FROM THE PASTOR:

I enjoy the theater. Not necessarily the movies - although I appreciate going out to see a good film on the giant screen and sit amidst surround sound once in a while. But I really enjoy theater where there are actors on stage, and I am caught up in the moment.

I enjoy theater in Portland, especially the smaller, intimate theaters where the actors are sometimes less than a foot away from the audience, and I have to literally move my feet to let them get by.

But I also enjoy theater in the larger venues as well. Because at a large theater I enter the room - and sometimes I have to take a few deep breaths just to take it all in; it takes a few more moments for my eyes to adjust to the dimness ... but then I can look around at the ornate decoration of this work of grandeur, often times constructed in the first part of the last century. I look up and see the gold-inlay in the dome in the ceiling, and the mezzanines, and the box seats on the sides of the room; but especially I see the massive red velvet curtain that seems to hang from behind the proscenium some 30 or 40 or 50 feet high!

When I go to this theater and sit waiting for the curtain to rise, it seems I have entered into a whole new level of reality. The theatergoers all talk to themselves rather quietly, no louder than the lights are bright. But finally, even those subdued lights are dimmed and a hush comes over the crowd. Immediately, I am caught up in excitement. The music starts. The curtain lifts and the stage - center and left and right - present their vivid appearances. The audience applauds the work of the stage designer, for it looks ... perfect. My mind quickly anticipates where the action will take place, how the cast will be adorned ...

You know, that's how I feel during the Advent season. It’s like I'm sitting in a vast theater - vast as the globe, vast as the universe - waiting for the curtain to rise. I have had a sneak preview of the set and know some of the actors - Isaiah and Micah and John the Baptist, and Mary, and Joseph - but how will the drama unfold?

Whatever it may be, it is greater than any human drama, for it is the fulfillment of God's promise to humankind, and it has been centuries in the making.

And, it is the divine playwright himself who is behind the scenes, directing events.

The overture is over, the lights go down, a hush settles ... Am I ready? You bet I am. It’s the story I’ve been waiting for. I’m more than ready. It’s the answer to all of my life’s needs. Am I ready? You bet I’m am! But the more important question is,

Are you?
Peace to you, this Advent season and always.

Pastor Dan
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**Sunday School Program Practices are**
Sat. 12/4 9:00-11:00 (2nd through 8th grades)
Sat 12/11 9:00 -11:00 (all Sunday School children)
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School  
503-645-1211  
www.princeofpeace lc.org  
Pastor Dan Wehrspann

Church Council  
Kristina Cook  
President  
Ron Morris  
Vice President  
Chris Camplair  
Discipleship  
Sally Bailey  
Ministry  
Jill Frerichs  
Fellowship  
Vacant  
Evangelism  
Jan Kier  
Worship  
Deborah Hereford  
Recording Secretary  
Darlene Thauland  
School Director  
Anne Morris  
School Board Chair  
George Thurston  
Administration  
Valorie Westlund  
Financial Secretary  
Bill Mayer  
Treasurer  

Church Elders  
Don Kaster  
Ray Legault  
Brian Thauland  

Newsletter Editor  
Mary Raetz  
newsletter@princeofpeace lc.org

**December Offerings are Key to Prince of Peace's Financial Health**

Based on historical giving patterns of our congregation, we have built our budget and spending programs around receiving a significant increase in giving at year-end. For this December, we are hoping to receive $60,000.00 in order to meet our annual offerings goal of $300,000. Please prayerfully consider the abundance of God's blessings in your life as you prioritize your year-end giving plans.

May you have a joy-filled Christmas season,

George Thurston, Director - Admin. Services

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**LCEF Offers Competitive Interest Rates**

Just a friendly reminder that Lutheran Church Extension Fund investment rates are attractive alternatives to most bank's CD's and savings accounts. The LCEF’s Steward Account (money market checking) is currently paying 2-1/8% for balances of $10,000 or more. Accounts with $5,000 to $9,999 pay 1-1/8%.

For more information and a copy of LCEF's latest prospectus, contact LCEF directly at 800 843 5233 or online at [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).

George Thurston, Congregational Representative for LCEF
Council Highlights

• Council was blessed to be joined by the PoP School Board for the November meeting. The primary agenda item was the proposal and discussion about the PoP School Expansion for school year 2011-12 and beyond.

