

## Reaching an ever-changing world with God's never-changing Word!

Church Office:	<a href="mailto:churchoffice@princeofpeacebeulah.org">churchoffice@princeofpeacebeulah.org</a>	701-873-5650
Pastor Kent Sperry	<a href="mailto:ksperry@princeofpeacebeulah.org">ksperry@princeofpeacebeulah.org</a>	815-501-9629
Pastoral Intern Joe	<a href="mailto:jlanson@princeofpeacebeulah.org">jlanson@princeofpeacebeulah.org</a>	320-305-9521
Youth Director Cody Halverson	<a href="mailto:chalverson@princeofpeacebeulah.org">chalverson@princeofpeacebeulah.org</a>	701-490-1427
Church website	<a href="http://www.princeofpeacebeulah.org">www.princeofpeacebeulah.org</a>	

### January 2023



Pastor Kent

*"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."*

(1 Corinthians 10:24 ESV)

Society tells us to do whatever makes us happy. It tells us that we should do that which fulfills us. And it tells us that we deserve these things.

It sounds very convincing. It sounds convincing because it frames this in the context of self-care. It tells us that it's about taking care of both our physical as well as our mental health.

And, for the most part, we in the church have bought in. As we go about our lives, we naturally pursue those things that serve us. We pursue those things that satisfy us. We pursue those things that please us.

In reality, of course, this flows from our sinful nature. It flows from a nature that is inherently

selfish. It flows from a nature which is fundamentally self-centered and self-seeking.

As we look to Scripture, however, we find that it commands the opposite. It calls us to do that which goes against our natural tendencies. It calls us to turn from our selfish tendencies and to put our neighbor ahead of ourselves.

This is Paul's point, in the passage above. He tells us that we're to seek not our own good, but that of our neighbor. We're to seek the welfare and the blessing of our neighbor ahead of our own.

We see this not only in the above passage, but throughout Scripture. For example, in Philippians 2:3-4 Paul says: *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* And in 1 Corinthians 13, we're told that love does not insist on its own way.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus says it this way: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love*

*one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* And we, of course, know how Jesus loved us. He loved us by laying down his life for us.

I'm not suggesting that we ignore our health and well-being. If we fail to take care of ourselves, we'll be of no good to anyone. However, we're to seek the blessing of others ahead of our own. And we're to seek not our benefit, but that of our neighbor.

In fact, we serve God by serving our neighbor. We love God by loving our neighbor. And we worship God as we help and minister to our neighbor.

## **Prayer request**

Prince of Peace is part of a community wide prayer chain. If you have something you would like added to the prayer chain – please email the church office.



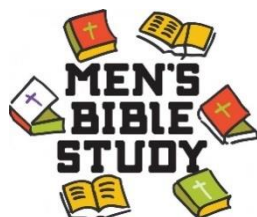
## **Sunday School Corner**

I would like to **THANK** everyone who helped with the Christmas program! The kids did great! We will resume Sunday School January 8th.

In His Hands,  
Donna Bieri

## **Men's Breakfast & Bible**

**Study** Join us Saturday January 21 @ 7am for study, food and fellowship.



If you can not be with us in our Sanctuary for worship, please know that our service is available on YouTube.

You can access the link via our Facebook page or subscribe to Prince of Peace Free Lutheran Church Beulah ND

## **Threads of Love Quilters**



Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesday mornings @ 9am. All are welcome! It is a wonderful time of working together and fellowship.

## **Communion prep for January**

Dena Kemmet

## **Communion prep for February**

Marvin & Joyce Bauer

## **POP Worship Attendance**

11-20 - 181

11-20 - 36 Annual meeting

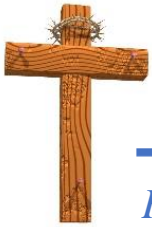
11-23 - 71 Thanksgiving eve service

11-27 - 136

12-04 - 149

12-11 - 163

12-18 - 227



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## *From the Chairman*

### HIS GRACE

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7

"Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." When John Newton penned this promise, he did so out of personal experience. His greatest test came the day he buried his wife, Mary. He had loved her dearly and prayed his death would precede hers. But his prayer was not answered.

Yet God's grace proved sufficient. On the day she died Newton found strength to preach a Sunday sermon. The next day he visited church members, and later he officiated at his wife's funeral. He grieved but in his grief found God's provision. He later wrote, "The Lord, the all-sufficient God, speaks and it is done. Let those who know Him, and trust Him, be of good courage. He can give them strength according to their day. He can increase their strength as their trials increase...and what he can do he has promised that he will do."

