



BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 87, Number 12

December, 2025

CHRISTMAS

Worship at Prince of Peace

Dec. 14th
at 10:00am
Shepherd's Keep
Watch:
A Christmas
Pageant

The annual celebration of the Christmas story as told by the youth of the church.

Dec. 24th
at 4:30pm
Family Worship

Our early Christmas Eve worship is warm, festive, and family-friendly—the perfect way to share the joy of Christmas with children in a welcoming community.

Dec. 24th
at 10:00pm
Candlelight
Worship

Restore your spirit with sacred readings and beloved music during this special candlelight service.

Dec. 25th
at 10:00am
Christmas
Festival Worship

Rejoice—the light of the world is here! Join us as we celebrate the incarnation.

Dec. 28th
at 10:00am
Lessons and
Carols

The Christmas season is a high point of joyous singing in the church year. Let your hearts overflow in love and song in this festive worship celebrating Emmanuel.

Sunday Worship in



We continue to worship together Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the building, in-person or on Zoom, Facebook Live, or webpage (princeofpeacebrookfield.org).

Please sign in upon arrival. A separate booklet will be produced for each service that you are welcome to take home with you.

The offering plate is passed during the anthem. Please help the ushers by passing the plate down your row.

Sunday's service is at 10:00 a.m. and it will also be on Zoom and streamed to our Facebook page.

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR



Most Sundays during the year, we have a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the altar that was created by the members of Altar Guild. Those flowers are dedicated and paid for by members of the congregation.

The arrangements costs \$25.00. If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in memory of a loved one, to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or event, you can sign up for your chosen date on the Flower Chart between the bathrooms in the Narthex.

You also need to fill out a flower request form, which is located next to the Flower Chart, and put it in Rene Tuccillo's mailbox.

Your name and dedication will appear in the worship bulletins. If two people sign up for the same date, flowers can be placed in other locations in the Sanctuary, such as on the organ or piano or at the baptismal font. We do not have flowers at the altar during lent.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER

	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church			
	October 2025		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	18,876.78	32,242.58	290,152.61	322,425.80
Expense	41,905.58	31,908.52	309,742.23	318,068.68
Net	(23,028.80)	334.06	(19,589.62)	4,357.12

ATTENDANCE IN NOVEMBER

	In Person Attendance	On-line Attendance	Total
11/2/25	64	7	71
11/9/25	58	9	67
11/16/25	64	8	72
11/23/25	77	5	82
11/30/25	69	8	77

USHERS

Ernie Lehman will be compiling a list of members who are willing to usher in 2026. Please let Ernie know if you are interested or say yes when he asks you.

DATE CHANGES FOR HANDBELL AND SANCTUARY CHOIR

Starting in January, the Handbell choir and Sanctuary choir rehearsal night will be changing to Wednesdays. Same times, but different day.

Brian Muller

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

We have a new database that will make communicating and connecting with you and other members easier. Please follow this link to update your information and provide new photos.

**Please submit before Jan. 1 so we can start the new year -
and the new giving tracking system - in 2026!**



<https://wkf.ms/43qLurE>



Recruiting Worship Assistants

Every Sunday we receive innumerable blessings from volunteers who support our assembly in worship. We help one another to express the faith within us and our hunger for God. Our Sunday gathering is of immense importance – it is a visible expression of Christian community, and it is an actual encounter with God through the Good News of Jesus Christ. As a community it is our primary spiritual practice.

Perhaps you've wondered how you might help to nurture the faith of your siblings in Christ at Prince of Peace. Pastor Michael is recruiting Worship Assistants to be a part of Sunday morning worship and play a role in supporting the worship life of the congregation.

If you are interested in becoming a Worship Assistant or have questions, please contact him at pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org.

