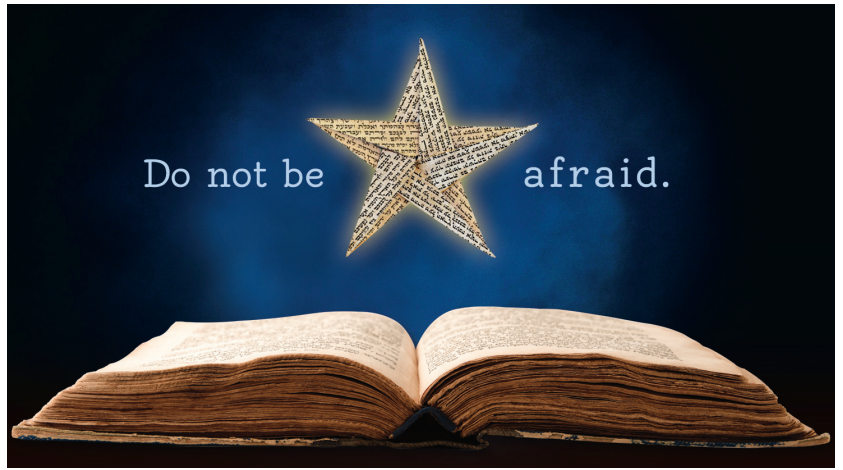




Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, 2024

**Practice Joy**  
John 17:13



### MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY  
SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

**Angels (Glory to God)**

**Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

**Go Tell It On The Mountain**

CLASSIC | SUN 8:45 am

CHOIR/ORGAN: **Joy To The World**

**Angels We Have Heard On High**

BELL ANTHEM: MUSICAL OFFERING

CHOIR/ORGAN: **He Came Down**

MESSAGE: **Paul Dean**

**Communion** (Saturday 5:30 pm)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Classic: Sun 8:45am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 10:30am**

**Praise Choir (Grades K-5) Advent Worship | December 7–8**  
Kids lead worship! Saturday (5:30 pm) and Sunday (10:30 am)

**Christmas Concert | December 14-15 | All Worship Services**

This concert, presented by the Celebration Choir, orchestra and soloists, is free and open to the public. Invite your friends!

### JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

**Submit names for a new Pastor of Family Ministry by December 1**

Email [FamilyMinistryCallCommittee@popmn.org](mailto:FamilyMinistryCallCommittee@popmn.org)

**2025 Artist Calendars | \$15 each, to benefit FMSC**

Available for purchase in the Community Room

**Great ADVENTure | Friday, December 13 | 6:00pm**

Family ministry Advent celebration! [popmn.org/register](http://popmn.org/register)

**Decorate for the Holiday! | Monday, December 2 | noon – 8:00pm**

Want to help deck the halls? Contact Amy: [akalsow@popmn.org](mailto:akalsow@popmn.org)

### JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Submit your statement of intent at [popmn.org/fall-stewardship](http://popmn.org/fall-stewardship).

**Submit year-end gifts before 11:59pm on December 31.**

Make sure your gifts are credited in this tax year! Info →



## Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



**Connect** with Prince of Peace! Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.



Scan here to donate to Prince of Peace's **Mission & Ministry.**



Scan here to make a **prayer request** or to have a member of the Spiritual Care Team contact you.

**PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.**



Trust the Story | Do Not Be Afraid | **Practice Joy**

## “WELCOME, FEAR. I KNOW YOU ARE HERE.”

Does the idea of the holidays – Christmas carols and parties, shopping and gifts, family gatherings and office parties, Santa Claus and cookies, sparkly lights and good cheer – ever feel false to you? Is it difficult to even consider today’s theme, “Practice Joy,” when it feels like the world is falling apart? Does the idea of Christmas just feel difficult sometimes?

Have you ever noticed how many times in scripture people are being told to not be afraid? Why do you think this is?

In today’s reading, Jesus seems to know that fear is about to descend on his disciples and attempt to steal their joy. And by “joy,” we’re not talking about happiness, which is circumstantial and fleeting. We’re talking about how it feels to live with the confidence and deep sense of knowing that you are loved, that you are whole and treasured, despite the shifting world around you.

Take a moment to think about what steals your joy. What do you fear? There are so many things these days that can keep you up at night. Take some time and actually list your current, real fears here, however big or small:

How does it feel to carry the burdens you listed into the Advent and Christmas season? What would it take to loosen the grip fear has on your heart and mind?

As Thanksgiving weekend comes to a close, remember that gratitude is the antidote to fear. Think back over all the things that you are grateful for in your life, things you might have remembered or shared at Thanksgiving. How does dwelling in gratitude lessen your fear?

When the fear creeps back in this holiday season, actually say out loud: “Welcome, Fear. I know you are here.” When you acknowledge its presence, you get to call the shots. And you get to consciously counter each specific fear with a moment of specific gratitude.

For example: Do you fear for your kids’ future? Counter that fear with thoughts of gratitude that your children are and have been in the world, in your family. Do you fear for your health? Counter that fear with grateful thoughts that today you are here. Do you fear for our country? Counter that fear with gratitude for communities that stick together and help those in need.

We can’t make fear magically disappear, but what changes when we intentionally search for the joy that lies underneath all the struggles in this season?