### December 2011

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| **AMAZINGGRAYS**  
Sunday, December 11  
Singing Christmas Tree - Vancouver  
First Church of God  
Sign up on bulletin board. | 7:00 pm  
Praise Team |              |                 | 7:00 pm  
Praise Team |              | Church  
Decorating  
9:00 am  
Please join us!  
9:00 – 11:00  
Children's Practice |
| 4            | 5            | 6             | 7               | 8              | 9            | 10             |
| 8:00 am  
Communion  
Worship  
9:15 am  
Sunday Class  
10:30 am  
Worship with  
Children’s Sermon | 6:00 PM  
School Board  
Board Room  
7:00 PM  
Bible Study  
Stern | 11:30 am  
Women’s Bible Study | 1:30 PM  
Avamere Bible  
Study  
7:00 PM  
Bell Practice  
8:00 PM  
Choir Practice |              | Veggie Tales  
“Little Drummer Boy”  
Family Movie Night  
6:30 | 8:30  
Church Cleaning  
9:00 – 11:00  
Children’s Practice |
| 11           | 12           | 13            | 14              | 15             | 16           | 17             |
| Children’s Program  
One Service Only  
10:00 am  
Gingerbread Square  
Family activity  
After 10:00 service | Knot Tiers  
1:00 PM  
6:00 PM  
Confirmation  
7:00 PM  
Bible Study  
Stern | 11:30 am  
Women’s Bible Study | 1:30 PM  
Avamere Bible  
Study  
7:00 PM  
Bell Practice  
8:00 PM  
Choir Practice |              | FOOD BASKETS  
DELIVERED BY  
HUMAN CARE | FOOD BASKETS  
DELIVERED BY  
HUMAN CARE |
| 18           | 19           | 20            | 21              | 22             | 23           | 24             |
| 8:00 am  
Communion  
Worship  
9:15 am  
Sunday Class  
10:30 am  
Worship with  
Children’s Sermon | 7:00 PM  
Bible Study  
Stern | 11:30 am  
Women’s Bible Study | Food Basket Deadline  
1:30 PM  
Avamere Bible  
Study  
7:00 PM  
Bell Practice  
8:00 PM  
Choir Practice | 3:00 PM  
Newsletter Deadline | FOOD BASKETS  
DELIVERED BY  
HUMAN CARE | 5:00 PM  
Family  
Candlelight  
Worship  
7:00 PM  
Candlelight  
Worship |
| 25           | 26           | 27            | 28              | 29             | 30           | 31             |
| Merry Christmas!  
One Service Only  
10:00 am | 7:00 PM  
Bible Study  
Stern |              | 1:30 PM  
Avamere Bible  
Study |              | FOOD BASKETS  
DELIVERED BY  
HUMAN CARE | NO WORSHIP  
Happy New Year! |
|              |              |               |                 | Announcement Deadline  
Wednesdays, 4:00 |              | |
Thinking about Special Gifts...

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. Taking time, with church and family members, to reflect on all the blessings and gifts our God gives us each day—each and every day—is quite humbling. God is so good to us!

Our Thanksgiving worship focused on God’s goodness in providing ‘special’ people, places and things in our lives. It led me to think about the special nature of our congregation here at Prince of Peace. God built this very special place over 50 years ago; He continually fills it with very special people; and He has given us a special mission of sharing the gospel in this community.

As our leaders work on revising our long term vision for Prince of Peace, our many ministries continue, guided by our mission: to know Him and make Him known. Sometimes, we wonder how ‘we’ will find the needed resources to carry out our mission. But God, who cares for and blesses us each day, has promised that ‘He’ will provide everything we need to faithfully serve Him here at Prince of Peace. And He does provide. Just think about it: every person in our church family is a special gift to us from God!

