

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



# The POP Press



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### Nurturing Your Faith: Prayers of Gratitude

In this season of our calendar we find ourselves in a reflective mood with all that is going on around us in the world. We just “celebrated” Memorial Day, as we honor and thank all those who have served and died for our country and the freedoms we enjoy. We are attending graduation ceremonies and parties as again, we are celebrating the next step of life for a new crop of you adults who are ready to go out into the world and make their mark as God has given them abilities to do such things in their vocation. For myself, I am reflective of another year of life and ministry as my birthday quietly passed by, marking another mile marker in my life.

As we all contemplate what is going on right now, it is easy to fall into despair as we are discouraged by events and the doubts and fears of the future, it would be wise for all of us to hit the pause button, and in gratitude, come before God, ever mindful that He is the Creator of all things and is in control, even in the small matters of our lives. He is God our Father, who listens to our concerns and knows the number of hairs on our head. He is the Ruler, and we are His people. This blessed relationship we are in with God should guide our every thought and word with joy and appreciation. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Thessalonians: *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”*. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

There are five times where the Gospels show Jesus giving thanks. Besides the Lord’s Supper, He does so before the miraculous feeding of great multitudes, when Lazarus is raised from the dead, and when thanking the Father for hiding kingdom matters from the “wise and prudent” and revealing them to babes in the faith. Jesus sets a wonderful example of giving thanks, especially in the Lord’s Supper. How profound it is to show gratitude to God for the chance to lay down our lives before Him just as Jesus did for us. When you think of all that Jesus did for you, does that change your perspective on how you live your life in service to others?

When it comes to gratitude, we come before God in our prayers thanking Him for our blessings. How often do you thank God when you pray? No special requests, not selfish pitches or demands for your creature comforts, just prayers of pure thanks. You might remember the childhood song, “Count Your Blessings”? It encourages the children to “count your blessings, name the one by one, count your many blessings see what God has done.” We all could take a lesson from that song and sit down and take a few minutes to count our blessings. When confronted with that list, it will pale in comparison to the negatives we perceive in our lives.

The frustrations we face and the discouragement we feel boils down to Satan trying to drive a wedge between us and God. He will do anything to make you doubt, to shake your fist at God and turn away from Him as we selfishly demand our way rather than God's will in our lives, regardless of what that might be for us. In our recent reading from the Gospel of John, 16:33, we receive this encouragement from Jesus Himself, "I have said these things to you, that you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

I encourage all of us to count our blessings, thanking the Lord and singing His praise, telling everyone what He has done through His most precious gift given to us of His Son Jesus Christ. And may the peace that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! Amen!

Walking in the Light of Life... (John 8:12)

*Pastor Klawonn*

## The Divine Service: Thanksgiving & Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good

**Congregation: and His mercy endures forever.**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

It is only fitting, having received the gifts of our Lord's body and blood, for the forgiveness of our sins, that we should thank him. This is something like the pattern suggested by the Catechism for mealtime, in which God's people first asked the blessing and then, when the meal is finished, return thanks. Some prayer of thanksgiving has, rather naturally, been part of nearly all Divine Service liturgies.

Most Lutheran hymnals provide two options for a post-communion collect of thanksgiving. The left option, "We give thanks to you..." was written by Martin Luther for his "German Mass" of 1526. Rather like Paul's prayer of Ephesians 1:15-23, it moves from thanksgiving to petition. Of course, thankfulness toward God is most evident in our joyfully receiving his benefits and calling upon him in every need. Luther asks that even as we have been refreshed through the Lord's Supper, we would also be strengthened in a two-fold way; in love toward God, and in fervent love toward one another. Christ has given his body to us, for the forgiveness of sins. But he has also given us "the body of Christ," the Church, for the members to care one for another. May the Lord's Supper move us, as Luther prays, to love and cherish both!

The right-hand option is derived from a 13<sup>th</sup> century English rite. In original usages, it was a private prayer of the priest as he held the body of Christ. Our service takes it over to be a prayer offered on behalf of all the people who have been given "pardon and peace in this Sacrament," and we ask that just as God has here "sanctified us" in the broad sense, making us holy by taking away our sins, so would he also "sanctify us" in the narrow sense, ruling our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit, that we may serve Him.

