

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

January 2024

Issue 1

To Compromise or not?

Compromising can be a good thing, but it can also prove to not be beneficial. It is proper to compromise when two people can't decide what they want for supper. They may flip a coin or come to an agreement that both sides can agree upon. One desires a hamburger, while the other desires chicken, so they choose a restaurant that serves both. That is a good compromise.

com-pro-mise

noun: an agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.

But could there be a time when compromising is not beneficial? That answer is yes. We can surely compromise on small things, such as food choices, but when it comes to God's Word, there is no room for compromise. Eternal life and eternal death hang in the balance. And as so many Christians these days have become Biblically illiterate, so often they desire to compromise God's Word out of fear of being intolerant or unloving.

Recently, the Roman Catholic Church made a compromise. (Of course, we are not in fellowship with the Roman Catholic Church, but what this church does, certainly influences greater Christendom.)

The Roman Catholic Church says that this compromise doesn't officially change doctrine, but a change is still a change. So, what did the Roman Catholic Church do? In an official Vatican statement, Roman Catholic priests can now administer blessings to same-sex couples as long as they are not part of any regular Church rituals or liturgies. Now, Roman Catholic priests have blessed individuals for centuries, including individuals who are secretly homosexual, but what is different is that now two men or two women can be blessed at once, including those who proclaim to be homosexuals. This document is not changing the Roman Catholic stance on marriage, but it is causing confusion. Many in the news media are wrongly reporting that the Roman Catholic Church has endorsed gay marriage, including some theologically liberal priests. But officially, the Roman Catholic teaching on marriage has not changed. However, any confusion when it comes to doctrine only creates doubt. Satan plays on that doubt. This Vatican document, however, does state that this change is a form of compromise when it comes to LGBTQAIIP2S+ laypeople.

Jesus is our Savior from sin. He never approves of any sin. All sin, no matter how great or how small, separates us from God.

Christ's greatest gift to us is forgiveness. As Christians, we are to forgive as He has first forgiven us. So, should a Christian compromise when it comes to forgiveness? Such as if you do what I want, then I'll forgive you? No. Forgiveness is blanket forgiveness. It isn't tit-for-tat or quid-pro-quo. Forgiveness is forgiveness. We forgive even if we are not forgiven by the other party. We pray this in the Lord's Prayer: *"Our Father who art in heaven, ... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

Jesus came to suffer God the Father's wrath for everyone's sin, including those before us and those after us. But now that Jesus has suffered, died, and rose from the dead, doesn't that mean that we can do

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Prince of Peace Tidings

anything we want? No. St. Paul writes under divine inspiration, *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:1-4).

All throughout Scripture, from the Old Testament to the New Testament, God’s Moral Law never changed, and it is still enforced by God. What was fulfilled by Christ was God’s Ceremonial Law, which included animal sacrifices to God and abstaining from unclean things. Jesus’ death on the cross is the sacrifice that covers all time (Hebrews 10:26), so there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. So, we come to Christ alone for forgiveness. There is nothing more for us to do, besides clinging in faith to Jesus Christ alone and grow in the one true Christian faith through the Holy Spirit’s aid in sanctification – *growing in holiness* – in Word and Sacrament.

But God’s Moral Law is still active for us. St. Paul writes, *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). But some will say, that was Paul, Jesus never said that. Well, here are Jesus’ words, *“What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person”* (Matthew 15:18-20a). Do you spot any difference between Paul and Jesus?

We are all guilty of sin. None of us is perfect. This is why we need the Savior from sin. And any compromise when it comes to sin only benefits Satan. For Satan is great at compromise. He used compromise to persuade Eve into sin and ultimately Adam, which put a curse upon the entire world. St. James writes under inspiration, *“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers”* (James 1:14-16). What James is saying through inspiration is this: once we compromise on sin, the process of sin has begun, and its ultimate end is eternal death.

We can compromise on many things, but we can never compromise when it comes to God’s Word. His Word is sure and certain. His Word never changes. As inspired St. Peter wrote from Isaiah 40:6-8, *“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever”* (1 Peter 1:24-25a).