Look closely at how richly our Lord has provided for PoP. He has blessed us with a dedicated church and school staff, Sunday school teachers for all ages, loving parish nurses, gifted musicians (singers, ringers, instrumentalists), generous quilters and knitters, committed leaders, enthusiastic council members, faithful food pantry workers (and many generous donors), property maintenance helpers, bakers and coffee makers, greeters, ushers... the list goes on and on. We have joyful children and wise seniors who provide needed perspective. And what about the many members who serve quietly and invisibly behind the scenes at church. There are those who reach out to each other and our community in acts of love that we will never know about. And the ‘pray-ers’—so many prayers are continually offered up for so many people and causes.

Clearly, God has been faithful to His promise—He has given our church family everything we need to serve our mission in this place. He has given each one of us special gifts to be used to help build up His church. Our challenge is to faithfully use our ‘special gifts’. My prayer is that, whatever your ‘special gift’ is, you experience great joy and many rich blessings as you use it to serve Him.

In His Service,

Bev Peloquin
President
Reminder for December Offerings Goal

Many of our members time their offerings for December. We once again ask the Prince of Peace family to prayerfully consider God's blessings for this past year and give thankfully and generously in support of the ministries of our congregation.

Last January, our congregation boldly approved the 2011 Budget, trusting in God's blessings for offerings totaling $300,000 for the year. This goal was in line with the $307,554 in offerings received for 2010. Through Sunday, November 20, offerings received total $220,419, almost $80,000 behind our offerings goal for 2011.

Those of you at last January's voters' meeting may recall that the approved 2011 Budget had a projected deficit of $42,000 reflecting the addition of the Family Life Educator (“FLE”) position. The voters agreed that the cost of this new position could be funded from reserves accumulated from prior years’ budget surpluses. Reserves were deemed to be adequate to cover the new position for three years.

Given the plan to fund the FLE position in part from reserves, it is important that we strive to meet our offerings goal for 2011.

If you are considering gifting securities as part of your offerings, please contact Valorie Westlund, our Financial Secretary, or me for information on how and where to transfer the certificates.

George Thurston
Director – Administrative Services

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**November 27**  
First Sunday in Advent  
Regular Schedule  
10:00 am Only

**December 11**  
Children's Program  
10:00 am Only

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve  
5:00 & 7:00 PM

**December 25**  
Christmas  
10:00 am Only

**December 31**  
New Year’s Eve  
No Service

**January 1**  
New Year’s Day  
10:00 am Only
Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Did you know that our church, school and twenty-four members and friends have over $1.7 million invested in various types of accounts with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund ("LCEF") as of Sept. 30? We are among the nearly 60,000 Lutheran investors who invest in this ministry-building activity of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ("LCMS"). Total assets of the LCEF are over $1.8 billion.

The LCEF provides loans for financing building programs for Lutheran churches and schools throughout the LCMS. Prince of Peace received a $1.1 million mortgage loan to finance the Christian Life Center in 2003. (Current mortgage balance is $414,700.) Concordia University – Portland has received $6 million in recent years to help finance the new library and athletic field programs. LCEF also provides term loans to assist professional church workers in financing their housing needs.

To promote the awareness of LCEF’s support activities in the Northwest District – LCMS, the District’s LCEF office is sponsoring a special survey with a $1,000 incentive for each of three congregations whose members have the best percentage participation!

The survey period will run from November 1 to 24, 2011. You may take the survey on line at http://tinyurl.com/3r8jih or with a paper survey that I will provide. One of the survey questions will be: Who is your congregation’s LCEF representative? The answer is me – George Thurston!

Please make the time and effort in November to learn more about the LCEF’s contribution to the Lord’s mission and ministries in the Northwest and help Prince of Peace congregation be eligible for a $1,000 grant to fund our ministries.

For information on investment choices and interest rates, please go to www.lcef.org or contact me.