How do these prayers lead you to think about your life outside the walls of the Church? What has the Lord's Supper to do with Monday, or Tuesday, or so on? With the forgiveness of sins, Luther says, come life and salvation. God grant us to live in these!

## Council Minutes for May 9, 2019

**Treasury:** Lisa reports we are doing pretty well, but some large planned expenses are approaching. There were some shingles damaged on the rental property, which may require a new roof. Estimates are approximately \$4,500. Giving is enough to take care of our expenses for now.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor provided a written report, which is attached.

**Education:** Jody is absent, no report.

**Evangelism(EV):** Not a lot to report. Discussing meeting concerning the craft show. They are working at coordinating all who will be involved.

**Fellowship(FS):**

**Property:**

**Stewardship:**

**Worship:**

**Youth:** Lisa reports that the kids had a great time playing Laser Tag at Cadillac Lanes, with 6 kids in attendance. Youth will have a cookout on the May 19<sup>th</sup>, inviting those completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade to join for the event.

**Agenda Items:**

**Old Business:**

AED Training

This will be tabled until the next meeting

**New Business:**

Honoring Graduates

Pastor asked about how we might show support for members who are graduating. Consensus is to include names in the announcements, as well as include special prayers for this year's graduates.

Congregational Communications

Council discussed how it is best for our various groups to provide information about upcoming planned events for publication in the church's newsletter, bulletins, events calendar, etc.



# LOVE INC NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

**Our 8th Annual Love INC Golf Fundraiser is coming up on Monday, June 17th at Irv Warren Golf Club!**

Lunch starts at 11:30. At 12:30 an 18 hole round best-shot golf will start.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! Join us for lunch, golf and prizes! For more information and registration see our website: [www.golfloveinc.com](http://www.golfloveinc.com).



## Community Meal Parson's Table

On June 22, we will host another Community Meal. This is a free Meal and open to all. We will serve Spaghetti and Breadsticks. It is from 11:00 to 12:30.



## Ice Cream Social

June 30th, is the 5th Sunday and One in Worship. The Women of Life will host an Ice Cream Social following the service. They are serving pulled pork, hot dogs, potato salad, cole slaw, chips and ice cream. It will be a free will offering with all the profits going towards our VBS



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## Kick Cancer for Good!!

Please join the POP's Team in giving cancer the boot. Relay for Life is June 14th from 2:00 to 10:00 at Hawkeye Community College. You can make donations, join the team, get a lumina bag at our table in the entry way or from Kristie Rysdam, Jeanne Larsen or Marie Iverson.

## Graduates

We would like to acknowledge our youth who graduated from high school this year. Congratulations and may your faith continue to be your guide.



**Alysha Edler** graduated from East High. The congregation is invited to her open house on June 8, 2019, 2:30-5:00 pm, at The Other Place (Evanston).

**Zach Hippe** graduated from East High. The congregation is invited to his open house on June 1, 2019, 2:00– 5:00 pm, in Prince of Peace Fellowship Hall

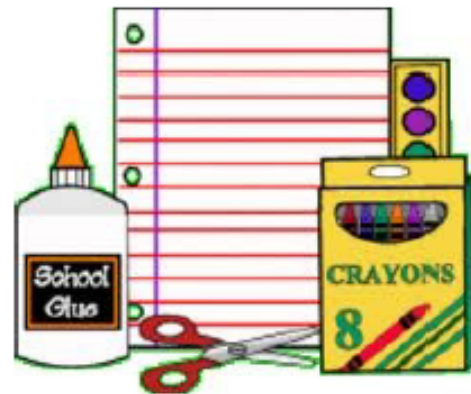
**JP Richmond** graduated from West High. The congregation is invited to his open house on June 2, 2019, 1:00– 4:00 pm at South Hills Golf Clubhouse

**Morgan Wentworth** graduated from Union High School. Her party is June 8, 2019, 3:00 pm, at 302 Cedar St. La Porte City.



### Can Recycle

The youth will start turning in cans for the deposit to use for their activities. So if you would like to donate your cans, they may be put in the box in the back entryway. Thanks for supporting the Youth.



### School Supplies

The Women of Life will be collecting school supplies throughout the summer. These items will be given to the teachers in mid August at the teacher luncheon.