The Heart of Worship: Encountering the Risen Christ



Adult Faith Formation at Prince of Peace
Sundays after Worship and Hospitality
Sept 21, Oct. 5 & 12, Nov. 2, 9, & 16,
Dec. 7, 14, & 21



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

Pastor's Report:

- Brookfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at the Congregational Church on Sunday, November 23rd at 3pm.
- New England Synod ELCA has an Anti-racism Prayer Meeting (open to all) Zoom on the first and third Thursday evening 7:15-8:15 pm
- Stewardship is on track for pledges to date.
- The Finance Committee has met and are working on a 2026 budget.
- The Adult Study beginning in January will be a study on the Book of Matthew.

Name Tag Sunday

- Congregation will be asked to wear their name tags on the 1st Sunday of the month and on Special Sunday's. Ushers will be asked to remind people as they sign in.

Council Service Sunday

- Sunday, January 11, 2026 Council Members will serve as:
 - ◇ Greeters - Tim and Paul
 - ◇ Ushers - Monica and Meg
 - ◇ Acolyte - Lorraine
 - ◇ Lector - Johnny
 - ◇ Communion Assistant - Kim and Chris
 - ◇ Coffee Host - Debbie
 - ◇ Zoom computer - Heather

Votes

- Motion to convert our Vanguard Investment account to a brokerage account and allow Priscilla Mancinone, Richard Mercado, Heidi Sue Adam, and Heather Kray Pontonio to authorize use was made by Lorraine and seconded by Chris. Council unanimously agreed to approve.
- Motion to update banking accounts signatories to reflect church leadership and solid check & balance procedures was made by Johnny and seconded by Karen. Council unanimously agreed to approve.
- Motion to approve allowing staff to roll-over 1 work week to the next year. (These days must be used in the next year, and will not continue to accrue.) Motion was made by Chris and seconded by Meg. Council unanimously agreed to approve.



WELCA Monthly Zoom Bible Study

Women of the church are invited to join Prince of Peace's *Women of the ELCA* (WELCA) for a monthly Wednesday Zoom bible study.

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, WELCA commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Study materials will be sourced from WELCA's *Gather* magazine; there is no cost to participate. This month's session is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m.**

Please contact Rev. Michael Anderson at pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org to receive a Zoom link and participation materials.

Evening Prayer (Vespers) Select Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Life's preoccupations are relentless in pursuing our total attention. But in every circumstance, God's presence is assured and is nearer to us than our own breath. Amidst the static, in silence, God's voice emerges, calming our hearts, satisfying our longing. So, come away and rest a while with Evening Prayer and be reminded that the only thing that can name you is God's love.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 10 & 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Tidings!...from Pastor Michael Anderson

MERCY noun

mer-cy

1a: compassion, leniency, or restraint (as in imposing punishment) shown especially to an offender or to one subject to the power of another

b: imprisonment rather than death imposed as penalty for first-degree murder

2a: a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion

3: compassionate treatment of those in distress

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mercy>

The season of Advent marks our aching, human plea for mercy. Many of us are familiar with Advent as a season of waiting for God's incarnation in Jesus, but we have to know that Jesus is God's answer to our desperate plea for mercy. The cry we raise to God is the groan of our frustration with a world that somehow manages to be senseless, confusing, unsparing, cruel, and arrestingly beautiful all at once. It is a season that grants us a period of time to reckon with the stark sense that our best, most ingenious machinations to engineer our lives are not enough to deliver us from ourselves and that we need help. As David James Duncan writes in his epic novel, *Sun House*, "moaning is connected with hope."

Loss of faith in ourselves is the birthplace of faith in God, and when that happens the impossible becomes not only possible, but real and true: the very place that seems totally absent of God is truly filled with God. Faith's birth in our lives could be the very last thing we ever wanted. But its appearance has nothing to do with us or our plans (which is exactly the point), it is the beginning of our education in knowing God's mercy and becoming truly aware of life beyond our own. God's mercy is always bigger than what our personal lives and needs. There is an entire creation wild for relief to care for and God's mercy is for all God has made.

What will your Advent plea for mercy be this year? What is our moan? For what personal circumstances? For what family matters? For which creatures of the earth? For which ecologies? For what nations? God have mercy on us all and bring us to hope..

Pray with me.

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW Leader's Desk Edition, pg. 145).

