: Hinds & Leis  
 September 24: Schmidt & Dunnum


## Song Leaders


September 3: Brooklynn Scholze  
 September 10: Sarah Kolander  
 September 17: Holly Ford  
 September 24: Sarah Kolander

## Altar Guild

Cassie Grube  
 Lori Schmidt

Bill Peters	13 <sup>th</sup>
Marlene Wilhelm	17 <sup>th</sup>
Daniel Bruemmer	20 <sup>th</sup>
Philip Durnin	20 <sup>th</sup>
Faith Leyh	21 <sup>st</sup>
Dave Schmidt	22 <sup>nd</sup>

	
Tim & Dee Pralle	5 <sup>th</sup>
Brian & Patricia Horstmann	26

	
<b>Our September birthdays:</b>	
Virginia Emmons	4 <sup>th</sup>
Amy Ruffi	4 <sup>th</sup>
Aliah Kuehn	12 <sup>th</sup>

Kim & Debbie Steenberg	1
Tom & Cheryl Schran	26

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# Prince of Peace Tidings



## Our December Birthdays

Lucas Martin	December 2
James Jacobson	December 3
Jen Kuehn	December 5
Gabriel Mauss	December 6
Tom Mauss	December 6
Jared Hinds	December 9
Jessica Reibel	December 13
Holly Ford	December 16
Cadence Kolander	December 21
Sue Rowe	December 28
Grace Ruffi	December 30

## December Anniversaries

Brian & Kim Shockey December 3

**GIVE THANKS**

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

We are having a Thanksgiving Eve service November 24 at 7 p.m.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S MOW MASTERS:

Roger Emmons

Paul Lavold

Willie Danielson

Thank you for keeping the lawn beautiful.

## Change in Worship Time

The last 11:30 a.m. Sunday worship service was on April 25.

Come and worship with us on Sundays at 9 a.m. or Monday evenings at 7.

## ADVENT TEA & COOKIE EXCHANGE

Ladies, our Advent Tea is back! Come and join us Saturday, December 11, at 10 a.m. for a relaxing time during the Advent season.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up by December 1.

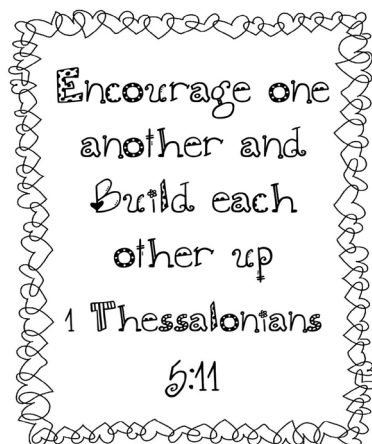
## FAREWELL PARTY FOR THE SCHOCKMAN'S

On Sunday, June 27, from 3 to 5 p.m., there will be a farewell gathering for the Schockman's at the Horstmann Homestead.

Directions: Highway 16 east to West Salem. Turn south on County M at the stoplights. Look for the signs for "Horstmann Homestead" and follow them. You will take a left on Pleasant Valley Road.

If you have any questions about directions, talk with Patty Horstmann or call the church office at 608-786-3938.

Bring a snack and your own beverage.



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# Prince of Peace Tidings

## Mowing Crew

If you would be willing to help mow the church yard, please talk to Roger Emmons or Willie Danielson.

more! Thank you to everyone who donated items. We'll plan on continuing this giving mission.

## Thank You for Your Donations

A box was sent to the Dakota tribe at the Red Bud Reservation in Mission, South Dakota filled with socks, hats, scarves, shirts, sweatshirts, toothbrushes and

## POP LIBRARY

Did you know that POP has a library that you, as a POP member can borrow books from? Through a Thrivent Grant we have been able to add many new resources. Watch for changes as these are added and the library is reorganized. We will be featuring some of these resources in the display area and have them available for check out. See any Board of Education member with

questions. The board members are: Barbara Hinds, Carrie Horstman and Colette Schockman.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

December 6: In today's lesson, we learn about how God provides "Food from Heaven." The Israelites arrive in the wilderness with no food, grumbling against Moses and Aaron. God keeps His promise to provide for His people as He daily sends manna (bread) and quail

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(meat) from heaven for them to gather.  
The Lord teaches His people to trust as  
they gather only what they need for one  
day.



Aaron Nicks	June 17
Emma Schran	June 17
Les Mull	June 24
Vickie Frandle	June 26
Karl Horstman	June 29
Addison Kuehn	June 29
Jane Klawitter	June 30
Kim Shockey	June 30

## Our June birthdays:

Joan Abbott	June 1
Wesley Lueth	June 1
Russ Brunk	June 6
Leatta Danielson	June 6
David Klawitter	June 6
Ron Kuehn	June 7
Brian Shockey	June 7
Derek Freit	June 8
Sylvia Mauss	June 9
Leo Zezulka	June 11
Paul Hoffmann	June 15
Geneice Fisher	June 17



## Our June Anniversaries:

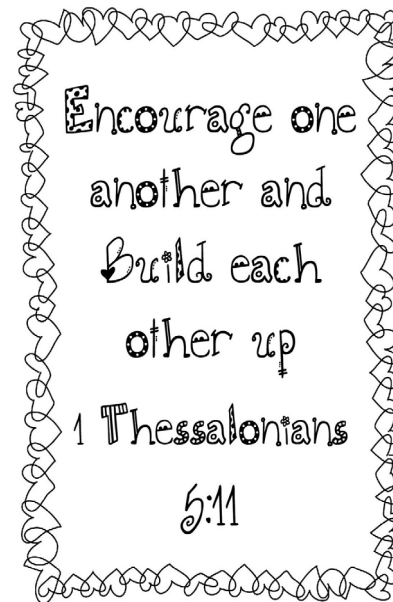
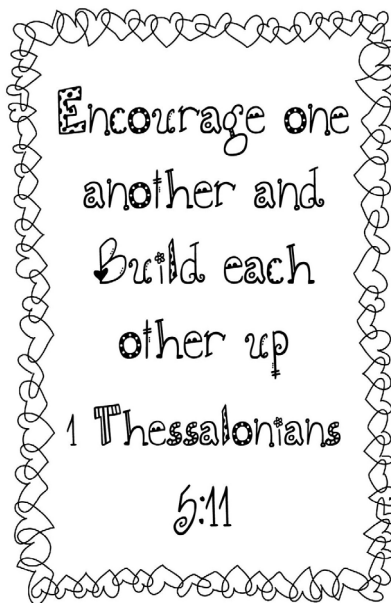
Jason & Colette Schockman	June 11
Kurt & Ona Childs	June 18

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# Prince of Peace Tidings

Paul & Dena Zezulka

June 21



## Home Communion Visits

What is the benefit of eating and drinking the Sacrament of the Altar? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

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July 30-Schmidt & Brunk

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### Altar Guild

Ona Childs  
Dinita Bruemmer

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