• Pastor Dan opened the meeting with devotions and wonderful reflection on the importance of passing on the faith. Children and youth are at the center of the faith circles, they are surrounded in larger circles by their family, congregation, community, culture and creation. At PoP we have a Vibrant Faith community with both the church and the school. Passing on the faith with our family members of all ages is our mission to “know Him and make Him known”.

• Darlene Thauland provided a historical perspective to the beginning of and importance of primary education in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The early LCMS congregations could not be formed without a school and the focus on Christ Centered, Quality Education continues in LSCM congregations today. PoP School has a wonderful reputation in the community for providing the Christ Centered, Quality Education to the children and their families that choose PoP School. Those same children and families participate in outreach and mission opportunities to the surrounding community.

• Anne Morris shared a presentation that was presented to the School Board in October 2010. The presentation included facilities and financial projections on a 10 year plan for addition of grades 3-5 to current program. Using 2009-10 school year as the “base year”, this 10 year plan gives a best projection estimate on the costs associated with the expansion of the elementary school on the existing property with some additional modular building addition and remodel to the basement. Long range planning also includes expectation that the congregation will embark on Phase II plans to build new shared space and sanctuary. This presentation was the culmination of many hours of work on the part of Jeff Oltmann, George Thurston and Darlene Thauland. Information and suggestions were the result of summer focus groups, school board and council discussions, congregation vision and leader team support.

• Discussion about the presentation with school board and council members centered primarily on the financial aspects of the 10 year forecast. 2 scenarios were presented. “Best Case Scenario” is based on expectation that PoP school operates at a 100% capacity in all grades. Tuition increases and Fundraising programs run by school parents provide an operating surplus in all years of operation on the 10 year forecast. A more “Prudent Case Scenario” was the model that the group focused on and it is based on the expectation that we have 85% capacity enrollment. The Prudent Case Scenario uses the same tuition increases and fundraising programs but predicts an operating deficit by year 4 of the 10 year forecast. Both scenarios require full involvement and support from the School Board, Church Council, Leader Team and Administration. Diligent review of budgets, expenses and operations are required for success with either model and financial projections are always subject to change with economy, cost of business, etc. These scenarios will be part of the presentation and discussion at the December 5th Voters Meeting.

• At the conclusion of the meeting, the council voted and approved the following plan: 1. The council recommends the affirmation of the addition of 3rd grade for school year 2011-12 with a hold on plans for future expansion. 2. The council recommends that the cost associated with further expansion be reviewed and shared with the congregation before 4th and 5th grades are added.

Kristina Cook
Lutheran Community Services NW is seeking volunteers to sponsor a refugee family this holiday season. The refugee families we serve are so deeply appreciative of the generous donations of gifts from holiday sponsors, particularly for the children. Multicultural Community Services (MCS), a program of LCSNW, serves over 400 newly arrived refugees each year from all over the world. The 4 regions most commonly served at this time are Africa, Iraq, Burma and Bhutan. These refugees suffer unspeakable loss as they must flee their homelands due to war, famine, political or religious persecution. Most refugees come with nothing and know no one, but demonstrate amazing resiliency as they seek to rebuild their lives in Portland. Holiday gifts are a wonderful way to show refugee families that they are welcome and embraced by their new community. If you are interested in sponsoring a refugee family during this special season, please contact Stefani Bloch, sbloch@lcsnw.org, 503-231-7480, x667

Sally Bailey, Ministry Director

Serving Our Community

Human Care

Our congregations will sponsor three families this Christmas. Cedar Mill Elementary school will give us names of families in need. We will again donate food and gifts to make their Christmas a most enjoyable one. Please watch for announcement in the bulletin as to time of delivery. Two Christmas trees will be put on the table in the narthex for food & gift tags on December 5. Please choose one or two and return tag with the item you purchase.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving families. They were so very grateful and extend thank yous also.

The food pantry has been well fed by the Preschool and we DO thank them. We do have our Good Samaritan Sunday the first of each month for a reminder to keep on giving food for our Friday ministry.

Needs are always cereal, toilet paper, laundry detergent, soup and crackers.

Bev Cathcart

Thanks to our Human Care Ministers:

Sally Bailey
Elnora Bender
Bev Cathcart
Carla Fenning

Jill Frerichs
Doris Hoffman
Anne Seim

Helping the Hurting

Lutheran Community Services

Our Sunday School children made Christmas cards to sell to the congregation on Nov. 28. Money from the sale of these cards will be spent on purchasing a small bag of items to be handed out to homeless people in our area.

