

PEACE TALKS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

WINTER 2021/2022

THE GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO PASTOR MARK

Waiting is the hardest part

*The waiting is the hardest part
Every day you see one more card
You take it on faith, you take it to the heart
The waiting is the hardest part*

Noted American songwriter (and lousy theologian) Tom Petty laments the difficulty of waiting. We can sympathize with the feeling. We don't like to wait. When lines are long or the doctor hasn't called with the test results, we often become concerned, impatient, or even angry.

Psalm 130:5 encourages us to wait; I wait for the Lord and in his word I put my hope.

The bible is full of people who are waiting. Adam and Eve are waiting for a child who will deliver them from sin and death. The children of Israel wait for 40 years as they wander in the wilderness. Simeon, an old man, goes every day to temple, waiting for the consolation of Israel. All of these people and millions more put their hope and trust in God's Word and His promise. And God came through for them.

Advent is a season of waiting. While the world around is preparing for holiday celebrations, the Christian church is mindful of Christ. We do look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth. We look forward to the return of Christ on the last day. We are also mindful that God continues to come to us through the power of His Word and the blessings of the sacraments.

Take the opportunity during this Advent season to wait for the Lord and to put your hope in his Word. Join us for worship on Sunday (either in person or online). Take the opportunity to read God's word and join us for Advent midweek services (St. Paul Northville at noon or Prince of Peace at 7:30pm). Join us as God's people wait. And watch God be faithful to his promises. In the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, we see the fulfillment of God's promise of rescue, deliverance from sin, and the hope of life eternal.



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Inside this issue:

Bible Study Opportunities	2
Financial Peace	3
Experience Israel	3
Looking for Hope	4
Novi Choralaires	5
God with Us	6
Worship Schedule	7

Cont.

PEACE TALKS

One of the great hymns of the church is the ancient Advent carol, O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The final verse is a great prayer for the Advent season,

O come, Desire of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace. Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Waiting with you!

Pastor Mark

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY morning studies will explore the gospel readings in Luke (Luke 19:28-40, 3:1-14, 7:18-35, and 1:39-56) and how they connect with the season of Advent.

In January we will resume a study of the book of 1 Corinthians.

WEDNESDAY noon Bible study resumes January 5 as we continue our study of the Psalms. This class is in person and runs one hour. You can bring your lunch and join us in the community center, carpeted area.

THURSDAY Bible study is studying the miracles of Jesus. We meet December 2 and December 9 both dates at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM meetings only. Please talk with Kim Rinn or Pastor to receive a ZOOM link invitation to join the study.

SATURDAY Women's Bible study is looking at the parables of Jesus and meets on December 11 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM meeting. Contact Kim Rinn for a class link invitation.



FINANCIAL PEACE IS RETURNING!

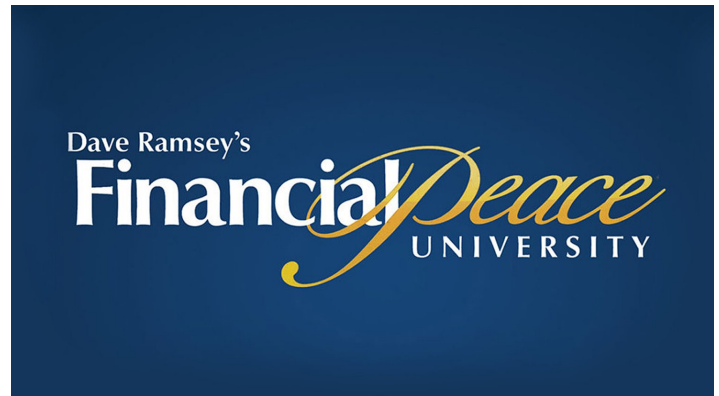
Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is coming to Prince of Peace

Prince of Peace is going to host Dave Ramsey's well known Financial Peace University beginning January 20, 2022. This is a great opportunity to learn the best ways to manage money in a 9 week class that focuses on the basics of financial peace. It will be an in-person class which is open to all who want to either attend for the first time, return for a refresher class or help others get started. You might think of

friends, family and fellow workers who could benefit from this class.