## The Fig Tree



This fig tree belonged to my mother Betty Youngblut. She bought the tiny baby home and took such good care of it, as she cherished it. She passed away in 2013 from a long battle with cancer. We have tried to take care of it and love it has much as she did. It stayed in my father's house, Robert Youngblut, he passed away in December 2018.

We sold the house and were so tickled when Viola asked this church and you accepted it with great appreciation. A Fig tree belongs in a church, where else, my gut was telling me. I'm sure mom would be happy knowing her tree was here. She always said that with the right temperature and conditions it could bear fruit, but she would add "If the fig tree grows fruit you better be looking up!" So with great appreciation to you, Viola Glenn, Lucile Karns "Mom's best friend", we are honored.

Thank you  
Kim Bosse

"The Fig Tree" is mentioned several times in the bible. Here are a few to start with.  
Thank you, The Youngblut Family

<b>Judges</b> 9:10-11	<b>Isaiah</b> 28:4	<b>Psalms</b> 105:33
<b>Numbers</b> 13:12-23	36:13-18	<b>Amos</b> 4:9
20:5	38:21	<b>Revelation</b> 6:2-1
<b>Deuteronomy</b> 8:7-9	<b>Jeremiah</b> 5:17	<b>Habakkuk</b> 3:17-18
<b>Luke</b> 6:43-45	8:13	<b>Haggai</b> 2:19
13:6-9	24:1-10	<b>James</b> 3:9-12
21:29-31	29:15-18	<b>Matthew</b> 7:15-20
<b>Samuel</b> 16:1	<b>Micah</b> 4:1-5	21:18-22
25:18	7:1	24:32-35
30:6-9	<b>Zechariah</b> 3:10	<b>Mark</b> 11:12-14
<b>First Chronicles</b> 12:40	<b>Hosea</b> 2:12	11:20-24
<b>Kings</b> 4:25	9:10	13:28-31
18:28-32	<b>Joel</b> 1:6-7	
20:17	1:12	
<b>Nehemiah</b> 13:15	<b>Nahum</b> 3:12	
<b>Genesis</b> 3:6-7		

### Save the Date

We will have a church picnic on August 24th, at Meyers Park.  
Please watch for details and keep the date open.



### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held July 22nd through 26th, from 9:00-11:30. Plans are being made and volunteers are being asked for. Together we can make this a great week for our youth. We will need some volunteers to be guides; follow different age groups around to the different centers, food donations and other odds and end jobs.

You can register your children by contacting Marlys in the church office or download the form on our web site.

It promises to be a fun filled week, so grab as many kiddo's that you can and sign them up!





## **PRAYER LIST**

Martha Edler, Todd Meyerhoff, Jan Andersen, Roxton Fulton,  
Jerry Wilson,  
John Magnasum, Kristie Rysdam, Brad Forbes, Linsey Picha, Anna,  
Howard and Ronda Fraser, Barbara Thomas, Richard Duhl,  
Mike Sheeley, Regina and Melissa Morrow, Jolene Slater, Vi Dahl,  
Marlyn Neuendorf, Fonda Anderson, Jace Hicok, Aly Becker,  
Gene Edler, Marsha Allen, Barb Schroeder, Marion Odom,  
Jeanie Reeves, Lexy Kelley, Melodee and Ken Sortedahl,  
Ellen Morris, Barb Roberts, Rick Day, Mary Lou Johnson,  
Mark Brown..

### **Memorial Service**

There will be a memorial Service for George Allen on June 8th at 11:00 am. There will be a 21 Gun Salute followed by a light lunch in the fellowship hall.

# June 2019

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11

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Joan and Roy Wellman	Amy and JT Picha		Fonda Anderson	Jody and Grant Hicok	Charlotte and Keith Haycraft
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		John Myers	Jean and Glen Huffman	Sue Fuhrmann JT Picha Janice and Jerry Holdiman	2:00 Relay for Life	Marie Iverson
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Connie Mezera Emily and Curtis Wilson	Bridget Tharp Ronda and Howard Fraser	DevinWentworth		Marsha Allen	Kathy Oleson
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Bill Olson	Lynn McDowell Jane and Nick Goodin	Janeen and Wayne Lidtke	Natalie Wilson		Kayla Jeppesen Noah Jeppesen	