Kid’s Sunday School

Thank you to our Sunday School Staff

Mora Camplair
Neil Camplair
Patty Camplair
Kim Goudy
Sarah Goudy
Marjanna Hosler
Hannah Kaye
Heather Kravitz
Roy Kravitz
Jennifer Legault
Hunter Prins
Jody Thurston
Gregg and Rebecca Zeutzius
Parish Nurses

TIPS FOR REDUCING STRESS

During the holiday season it is especially easy to feel overwhelmed and experience more stress than usual. If you are one of the millions of stressed-out Americans, there’s good news. People can learn to manage stress. Here are some stress management tips.

- Keep a positive attitude
- Accept that there are events that you cannot control
- Be assertive instead of aggressive or passive
  “Assert” your feelings, opinions, or beliefs instead of becoming angry, defensive, or passive.
- Learn and practice relaxation techniques
- Exercise regularly - Your body can fight stress better when it is fit
- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals
- Get enough rest and sleep - your body needs time to recover from stressful events
- Don’t rely on alcohol or drugs to reduce stress
- Seek out social support
- Learn to manage your time more effectively

Source: webmd.com/balance/reducing-stress-tips

“The Walk to Jerusalem is a program developed by St. John Health parish nursing and is designed to increase the physical, spiritual and emotional health of participants. This “imaginary” trip to Jerusalem is accomplished by individuals within the church...logging their miles each week.”

Source: http://www.stjohnprovidence.org/WalktoJerusalem/

Our walk will include many ways to promote a healthy life style through mind, body and spirit activities. As a group we will log miles according to a guide which all participants will receive. We will begin our preparation in the coming month which will include adult ed classes explaining the process, taking of passport photos and giving you kits to get started.

We will begin our journey in late January with our goal being to reach Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

This program is appropriate for all age groups and should be lots of fun!

Mary Raetz, Health Committee

Check out this website for home safety tips.
http://www.thiscaringhome.org/virtual_home/default.aspx
Children’s Christmas Program
December 12, 10:00 am
One Service Only

Practices are
Sat. 12/4 9:00-11:00 (2nd through 8th grades)
Sat 12/11 9:00 -11:00 (all Sunday School children)

Quilting News
Quilting for Kids
Dec. 2, 10:00
Jan. 6, 10:00
Contact Mary Raetz
503-629-2025

Knot Tiers
Dec. 13, 1:00
Jan. 10, 1:00
Contact Anne Seim
503-646-7700

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Come Knit or Crochet with Quilters
Please call Mary Raetz
If you are interested.
Dec. 2, 10:00
Jan. 6, 10:00
503-629-2025
mary@raetzfamily.com

Kindergarten Christmas Program
The kindergarten classes will be presenting a singing program on Wed, Dec 15, at 10:00 am in the CLC gym. The children have been practicing their Christmas songs and are ready to sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

Congratulations to first time grandparents Glenn & Anne Seim!
Born to Lois & Jason Allaband
Paryn Elise Allaband
November 5, 2010
8 lbs - 2 oz
20”

Food Pantry Needs
Cereal
Oatmeal
Toilet Paper
Laundry Detergent
Soups & Crackers

AMAZING GRAYS
Thursday, December 9
NORTHWEST SENIOR THEATRE
Alpenrose Dairy Opera House

Meet at PoP - 12:30
No lunch planned
Performance starts 2PM
Donation: $5.00
Production features favorite songs and skits from the past.
Come and smile, hum and laugh!!

Adult Sunday Classes
Dec. 5: Lectionary, Pastor Dan
Dec. 12: No class due to Children’s Program
Dec. 19: Lectionary, Pastor Dan
Dec. 26: No class due to Christmas Holiday

Parables of Jesus class will resume Jan 2nd & 9th 2011

Living Nativity

Christ the Vine Lutheran Church
18677 SE Hwy 212
Damascus OR 97089
503-685-5650
www.christthevinelutheran.org
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ, our Savior,
Was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

To our friends at Prince of Peace: May you experience the wonder of God’s great love,
the abiding joy of knowing Jesus our Savior and the Lord,
and the peace and comfort that the Holy Spirit brings.
Jesus our Savior is born!
He is our comfort and our joy!