Thanks be to God that He never compromises His promises. He is divinely bound to His promises. In Christ alone, we have salvation. And this salvation was first revealed to the Jews – *the shepherds* – on Christmas Day in Bethlehem and to the Gentiles – *the Magi* – on the Day of Epiphany also in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas and Happy Epiphany! May we always celebrate that God never compromises His promises! He is always faithful!

In Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

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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.

Resuming on Sunday, January 7, 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.

We will compare and contrast Lutheran doctrine with the following denominations:

- Methodist Church
- Restoration Church
- Nondenominational Church

Please join us!

Update on Live Streaming at POP

During the Advent and Christmas season, Prince of Peace live streamed some services, due to inclement weather and winter darkness. Resuming in January, POP will no longer live stream services, except in the case of inclement weather or darkness as was the case of the Advent midweek services. As God's Word proclaims, *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near"* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

It is good, right, and salutary for Christians to meet together in the Divine Service, as well as Advent and Lenten midweek services. Here, we receive the Means of Grace: Word and Sacrament, which forgives our sins and strengthens our weak faith. Not only that, we also are encouraged by fellow Christians as we worship together.

When we don't worship together, there are spiritual consequences as we become spiritually starved and parched, so that Satan can more greatly deceive us. This is similar to not eating or drinking. By receiving no nourishment, your body will die from starvation and thirst, and you become delirious. Likewise, our souls hunger and thirst for God and His forgiveness. Food and drink are found in grocery stores and restaurants. Salvation in Christ's Means of Grace is found in the Divine Service. So, come and receive the gifts, the goods that Christ freely gives, as we are strengthened by Christ and each other as we encourage one another all the more as we await Christ's coming!

If you are physically unable to attend services at Prince of Peace, please contact Pastor Adelsen so that he can add you as shut-in, or homebound, for a private communion visit.

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New to the POP Church Library: The Book of Concord

Every catechized Lutheran knows of Martin Luther's Small Catechism question, "What does this mean?" But did you know that the Small Catechism is included in a book called *The Book of Concord*?

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine, which contains statements of faith, otherwise known as confessions of faith. These were written to keep the Church pure from false teachings and were all included in a single volume known as *The Book of Concord* in 1580.

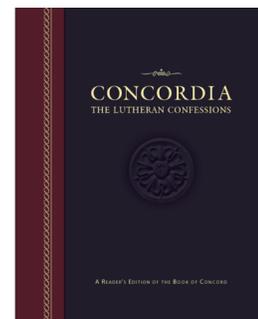
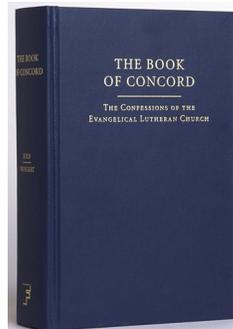
The Book of Concord includes what is believed, taught, and confessed by the Lutheran Church:

- The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed
- The Augsburg Confession
- The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Luther's Large Catechism
- Epitome of the Formula of Concord
- The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine. It does not supplant the Bible. *The Book of Concord* teaches the Bible, because nothing is more important than clearly confessing and bearing witness to the truths of God's Word, which reveals the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is what *The Book of Concord* is all about.

The Book of Concord is not just for pastors and church workers, it is for every Lutheran. As C.F.W. Walther, the first president of the LCMS, once said, "*The Book of Concord* should be in every Lutheran home. If a person isn't familiar with this book, he'll think, 'That old book is just for pastors. I don't have to preach. After working all day, I can't sit down and study in the evening. If I read my morning and evening devotions, that's enough.' No, that is not enough! The Lord doesn't want us to remain children, blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine; instead of that, He wants us to grow in knowledge so that we can teach others."

Check out POP's two editions – *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* and *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Readers Guide* – located in the church library today! If you would like a personal copy, contact the church office to place an order.