To God be the Glory,

Pastor Michael

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00-9:45am

Elementary

Pre-K - 5th Grade

Meets downstairs



Middle & High

6th - 12th Grade

Meets in the Green Room

Dig into Jesus' teachings
and questions designed
for teenagers!

Each weeks stand alone. Attend as your
schedule allows.

Parents - enjoy coffee and fellowship
while your kids are in class!

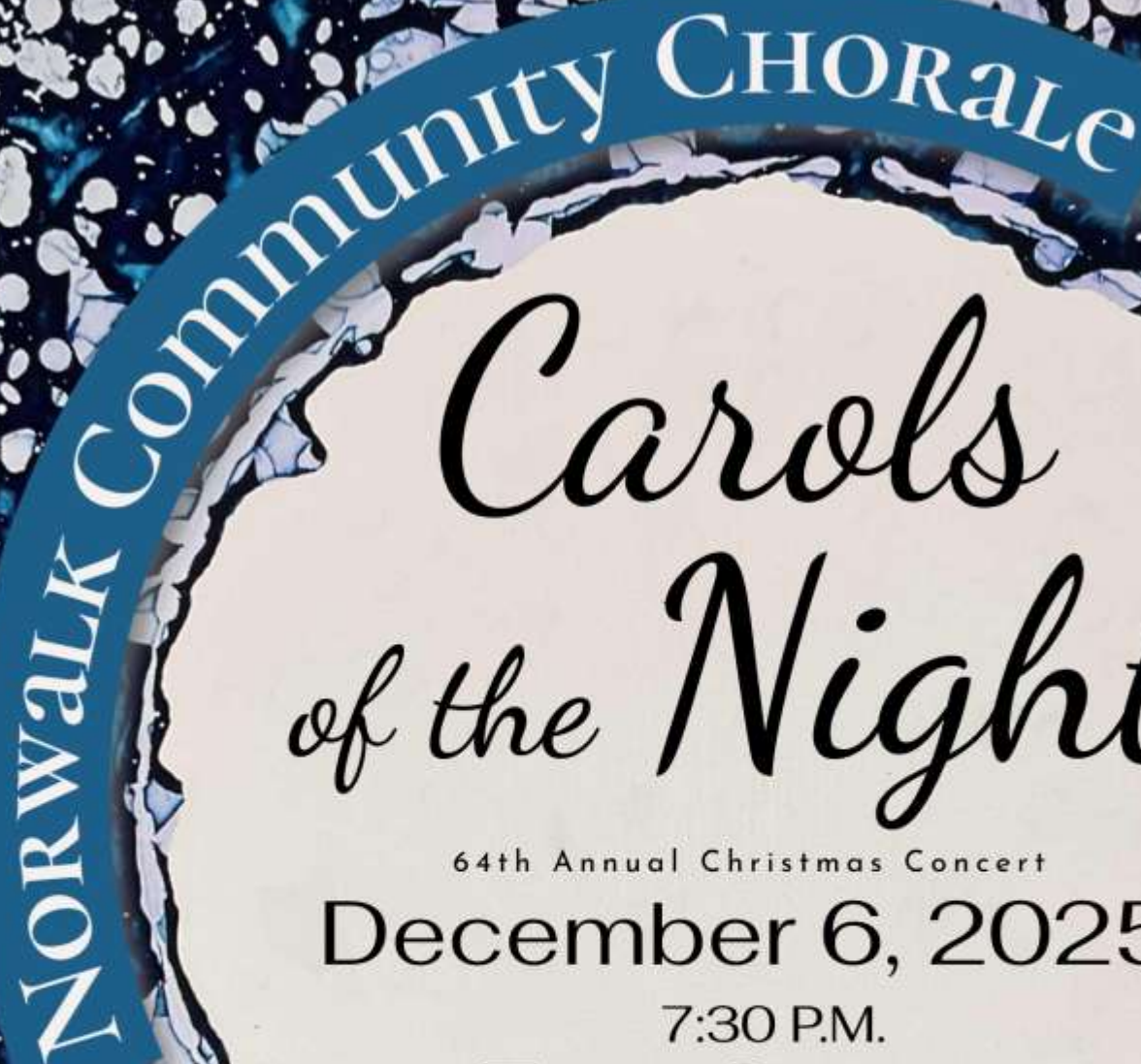
POP into Ladies Night

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FUN

Join the ladies of POP on
Monday December 1st at
Michael's Tap Room in
Bethel @ 7pm

No RSVP required
Text/Call Lorraine
with questions
845-416-0900





NORWALK Community CHORale

Carols of the Night

64th Annual Christmas Concert

December 6, 2025

7:30 P.M.