Christmas, God’s I Love You!
Each child at Prince of Peace School is uniquely designed by the Creator to fulfill a particular purpose in God’s plan. One might have physical challenges, or maybe emotional ones. Some are awkward or clumsy or hyper. In a society where people are valued for what they do, how much are children worth?
They are priceless! God values individuals; Jesus does not say, “I love you because you are industrious; you are intelligent or you are pretty.” Jesus simply tells us, “You are. I love you.”
This is the message that we have the privilege of telling our school children day after day. God made you. You are special. Jesus died and rose again for you. You are eternally His. Children bask in the joy of God’s love shown at Christmastime.
At Prince of Peace School we celebrate Jesus’ birthday with lots of singing, special projects and telling the Christmas story over and over.
We are blessed with a faith-filled and dedicated staff. Several volunteers also contribute to the children’s education.
This Christmas season may we all join with the children and enthusiastically sing one of their favorite Christmas songs:
O, come let us adore Him,
O, come let us adore Him,
O, come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Serving With Joy,
Darlene Thauland, School Director

Holiday Movie
Who: The Whole Family
When: December 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: CLC Gym
What: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Singing Christmas Carols
Yummy snacks

Kindergarten Christmas Program
The kindergarten classes will be presenting a singing program on Wed, Dec 15, at 10:00 am in the CLC gym. The children have been practicing their Christmas songs and are ready to sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

Toddlin’ Time
December Toddlin’ Time is Wed Dec 1, 9:00-10:00am in CLC room 125. Story, songs and crafts for the toddlers, coffee-time for the moms. Please join us!
Devotional Guide
Scripture helps to prepare yourself for Sunday Worship

December 12  3rd Sunday of Advent  Isa 35:1-10  Ps 146:5-10  James 5:7-10  Matt 11:2-100
December 25  Christmas  Isa 62:6-12  Ps 97  Titus 3:4-7

Happy Birthday
December
1  Sue Marquette
3  Erik Haugan
6  Todd Cook
10  Pamela Haugan
11  Shirley Silzars
13  Jill Jessen-Frerichs
17  Valerie Westlund
22  Marlene Walker
26  Caleb Cook

Happy Anniversary
December
13, 1962  Ron & Carol Reule
17, 1960  Ray & Dinah Granning
18, 1999  Andy & Linda Van Dorn
19, 2009  Debbie & Michael Hereford
31, 1988  Gregg & Rebecca Zeutzius

Happy Birthday, Jesus!
IT’S FUN...IT’S FREE!

PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE
TUBA CHRISTMAS
12/11
1:30-3:00
Admission is free

Tuba enthusiasts, music lovers, and all of those last minute shoppers will rejoice in the sound of nearly 200 tubas playing the festive music of the season. The audience not only listens to the sounds of the powerful tubas, but is encouraged to participate in the sing-a-long carols.

2010 CHRISTMAS SHIP PARADE
DECEMBER 9 - 21, 2010

http://www.christmasships.org/

Portland’s Christmas Ship Parade is an annual event on the Columbia and Willamette rivers. The parade includes an average of 50-60 boats, decked out in holiday lights, each night. The Portland Christmas Ship Parade can be viewed from a number of different public parks, bridges, and other locations. Check out their web site to get the parade schedule and to find out where to view or how to participate.

Marshmallow Swizzle Sticks
Yummy in your hot chocolate!

Stir together a cup of sifted powdered sugar with water, 1 tsp at a time (3-4 tsp total), until it is the consistency of a thin glaze. Dip half of marshmallow in glaze, lightly shaking to remove excess. Roll glazed end of marshmallow in finely crushed candy canes or peppermint candies. Place on waxed paper coated side up to set. Thread on skewers and serve.

Chrismons

The decorations you see on our tree in the sanctuary are called Chrismons. They are decorations with Christian meanings and help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus’ birthday. Chrismons were originally made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. They are white and gold...white symbolizing that Jesus is pure and perfect, gold symbolizing His majesty and glory. Our tree at church has only Chrismons and lights so it is called a Chrismon Tree.

How about making some Chrismons for your tree at home? I’ve included a few patterns but many more are available on web sites...just type Chrismon into your web browser and have fun!
A cross symbolizes the crucifixion of Christ.

A King's Crown is the symbol of royal power and authority. It symbolizes Jesus as King of the Jews, in fulfillment of prophetic expectation, as well as the exalted Christ as King of Kings.

Cut these shapes out of white paper, lace stiffened with glue or styrofoam and decorate with gold trims or glitter.

The butterfly symbolizes the transformation.

The candle represents the Light of Christ and the belief that Christ is the light of the world.

These patterns are from http://www.ezartsncrafts.com/christiansymbols.html