George Thurston, Congregational Representative – LCEF
Phone: (503) 430 5138

Worship Arts Team seeks planning partners with vision, creativity and an eye for color, structure and process. Combining the Spirit of Christ with innovative creativity is the goal of the new Worship Arts Team, which will focus on bringing inspiration and fresh spiritual vitality to the familiar and time-honored traditions of the Prince of Peace worship experience. Our congregation is richly diverse, and we invite you to join our new team, to bring your life experience, artistic skills and talents to what we believe will be a fun and compelling opportunity – bonding in the spirit of God and camaraderie to broaden and enrich our church’s spiritual content. The team will discuss, explore and innovate to introduce artistic, and sensory (sight, touch, hearing, smell and feel) initiatives that can invigorate, inspire and deepen the fulfillment and fellowship of worshipping together. Examples could include such things as helium balloons on the pews that we release on Ascension, red and orange streamers strung from the cross to the balcony on Pentecost, Sunday school kids creating seasonal banners that are carried into the church in a procession. The possibilities are endless.

To learn more, contact Jan Kier at janet.kier98@gmail.com or by phone at 503-466-1110.
Youth & Family Activities/Events
Contact Jeff Kranich for any additional information 503-645-1211

“Messiah: Prophecies Fulfilled”
Children’s Christmas Program
Sunday, December 11, 10:00 am
One service only on the 11th!

Gingerbread Square Family Holiday Event!
Here’s your chance to create a hand-made decoration for the holidays with the help of your whole family! Sign up to purchase a “Gingerbread House Kit” for $10.00, then bring your whole family to PoP on Sunday, December 11 following the Sunday School Christmas Program and worship service that morning. We’ll provide a light lunch, and everything you need to build a beautiful Gingerbread house for your holiday table (and you can EAT it, too!)
Contact Fellowship star point Jill Frerichs if you have questions. Email Jill at jfrerichs316@gmail.com.

GodSong Kid’s Choir Does Christmas!
We are planning a Caroling Service event to Avamere Care Center on Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 PM. We will meet at Prince of Peace to warm up, then carpool to Avamere to sing for the residents there. We will return to PoP at 3:30 PM for hot chocolate and Christmas cookies, and will wrap up at 4:00 PM!
GodSong Kids Choir rehearses Monday afternoon at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary. We would like to begin a second rehearsal time at 3:30 PM that same day for those who cannot come at 2:30. Contact Jeff Kranich if you are interested in participating and when we have at least four committed we will add the later rehearsal. Email jeff@princofpeacelc.org or call Church 503-645-1211 or Cell 206-227-2730.

Christmas Around the World

Be sure to join us for Sunday school on Sunday, December 18, 9:15-10:15 am in the CLC. We will be hosting a special “Celebration of Christmas Traditions” from around the world, highlighting how different nations welcome the Christ child to the manger at Bethlehem. We’ll hear the story of the real St. Nicholas, find out where Christmas Trees originated, talk about what a yule log is, and more! Everyone is invited – bring your friends, your relatives, your neighbors! We’ll have light refreshments, and lots of hands-on activities for all of our Sunday school friends! Contact Jeff Kranich if you would like to be involved!! Email jeff@princofpeacelc.org or call Church 503-645-1211 or Cell 206-227-2730.

Concordia Second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Tuesday - Nov. 29, 2011
6:00 pm Portico outside the George R. White Library & Learning Center
2800 NE Liberty Street, Portland, OR

Concordia’s Choral & Instrumental Ensembles
Friday, December 9, 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 10, 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 11, 3:00 PM
St. Michaels Lutheran Church
6700 NE 29th Ave.
RSVP www.cu-portland.edu/christmaschoral
503-280-8505 or 1-800-752-4736
Growing In Faith
FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

Confirmation Classes

Any athlete will tell you that the only way to stay healthy and keep your winning edge is to eat right and practice, practice, practice. The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 that our relationship with God and the living out of that relationship is like a race, and encourages us to feed our faith regularly and to practice, practice, practice, so that we grow strong and learn how to trust God for all the circumstances in our lives. Confirmation provides a place where parents and kids come together to strengthen and grow their faith through a two year course of study leading to a Personal Statement of Faith for 8th Graders on Palm Sunday.