Let God's grace dethrone your fears. Anxiety still comes, for certain. The globe still heats up; wars still flare up; the economy acts up. Disease, calamity, and trouble populate your world. But they don't control it! Grace does. God has embedded your life with a fleet of angels to meet your needs in his way at the right time. His grace will lead you home.  
Marin C. Sigman



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Prince of Peace  
Women's Missionary  
Federation (WMF)

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*The Mission of the WMF of Prince of Peace  
is to study and share the Good News of Jesus, through  
word and deed, at home, in our community and  
throughout the world.*

Happy New Year! I can't believe it is 2023! It is and God is still the same today as He was last year and as He is to come when He comes again.

December's showed us what she can do with snow! I am so thankful that we were able to get together on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> before it started weathering. We had a lovely gathering with sweet treats and good drinks. It was so good to see everyone and look at God's word together. We may have to do it again before next December.

We put in an order for the new WMF Bible study books. We always order extra so there will be one for you if you didn't get signed up. Our first meeting will be Monday, January 16, at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. **"Women of Redemption" is the new Bible study.** It was written by Michele Mobley and Tami Demo. It sounds like a good one.

**Come join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 in the fellowship hall.** It is a good time to fellowship and refresh with our sister's in Christ. As it says in **Hebrew 10:24-25** "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but encouraging one another, and so much the more as your see the Day approaching."

In His Hands,  
Judy 870-2131

### **Fellowship for January 2023**

Jan 1: No fellowship

Jan 8: Carey Mattheis , Lillian Boeshans, Bill U  
Nancy Swanson

Jan 15: Larue Schwarz, Sodie Peabody, Jay &  
Ashley Olson

Jan 22: Jim & Joan Schumaier, Jim & Darcee  
Wenning

Jan 29: Lynette Flemmer, Margaret Rosaaen, Bill &  
Kris Keller

### **Fellowship for February 2023**

This list is currently being generated – if you are not  
already on our serving list, give me a call. It is great  
if everyone takes a turn!

### **Ushers for January 2023**

**Jan 1 :** David & Stephanie Hottman, Jared Glynn

**Jan 8:** John & Carmen Mohl, Frank & Sarah Senn

**Jan 15:** Sigmans, Pedersons, & Kellers

**Jan 22:** Reichenbergs & Klaudts

**Jan 29:** Kevin Lee, Jim Wenning, Jay Seibel, Vern  
& Karla Boehm

### **Ushers for February 2023**

**Feb 5 :** David & Stephanie Hottman, Jared Glynn

**Feb 12:** John & Carmen Mohl, Frank & Sarah Senn

**Feb 19:** Sigmans, Pedersons, & Kellers

**Feb 26:** Reichenbergs & Klaudts

## **Noisy Offering**

Our Sunday School children will be  
collecting change in our noisy offering on  
Sunday, January 15. Bring your pockets full  
of change if you are interested!

## **Children's Message**

Pastor Kent will be doing a children's  
message on Sunday January 22.

## **January Birthdays**

1-Jan	Nancy Hafner
1-Jan	Blair Wiedrich
4-Jan	Alec Babcock
4-Jan	Trytin Helfrich
4-Jan	Kendra Ungerger
7-Jan	Alyson Wiedrich
8-Jan	Kacey Klaudt
9-Jan	Clancy Bauman
10-Jan	Lynn Flemmer
13-Jan	Delton Schnaidt
14-Jan	Robert Hafner
14-Jan	Travis Horning
14-Jan	Emersen Olsen
16-Jan	Mark Gerde
23-Jan	Erika Ochsner
24-Jan	Lona Moos
24-Jan	William Wanzek
25-Jan	Joan Schumaier
26-Jan	Katie Klipfel
27-Jan	Gina Feist
30-Jan	Gary Miller



## **Radio Broadcast**

Please contact the church office if you are  
interested in sponsoring a Sunday radio  
broadcast. The cost is \$40. The radio  
broadcast is heard on Sundays at 11:30am  
on KDKT 1410 AM. Available Sundays to  
sponsor are January 2023 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29  
and February 5, 12, 19, & 26. Please email  
or call the church office to reserve a Sunday  
to sponsor.