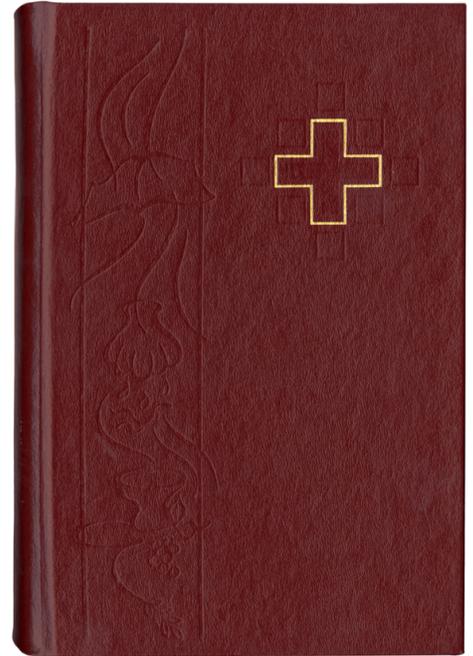
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Lutheran Service Book Hymnals

At the December 2023 Prince of Peace Voters' Meeting, it was unanimously voted to begin implementing the use of the *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as an aid to guide our worship services. Prince of Peace will maintain a library of the *Lutheran Service Book* for use during worship services, though some members of Prince of Peace may wish to donate hymnals to the church as a memorial or may wish to purchase a personal copy.

If you wish to make a purchase of a *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as a memorial to the congregation or for personal use, please contact Debbie in the church office. Prince of Peace will purchase the hymnals on your behalf to take advantage of the church's tax-free status. The *Lutheran Service Book* is available through Concordia Publishing House and is priced as follows below (plus shipping).



For congregational use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy

For congregational and personal use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Gift Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Deluxe Edition (pew edition, upgraded), \$54.99 per copy

Blessing of the New Hymnals

As of December 28, Prince of Peace has received 50 hymnals for use in the church from generous members. At the closing of the Divine Service on January 7, we will bless these hymnals for our use at Prince of Peace. Then on January 14, we will implement the use of the *Lutheran Service Book*.

The *Lutheran Service Book* includes the following in each hymnal:

- Church Year Festivals and Commemorations
- Lectionaries
- Glossary of Church Terms
- The Psalms
- The Divine Service (Five Settings)
- Daily Office (Matins, Vespers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline)
- Other Services
- Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families
- Luther's Small Catechism

Prince of Peace Tidings

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, *“Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land”* (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.



The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,”* and *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”* (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of *“you shall not murder”*? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2024



LUTHERANS
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Life Newsbytes

Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers Have Helped 1 Million More Women Since Roe Overturned – On December 15, 2023, Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), the research arm of SBA Pro-Life America and America's premier scientific institute on life issues, released the findings of a robust survey of 2,750 pregnancy centers in the United States to calculate their extraordinary services, material support, and health care contributions to women and families across the country since the landmark Supreme Court Dobbs decision that took down *Roe v. Wade*. As preliminary CDC data suggests 32,000 more babies are born annually ... Key findings in the new report include: In 2022, pregnancy centers met with clients over 16 million times, both in person and virtually, with an estimated total service value of at least \$358 million annually. Pregnancy centers provided services to almost 975,000 new clients. Vital services provided at no cost: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting education programs, baby diapers, wipes, formula, outfits, and more. Of the over 16 million client sessions that took place, 97% self-reported a positive experience. These numbers speak to why 91% of Americans support pregnancy centers, according to a 2023 Knights of Columbus–Marist Poll. (*LifeNews.com, 12/15/23*)

Speaking up For Life

“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.” *Archbishop Samuel Aquila*

“When someone struggles with the overwhelming guilt of a past sin, like abortion, repentance and reconciliation are the only source of relief. There is hope! ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9). Through all our days, the Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is a patient God, waiting and wanting all to come to repentance and be saved.” *Deaconess Pamela Buhler and Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, Word of Hope*

“Pre-born babies are patients who deserve the rights and protections applicable to children and adults.” *Dr. William Lile, Pensacola, Florida*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Baby Hats

Baby hats knitted and crocheted needed! We will be having a dedication for the hats on Life Sunday January 21st. So please have your finished projects in by Sunday January 21! Our hats will be sent to Mercy Hospital St Louis for newborns who are in need. Thank you so much!

The Book of Revelation – Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. These seven churches represent the Christian Church for all time and place. When reading through Revelation 2-3, we certainly see that fact. Each congregation was far from perfect, they are sinner-saints after all, as they all dealt with false teachings from within or from without. To each congregation, Jesus spoke to them law to show them their sins and gospel in showing what Christ has won for them. Below are some examples of how we still face the same challenges as the congregations of the past.