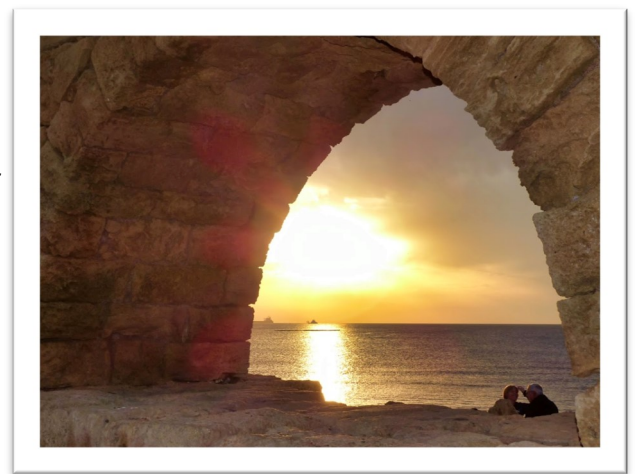
We are looking for people to attend, people to help administer the classes as well as people who can help us reach out into the community. We hope to reach out to the Farmington Hills community through schools, churches and

other community groups. Prince of Peace members and their families and friends will be very crucial to this ministry. Anyone interested in the course or interested in helping should contact Ed Kaiser or Pastor Schuum in the church office (248)553-3380.



EXPERIENCE ISRAEL

If you have ever wanted to tour the Holy Land, you may be interested in a tour that will be led by Pastor Mark in January 2023. This is a ten-day visit to some of the major Biblical sites in Israel. We will see the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Magdala, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives. The trip will give you a new perspective on the events that are recorded in the Scriptures. We will have the opportunity for devotion time, reflection, and learning new things about Biblical and modern Israel. Brochures are available outside Pastor's office or speak with Pastor Mark about this exciting opportunity!



PEACE TALKS

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR HOPE?

By Elaine Echols

There is a difference between help and hope.

Help is a verb -it involves an action.

Hope is a noun - it can be a feeling.

Help can cost time and money, while hope can't be bought. Hope by one definition is "to cherish a desire with anticipation." Hope increases happiness, reduces stress, and improves our quality of life. In the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness. "May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with HOPE." (Romans 15: 13). Hope looks to the future. It is built on faith. Hope is connected with waiting. Hope comes from God.

Ways to bring HOPE to others:

1. Give words of encouragement- share a promise or verse from God's Word
2. Extend a helping hand- help with chores or errands
3. Show kindness - make a phone call to check-in or send a card
4. Demonstrate love & care - drop off a meal or groceries, be a listening ear
5. Show appreciation
6. Spend time - your presence is essential in a developing a caring relationship
7. Pray for someone who seems hopeless

Give the "gifts" of hope to someone this season. Power up and start spreading the joy of knowing hope in Jesus in 2022. Be a HOPElifter.

Coming outreach opportunities to share HOPE...

DECEMBER is the perfect time to invite someone to worship in anticipation of Christmas. Invite and bring someone to the Christmas concert titled "Hope Triumphant" by the Novi Choralaires on December 12 @ 4 p.m. Offer to bake cookies to share with an invitation to return for worship. Be a blessing to the less fortunate families in our community with a donation of a family game or gift card for food, clothing or gas (available through Scrip). Gifts (not wrapped) should be at church by Dec. 5 for the district liaisons to deliver before Christmas.

JANUARY we will celebrate "Sanctity of Life Sunday", January 23, 2022, in anticipation of supporting new moms/parents and their choice to choose life. God created & chose each baby and that changes everything and brings hope. Pray for those attending the March for Life. Watch for more details.

Continued from page 4 ...

FEBRUARY we will spread love around in our community with connections to those who serve with notes of thanks to those who protect us as first responders.

As we look forward and begin a New Year...

"Let us hold unswervingly to the HOPE we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider HOW we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

Novi Choralaires Holiday Concerts
Aidan Rickel, Artistic Director
www.facebook.com/novichoralaires

Hope Triumphant
Hope, Peace, Joy

Sunday, December 5
4:00 pm | Church of the Holy Family
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI

Sunday, December 12
4:00 pm | Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
28000 New Market Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Tickets: \$10.00
Available at the door

NOVI
cityofnovi.org
Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375, 248.347.0400

cnc
www.novichoralaires.org novi choralaires

PEACE TALKS

GOD WITH US

By Stephenie Hovland

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”(which means, God with us). Matthew 1:21–23 (ESV)

Around this time of year, we may get the urge to make sweets and spoil our family. Why not? It's our job, right? Whether we're grandparents, godparents, or other relatives, we want to see our family thriving in happiness. Part of the joy of the holiday season goes well beyond sweets and smiles. It's the time of Advent—the time when we anticipate the Savior's birth, the time we prepare our hearts for his second coming. If we can share the hope of Christ and the heritage of our faith, then we will smile and have the comfort of knowing that when the food is gone and the gifts are all opened and forgotten, the one important thing still remains—salvation in Christ the Messiah.