## Warehouse Report

With winter in full swing it is hard to think spring will ever be here. I feel as though it has been winter my whole life. With the memories of warm summer days slowly being forgotten with the day to day coldness. We often get down and depressed with the long winter months, that often feel more like years. Yet, we still hold on to the hope of a warm breeze against our face, with the warm sun beaming down warming us and the earth. At times we remember the coming of warmth and yet sometimes if we are being honest we wonder if spring will ever come. This can sometimes be how we act in our spiritual life. Somedays we are remembering the promise from God that He will take us home out of this cold broken world to be with Him forever. Yet, somedays we question if it all makes sense and wonder if God truly cares. It may seem insane, but have you ever meet someone that doesn't believe spring will ever come. There is a difference in having a long winter and spring never truly coming. We trust that the seasons will change and we will be enjoying the warmth once again. Just like our trust in God will give us spiritual warmth even on the coldest of days in this life. Then one day we will be enjoying the wonderful warmth of being with Jesus forever!!

John 14:1-3

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;<sup>[a]</sup> believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take

you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

Popfly has been enjoying lots of fun with weekly meetings. We took a little break around Christmas time and are looking forward to starting again in Jan.

Coming up in Jan. we are planning a half-night for the MSBS and also a late Christmas party because of the snow storm. The HSYG will also be planning a lock in during Jan. along with a late Christmas party.

I will be gone for the AFLC Youth workers weekend. I will be in Wisconsin at the ARC. Looking forward to that time.

## **POP Church Council**

### **Highlights**

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

**December 13, 2022**

#### **Chairman's Report – Marvin Sigman**

Marvin went to the Deacon's Meeting. He also attended the Dickens Village in Garrison, Pride of Dakota, Night in Bethlehem, the Walkaround in Beulah and celebrated Jan's birthday,

#### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Kent**

I'd like to begin by expressing my thanks for the generous Christmas gift given to me.

I attended our deacons meeting, annual meeting and staff meetings.

I participated in our community Thanksgiving service.

I conducted our Thanksgiving service.

I baptized the Zeisler's great-grandson in a private ceremony.

I finished our new member's classes, for those received at our annual meeting.



I conducted a service at KRCC.

I conducted the funeral for Hella Menge.

I'll be conducting the funeral for Stan Miller at POP on Monday, Dec. 12th.

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 4:30, and Joe will lead the Christmas morning service.

### **Intern Pastor's Report – Joe Larson**

11/9: Departed to Minneapolis and then to Israel, returned to Beulah on 11/19

11/20: Helped with Puppets of Praise: skit and song (practices twice a month)

11/23–25: Family Thanksgiving in Minneapolis

11/27: Leading of service and preaching at Trinity Parish

12/3: Puppet song and then sermon for Night in Bethlehem

12/5: Gaining some counseling experience every other week

12/7–8: Leading confirmation, youth group, and teaching MSBS

12/11: Doing service/adult SS/preaching here at PoP

Attending all pertinent meetings and prayer times (staff, deacons, council)

Fulfilling seminary obligations (readings, research, sermons, training)

Assisting with Sunday School and major Bible studies (Adult, Youth, MS)

1/1: Preaching at Trinity Parish (maybe also 2/5 and 3/5 if not at other churches?)

1/13–17: Youth Worker's Weekend at the ARC before board interviews

1/17+: Can begin interviews with congregations.

3/1+: Can consider and accept calls. Please keep us in your prayers!

### **Youth Director's Report – Cody Halverson**

#### **Senior High Youth Group**

The youth are looking forward to fun events like the lock in and ski trip coming up. There will also be a "girls trip" Sierra will be taking some youth girls to Bismarck. We have started the new "series" of looking at topics in life through a Biblical way of thinking. This has been and will be really good for the youth, if allows them to ask questions that they are facing today, and get the answers from God's Word. They also seem to have a want to be at church with likeminded people.

#### **Middle School Bible School**

We are continuing to have fun and learn about the Bible and like the older youth, look at how to live life in a Biblical way. This group seems to be more open about talking with what goes on in their home lives. It is important for youth to take the lessons home and possible tell parents about what they are learning. There has been a few times of needing to drive a few youth home, because it was cold and or parents had forgotten them. They feel safe in the church and are always happy to be playing games and enjoy being kids. Because of this safe feeling, I think it helps the youth trust the lessons being taught.

#### **Sunday School**

We enjoy having small games and the lesson is really fun and I believe the youth are learning a lot with the lessons.