- **Ephesus:** Persevering in the midst of suffering, and uncompromising against evil.
- **Smyrna:** Poor monetarily, but rich in God's grace.
- **Pergamum:** Double-mindedness. Saying that they are Christians but not living the life of faith.
- **Thyatira:** Heresy and seduction.
- **Sardis:** Going through the motions of religion as Jesus meant little to them.
- **Philadelphia:** Kept the word of Jesus and have not denied His Name.
- **Laodicea:** Apathetic in their faith in Christ as they found security in their possessions and wealth.

As God's Word says in Ecclesiastes 1:9, "*There is nothing new under the sun.*" We can see ourselves in each of these congregations – for good or bad. But despite their faith or lack thereof, Christ is still present as the ruler of His Church offering the forgiveness of sins that He won for all people through His death and bodily resurrection.

This is just a taste of what the Wednesday Morning Bible Study has learned so far in our study on the Book of Revelation. Please join us each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.!

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Congregational President's Comments January 2024

Greetings this new year of 2024! I hope everyone enjoyed a blessed Christmas season. My greatest hope is that each of us spent a little time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let's all remember how blessed we are to be saved by Him. I'm sure the new year will provide us with many opportunities to worship our Lord and be grateful for our sure salvation.

The new year starts with the election of church council officers at the December voter's meeting. Many positions had been appointed in 2023. The officers for the next two years are:

Kurt Childs, President
Randy Otto, Vice President
Leatta Danielson, Secretary
DeAnne Otto, Treasurer

You will notice that incumbents have all agreed to serve successive terms. Thank you all.

Committee chairs continue to serve in current terms. Thank you as well. Our Elders, however, will be reduced to two members in January, 2024, after term resignations. Please consider service to our congregation to the role of Elder. Extra hands always make for lighter work loads and support.

The 2024 budget was approved at the voter's meeting. The budget line items are much the same as 2023, but church financial conditions remain troubling. Again, general contributions remain limited, most likely a result of lower attendance numbers. Keep our attendance and financial conditions in your prayers.

The Genesis Project (LCMS school feasibility discussion) steering committee met with the synodical school consultant. Feasibility work appears poised to begin in earnest. Specific reports are posted on the kiosk located in the narthex.

There has been a discussion regarding the use of the Lutheran Service Book (hymnals) to guide worship versus the current service folder. The congregation appears to be supportive of this effort, so Pastor Adelsen plans a limited introduction this year.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

Prince of Peace Tidings

LWML News:

We're starting a fresh LWML year!

All women are invited to join!

Our next meeting will be Saturday morning, January 6, at 9 a.m.



Our January birthdays

Sarah Kolander	5 th
Sharen Hammes	7 th
Carter Hodgkins	8 th
Alex Soto	8 th
Thomas Schran	11 th
Wally Roush	18 th
Jodi Soto	19 th
Cassie Grube	20 th
Lisbeth Novak	22 nd
Sawyer Hundt	24 th
DeAnne Otto	26 th
Sharie Brunk	30 th
Claudia Grube	30 th
Laua Horstmann	30 th
Nancy Horstmann	30 th

Celebrating a wedding anniversary this month are Eric and Cassis Grube on January 7.

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Prince of Peace Tidings

January Schedules

Ushers

January 7-Russ & Sharie Brunk
January 14-Roger & Ginny Emmons
January 21-Dan & Kari Moen
January 28-Willie & Leatta Danielson

Greeters

January 7-POP Family
January 14-Chris Leis & Barb Hinds
January 21-Randy & DeAnne Otto
January 28-POP Family

Money counters

January 7-Chris Leis & Debbie Dunnum
January 14-Lori Peters & Barb Alsobrooks
January 21-Elaine Schmidt & Barb Hinds
January 28-Ona Childs & Debbie Dunnum

Song Leaders

January 7-POP Choir
January 14-Horstmann Family
January 21-Sarah Kolander
January 28-Holly Ford

Altar Guild

Sharie Brunk
Lisbeth Novak