Here are some practical ways you can practice and share your faith with your family and friends this holiday season:

- * Choose Christmas cards that have a biblical theme.
- * As you receive Christmas cards, pray for each person who sent them.
- * Light Advent candles even when guests are present. Invite them to join you in devotions.
- * Give gifts that support faith, such as Bibles, devotion books, and prayer books.
- * Practice forgiveness and grace during stressful holiday events.
- * Read Luke 2 with the whole family.
- * Offer rides to family members who may need extra motivation to get to church.
- * Share links to services on your social media. <https://www.princeofpeacehills.org/VideoLinks>
- * Take pictures of your family in church and share with others.
- * Connect with others at church. Help them to feel part of your church family.
- * Call someone and do Christmas caroling over the phone.
- * Donate money, time, or things to someone in need. Pray for them as you serve.
- * Watch for the lonely and the sad—at Christmas dinner, at church, at the store. Pray for them and let them know you care.
- * Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus with the little ones. Make birthday cupcakes!

Make sure you take care of yourself too. This busy holiday season can easily distract us from what is important. Advent is the perfect time to set some new habits or double down on the some that

Continued from page 6

need reinforcing. How is your prayer life? Your Bible reading? Do you have a set time or does it somehow escape you on most days? Choose to be more intentional this Advent season. As you light a candle and say a prayer, realize you can keep it very simple. Or, go ahead and dig out that Advent wreath with the candles. Find an Advent resource and vow to read your Bible for ten minutes every morning and every night. Do what works for you and what you need. The housework can wait a few minutes. The Christmas cookies will still get decorated. Sit at the feet of Jesus at least once a day. Spend time with him. He came to earth for you!

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to live among us and give us the hope of eternal life. As your Spirit guides us this Advent and Christmas season, grow our faith and help us support the faith of those around us. Please give the gift of faith to those who do not yet trust in you. Show us how to help them know you more. Give us the compassion and strength to speak up and have the right words to show and share our faith. Amen.

Stephenie Hovland is a writer and speaker who is currently enrolled in the Online Deaconess Program at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. Pastor Mark is her mentor. You can check out some more of her ideas at her website, stepheniehovland.com

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!



Mid Week Advent Worship at 7:30 p.m.

December 1

December 8

December 15

Mid Week Advent services will be held at noon at St Paul's Northville. 201 Elm Street, Northville.

Christmas Eve Friday, December 24

Worship at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Saturday, December 25

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Friday, December 31

Worship at 7:30 p.m.

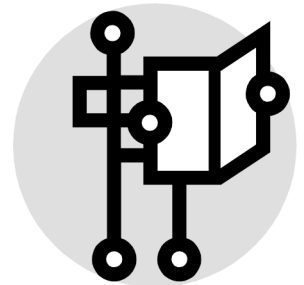
STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS,...



The role of Stephen Ministers is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. You can reach them by calling the church office and leaving a message on the Stephen Ministry confidential line. Your message will be returned by our Stephen Ministry leader and we can get you on a pathway to care!

KEEP IN TOUCH

- ♦ **THROUGH OUR WEB PAGE:** Our Prince of Peace web page is the place for up to date calendar information as well as where you can access the live stream link for our worship services and read pastors blog posts. Be sure to check it out if you haven't recently, as changes are being made regularly. PrinceofPeaceFHills.org
- ♦ Please feel free to send emails to the church office or contact pastor if you need any assistance. (248) 553-3380 press 1 to leave a message for pastor or email Laura at office@princeofpeacefhills.org
- ♦ Our E-newsletter is sent out electronically each week on Thursday and includes a short list of information you need for the upcoming week about Worship, Discipleship and Service. Also included in our weekly prayer list (as an attachment). Please contact the church office if you need to make updates to your email address. Our Peace Talks newsletter will be sent out through the USPS seasonally for 2021.
- ♦ We continue to provide worship online as well as in person. Prince of Peace has a YouTube channel which live streams worship each Sunday morning and also provides mid-week worship during Advent. Please go to our webpage for a link to the live stream or YouTube.com and search Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, LCMS. There you will find our library of uploaded content.



How do I know what is going on at Prince of Peace? Read the newsletters and check out the web page.

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