**FLY** Registration is paid for the 10 signed up possibly 1 or 2 more to sign up after Jan 1

### **Treasurers Report – Margie Lee**

General Fund	\$	14,026.09
Building Fund	\$	43,871.50
Coffee Hour Fund	\$	140.89
Intern Fund	\$	27,940.20
Van/Storage Fund	\$	3,675.63
Total Bank Acct	\$	155,091.92

### **Deacon's Report – Kevin Lee**

Discussed having new deacons begin help to serving communion.

Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:30, with Pastor Kent leading/preaching. Joe will take the lead on Christmas morning for our regular 9:00 AM Sunday service. New candles, both wax and battery, have been ordered and received. Marvin will organize the handing out of candles. We typically ask council members to usher that evening. Confirmation students may help with candle distribution.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'll plan for Lent meals, put on by youth families as a fundraiser for their youth accounts, beginning at 5:45. We'll have worship at 7:00 each week. Joe, Cody, and Pastor will each take a couple weeks, leading worship and preaching on a theme we have yet to figure out. And for Holy Week, we'll have our typical Maundy Thursday communion service, Good Friday service, and our two Easter Sunday services with breakfast in between (Carmel rolls or pancake breakfast put on by the youth).

We need to put together the usher, service leader, and sound booth lists for 2023. Garrett will do the usher list, Steve the service leaders, and Kevin the sound booth and secretary duties.

Intern Update – Joe gave a good report and advised of his upcoming events, which include counseling a couple and meeting with various churches in need of a pastor.

### **Christian Ed Report – Angie Wanzek**

Christian Ed did not have a meeting. They met via email getting Night of Bethlehem set up. A lot of non-members attended Night of Bethlehem. They were happy with the turn out. Ordered devotionals for the Sunday School Christmas program.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tithe** - We voted to split our Tithe of \$2,279.81: \$750 to Youth Ministries, \$750 to Parish Education and balance of \$779.81 to FLAPS.

**Vacation Days** – We clarified that Cody can carry over vacation days

### **Correspondence**

Thank you notes were received from Amy Haugen, Darcee Wenning, Pastor Sperry, Joe Larson for the staff Christmas gifts. Cody Halverson thanked us for the Christmas and Ministry Appreciation gifts. Also received thank you notes for our donations and prayer from Women's Action Resource Center, AFLC Headquarter and ALFC World Missions. ARC sent a newsletter.

### **2023 POP Church Council**

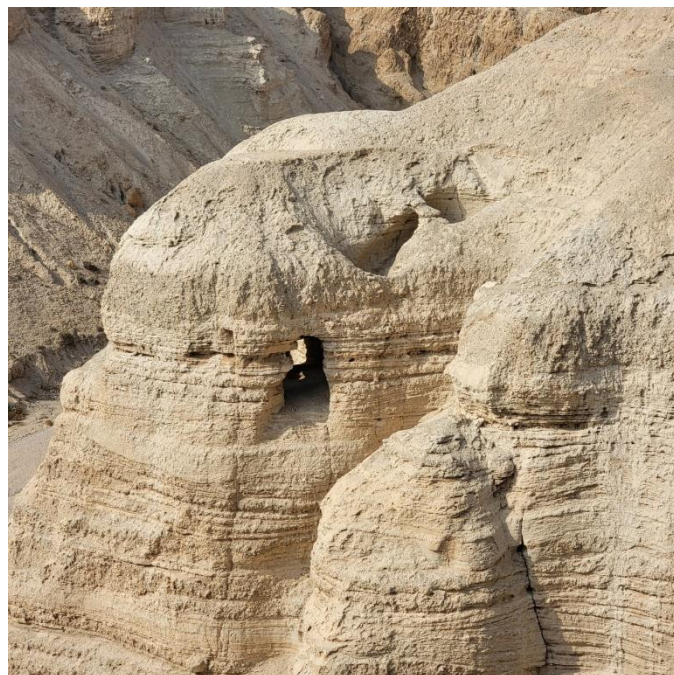
<b>President</b>	Marvin Sigman
<b>Treasurer</b>	Margie Lee
<b>Secretary</b>	Deb Saylor
<b>Deacons</b>	Kevin Lee
	Garrett Placke
	Les Buchmann
	Steve Finsaas
<b>Trustees</b>	Ryan Tolosky
	Dustin Buchmann
	Jeff Rotondo
	Bruce Neuberger
<b>Christian Education</b>	Angie Wanzek
	Donna Bieri
	Chrisy Rontondo
	Nicole Buchmann



Dry. Hot. Rocky. Barren.