Adult Ed
December 11, 9:15 CLC 125
(Please note: There will be no adult ed classes on December 11 due to the children’s program, December 25 and January 1 for the holidays.)

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Psalm 19:1

2000 years ago the skies proclaimed that a Savior had been born and the Magi began their journey to Bethlehem. We call it the Christmas Star, but what was the actual nature of this cosmic event? Join us as we contemplate the wonders of the heavens and explore how scientific understanding affect our beliefs about God’s handiwork. Adult Ed December 18 in CLC 125. Led by Andy Westlund.

2011-2012 Confirmation Class
Schedule / Topics
Mondays 6:00-7:30pm

December
12 Monday - Conclusion to LAW
16 Monday - Baptism
30 Monday - Confession / Forgiveness

February
13 Monday - Lord’s Supper I
27 Monday - Lord’s Supper II

March
12 Monday - Faith Wrap-Up
25 Sunday - Faith Chest Presentation
26 Monday - 8th Graders only (Finalize Faith Statements, Confirmation details)

April
1 Sunday - Palm Sunday (Confirmation)

Sunday School starts each week with a special opening in the CLC for children’s classes that includes songs, videos, special announcements, and more. After the opening, kids follow their Shepherds to various activities based on their grade. Our theme for this year is “Messiah”. We will spend the year together exploring the promise of God to send us a Savior, and how He worked through kings, prophets, and ordinary people to fulfill that promise in Jesus Christ who, by His life, death, and resurrection, restored the relationship that sin had broken between us and the God who loves us! New to our Program this year are five special Sunday school celebrations that will highlight important events in the church year like Reformation and Christmas. These celebrations will include music, crafts, special presentations, and great snacks! Join us each Sunday during regular Sunday School classes throughout the year - from “Story Time” to “Bible Crafts” to “Faith Café” there is something for everyone!!
Healthcare Ministry

Knot Tiers

With thanks to God!

Two disabled women received wheel chairs.
A woman with Alzheimer's disease received a walker, cane, and shower stool.
A woman that has cerebral palsy and is blind and a quadriplegic received a bed.
Each of these people, and their families, expressed their deepest thanks.

Thankful to serve God, Sally Bailey
Love, INC. medical equipment ministry at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Prayer Shawls

Prince of Peace Healthcare Ministry

Prayer shawls are lovingly made by knitters or crocheters with prayer for recipients who are in need of prayer and comfort, such as those with serious illnesses, loss, depression, a shut-in or any caregivers. A shawl is visible proof that someone cares for and is praying for the wearer. The shawls have been blessed and we hope that the wearers will feel God’s arms around them. If you know of someone who would use a prayer shawl, please let the Pastor, Jeff, the church staff or the Healthcare Ministry Team know.

Shawls can be made of any soft yarn, approximately 60 X 27 inches if a rectangle, or long enough at the top to wrap over the shoulders if a triangle.

If you would like to make shawls, using your own yarn or some we have available, or if you know someone who would use a prayer shawl, please let someone know.

Thanks,
Margo Mayer: 503-645-5764, wmmayer@mindspring.com
Jennis Taylor: 503-645-7742, longlook@comcast.net

Quilting News

Quilting for Kids
No meeting in December
January 5, 10:00 am
Mary Raetz, 503-629-2025

Knot Tiers
December 12, 1:00 PM
Anne Seim, 503-646-7700

Human Care

We thank the congregation for helping make a wonderful Thanksgiving for three large families! They were so very grateful!

We switch gears and go right into having our Christmas Giving Trees up the last Sunday of November! Your continuing generosity will be requested to make Christmas joyful for three Cedar Mill families. There will be eight children and seven adults. One tree will hold food tags and the other will be gift tags. We ask that you return your gift or food item with tag attached. Our deadline will be December 21st, a Wednesday. The food and gifts will be given on December 22.