Free Concert

Doors Open at
7:00 P.M.

Brian Muller
Artistic Director

Norwalk Concert Hall, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT

Sponsored by the Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department
For more information visit www.norwalkcommunitychorale.org

JOIN US FOR A

A POP Family Christmas

**DECEMBER 7TH
11:30AM**

**Tree Decorating
Christmas Carols**

Hot Cocoa

Cookie Swap

**Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to
participate in the cookie swap.**

**Enter into the swap by using the QR
code below**





THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!!! The Women of POP want to thank everyone who participated in making our annual Holiday Craft Fair a success...from making crafts, baking, cooking, giving of their time setting up on Friday, during the fair to work in the booths and also for all your donations and of course, your purchases.

We made over \$2,300.



LOAVES AND FISHES



Loaves & Fishes Bag Lunch Prep: PoP is now preparing 20-25 bag lunches every 4th Sunday of the month for Loaves & Fishes in New Milford.

Please sign up to volunteer for making the bag lunches on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. The lunch materials will be provided by PoP and prepared in the church kitchen following the church service.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Davies at 914-907-4509.

THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

If you took a tag from the Salvation Army Angel Tree please remember to **Attach the entire tag to the gift.** It is important that the tag be fastened securely. If they become disconnected, it makes it difficult to match the gift with the child.

Ernie Lehman

DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT

All gifts need to be back to the church by

Sunday, December 7th.



PRINCE OF PEACE PRE-SCHOOL



As the holiday season is upon us, Prince of Peace Pre-School families and staff are preparing to share their voices with holiday caroling the weeks of December 8th and 15th.

Families will gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy festive holiday songs and share in laughter and community. They will also be provided with beautiful holiday visuals as candles will decorate the walls and a forest shimmers with lights.

As we look forward to the coming year, we begin enrollment (for the 2026/2027 preschool year). Please note, the school will be closed for winter break from December 22nd through January 2nd.

Warmest holiday wishes from the Pre-School!

Best,

Heidi Riddle
Pre-School Director

CHRISTMAS GARDEN ORDER FORM – 2025

If you would like to contribute a poinsettia, please indicate below. Donors of plants will be acknowledged in the worship bulletins on Christmas Eve. The plants may be taken home after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Please make your check payable to Prince of Peace. If you don't want to purchase a poinsettia, you can make a donation to the Love Fund in honor of or in memory of someone, The Love Fund is the pastor's discretionary fund, used to help church members and other local people facing a financial crisis.

Deadline: Friday, December 19th

6.5" Pot at \$8.50 each:

_____ Red Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

_____ White Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

8" Pot at \$29.99 each:

_____ Red Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

_____ White Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

Please complete the following for the bulletins – **Please Print Clearly**

Love Fund: \$ _____

In honor of _____

by, _____

In memory of _____

by, _____

As a thank offering to God _____

by, _____

Your Name _____

Telephone _____

Please return the completed form to Rene's mailbox by December 19th.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Tom Herpel
4	MyKayla Lavery
7	Heidi Adam
9	Mindi Sanger
11	Marci Sharp
15	Elizabeth Davies
16	Jocelyn Doré
18	Jason Zimmitti, Michael Mattera
20	Mary Ewert
22	Susan Lehmann
23	Jeanette Lupinacci
26	Brian Muller
27	Lisi Ewert, Julia Hlouskova
29	Al Morey, Mark Nobes

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

27 Marci & Jim Sharp

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed in Blueprints and you would like it to be please contact René at the Church office.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the friends and family of longtime Prince of Peace member, Richard "Dick" Estey who was born to eternal life on November 3, 2025. Dick's memorial service was held at Prince of Peace on Saturday, November 9, 2025.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the friends and family of previous longtime Prince of Peace member, Harold Rannestad who was born to eternal life on November 16, 2025. Harold's memorial service was held at St. John's Lutheran church in Summit, NJ on November 22, 2025.