Heading southeast of Jerusalem along the Dead Sea meant heading into the Southern wilderness and wastelands. Our van was blessed with A/C to fight the surprising strength of the November sun. Huge cliffs guarded our right side and the salty Dead Sea expanded to our left. It brings to mind a portion of Isaiah about what will happen in even these driest of wastes:

**Isaiah 35:1** *The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. ... They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.*



We pull up to our destination. A small cave hollows out the cliffside. Here, nomad herders once moved their flocks around, searching for vegetation and water. One such shepherd boy in 1947 ventured into this cave and discovered a piece of the past.

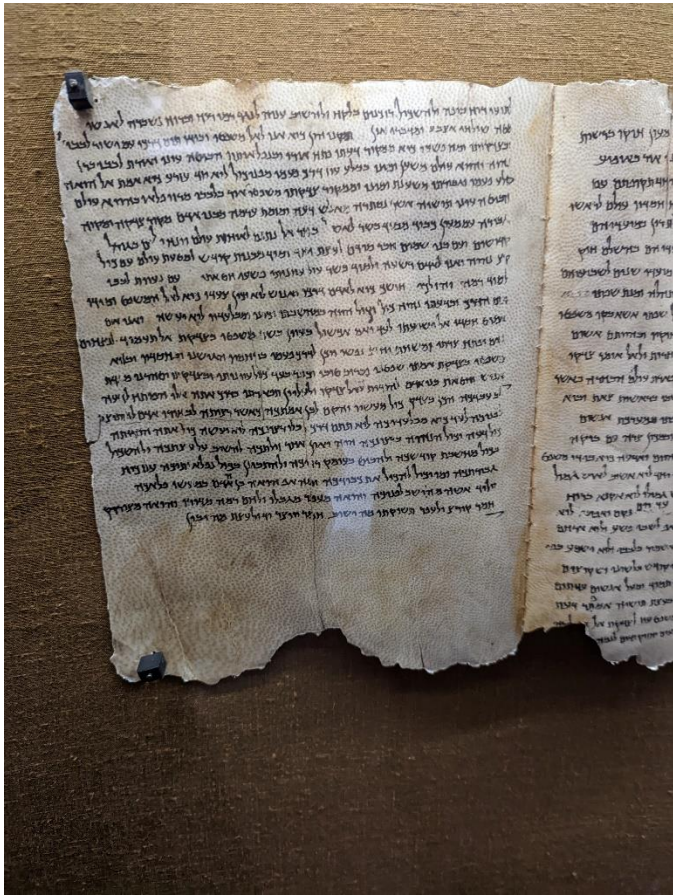
This discovery came because many in the past centuries had fled to these hills for refuge from trouble and persecution of the people who ruled over Israel. The Jewish Essenes were the most prominent to occupy these hills. Recluses and scribes, they rejected the norms of their time and wanted to be prepared for the Messiah. They were waiting. Anxiously waiting.

Isaiah says to people like them:

**Isaiah 35:3** *Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."*

That shepherd boy discovered promises about the One they were waiting for. The shepherd boy found jars filled with water. Not normal water, living water.





The shepherd boy had discovered pots filled with scrolls. These scrolls had the Old Testament Scriptures faithfully preserved on them. These Scriptures featured prominently the book of Isaiah in beautiful detail and high levels of preservation.

Here, in the wasteland, a discovery was made that reminds us of the power of God. Why will the wilderness rejoice? What makes the anxious find rest? How will God save His people?

By the coming of the One with Living Waters.

The Word of God incarnate, Jesus, is the hope of life in the most barren of places. He brings light to darkness, life to death, and joy to sorrow. He does this through His Word, the blessed discovery of Qumran.

In that Word, Isaiah says:

*Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6*

*then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

Have you felt lost in the wastelands of life as of late? Has your soul been longing for peace? Have you become weary and fatigued by your weakness and sin?

Look to Jesus. Look to the one who springs up water in the desert. Search the promises of the prophets and see that the Messiah is the one who satisfies the needy.

Even in the most impossible of places or situations, our God sees, and our God saves.

He will deliver you by the blood of His Son from your sins. He will strengthen you by His Spirit and His Word: living waters. He will not forsake you to the elements of this world that want to tear you from Him. He will bring you into His flock, the ransomed:

*Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. < Eternal life is now yours through faith in Christ.*

So, when the wastelands of life seem to stretch on into the horizon, do not fear.

Our God, our mighty God, **will** come.  
He will come with living water and **life**.  
He will come and save **you**.