A big THANK YOU to great response in stocking our pantry with much needed food items. We have adequate food to see us through December, but watch announcements where needs are published. A blessed holiday to all. Bev Cathcart

Food Pantry Needs

Crackers
Cereal
Jams/Jellies
Tuna
School News

Joy to the World!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!”
Luke 2:11

What a joyful time of year for all of our children at Prince of Peace as they look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Sometimes we forget that our youngest children may not remember last Christmas or only have vague memories of it. This gives us, as parents, grandparents and friends, a wonderful opportunity to tell the very true story of Jesus’ birth for perhaps the first, second or third time that your child has heard it. It is unlike any other story. It is a story that has changed our lives and that we pray will change their hearts forever! So celebrate the JOY of this season with your young ones by telling the story over and over. Invite your children to act out the story complete with a baby, bathrobes for costumes and stuffed animals! You can also help them appreciate the true meaning of Christmas by telling them this story and focusing on how we can help others—just as Jesus did!

The acronym for J O Y—Jesus, Others, and Self reminds us that Jesus is first in our lives and in our celebrations. Bake a birthday cake for Jesus and sing “Happy Birthday” to Him. “O” stands for others and how we need to put their needs before ours. Children learn this by watching us put their needs before our own and by watching us help our neighbors and those who do not even have basic necessities like food and clothing. Rather than having children make a Christmas List of their wants, ask them to make a list of what they would like to give to others. Remind them that they don’t need money to clean a room for a younger sibling, fold clothes for Mom, or empty the garbage for Dad. They can make up coupon books to give away to family and friends. “Y” stands for You—finally! The realization is that by putting Jesus first and Others second, YOU will find joy, not just for the Christmas season but for an eternity!

JOY to you and your family this Christmas Season!

Joy in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem!

Lenetta Colbert
School Director

Family Movie Night
December 9th at 6:30 PM.
Premier showing and party for Veggie Tales “Little Drummer Boy”

Mark your calendars now for the premier showing of Veggie Tales “Little Drummer Boy”. Come in your toasty jammies, bring your blanket and pillow and enjoy some hot chocolate and a snack. Movie nights are intended for all church and school families with young children. Don’t have a young child? Borrow one or offer to take your neighbor’s so Mom can take a night to do her Christmas shopping.

“It’s My Turn to Go to School!”

Wednesday, December 14th at 9 AM.
Parents and Toddlers are invited to meet in CLC 125 at 9 AM to share music, crafts and a snack.

Kindergarten Christmas Program

Wednesday Morning, December 14th at 10:30 AM in the Gym at CLC.

If you have not been to a Kindergarten Christmas program lately, be sure and check this one out and bring some JOY to your Christmas as our kids tell the Christmas story in word and song!

Just a note to let you know that all of our teachers have mailboxes in the church office by the copy machine. Sponsors are not “secret” so you are also welcome to stop by and introduce yourself to the teacher also. I would also be glad to introduce you to your teacher if you do not already know that person. Just stop by my office any weekday.
Thank you for participating!
Lenetta Colbert

Joy to the World!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!”
Luke 2:11
# Devotional Guide

**Scripture helps to prepare yourself for Sunday Worship**

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**Happy Anniversary**

- 1, 1962 - Ron & Carol Reule
- 17, 1960 - Ray & Dinah Granning
- 18, 1999 - Andy & Linda Van Dorn
- 19, 2009 - Debbie & Michael Hereford
- 30, 1967 - Barbara & Ken Swenson
- 31, 1988 - Gregg & Rebecca Zeutzius

- 1 - Sue Marquette
- 3 - Erik Haugan
- 6 - Todd Cook
- 10 - Pamela Haugan
- 11 - Shirley Silzars
- 13 - Jill Jessen-Frerichs
- 17 - Valorie Westlund
- 18 - George Thurston
- 22 - Marlene Walker
- 26 - Caleb Cook
- 27 - Hunter Prins

**Wishing You a Happy Birthday!**