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Prince of Peace family,

Thank you for the support and love you all gave us at the time of our Dad/PopPop/Richard's passing. The overwhelming emotions of preparing for a wedding and then suddenly a funeral were eased by your special care.

Meals showed up at the perfect moments, our lawn was raked and staff went above and beyond with their assistance!

We are blessed to be part of this special faith community.

In gratitude and love,
Meg, Kevin, Dan, Melissa, Heather, and Colin McLoone

SEAFARER'S THANK YOU

Thank you to the knitters for the wonderful supply of hats and scarves sent in October. They will surely warm the heads and hearts of seafarers as they dock in New Haven.

Your knitting shows the seafarers that they are thought of and appreciated for the work they do. They love receiving your gifts.

Dear Prince of Peace friends,

I would like to say Thank You to the POP members and Pastor for the Get Well cards in the past and recently received Birthday Wishes for Gale from the Congregation.

Rudy Confortini

Daily Bread Food Pantry Update

Please consider a tax-deductible donation today and periodically. Your contribution will help us serve the many hungry people in our community into the future and ensure that nobody gets turned away without food. As we've said before, food is available through state food banks at reduced prices and this can greatly increase the availability of food. To donate scan the code with your mobile device or visit dailybreadfoodpantry.com/donate-1 or mail a check payable to Daily Bread Food Pantry at P.O. Box 2, Danbury, CT 06813-0002.

The items that are listed below for the pantry tend to be the most nutritious and are easy to distribute.

Avoid glass jars and fragile packaging.

Toiletries:
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothpaste

- Canned tuna, salmon or chicken
- Beans (canned or dry)
- Peanut butter
- Meal-in-a-can (beef stew, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.)
- Soup (especially chicken noodle)
- Rice (1, 2 or 3 pound bags)
- Pasta
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned corn
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Breakfast cereal (hot or cold)
- Marinara sauce and canned tomato products

Thank you for your donations and prayers.

Nan Carlson and Mary Weisensee

2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL



Back row (L-R): Pastor Michael Anderson, Lorraine Lavery (Vice President), Tim Brumbaugh, Meg McLoone, Heather Pontonio (President), Christine Buzzell, Deb Nobes (Secretary); Front row (L-R): Paul Adam, Kim Gerardi, Karen Frank, Monica Walsh (Vice President), Johnny Halas, Jim Sharp

If you have a question about finances please contact Priscilla Rivas at 203-830-9016 or guanacaste@snet.net.

Church Contact Information:

By email – rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

By phone – (203) 775-9070

Facebook Message – <https://www.facebook.com/popbrookfield>



The church office is open most weeks Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please call first.

Worship Services

Go to our website to experience our virtual worship and giving opportunities.

Sunday's December 7, 14, 21, 28

10:00 a.m. in person inside worship

10:00 a.m. Zoom service and streamed to Facebook

Christmas Eve Services 4:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

All services will also be a Zoom service and streamed to Facebook.

Contact Us

Website:

www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org

E-mail:

rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

Phone: (203) 775-9070

Fax: (203) 775-9573

Email for Rev. Michael Anderson:

pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

Cell phone: (203) 794-4694

Our vision...

Centering ourselves in God's word, we are open to the Holy Spirit's call to inspire faith in our changing world. As children of God we strive to share and spread God's love in the world.

Mission: A welcoming community gathering together in God's Word to serve others.

Core values:

- building & sustaining relationships
- being accepted
- Engaging with others in Christ
- contributing to a greater purpose through social ministry
- being grounded in the teachings of Jesus

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 5184
119 JUNCTION ROAD
BROOKFIELD, CT 06804

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE DELIVER
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

December, 2025