



PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIVING OUR FAITH

(203) 775-9070



PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org



119 JUNCTION RD, BROOKFIELD, CT

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August lightning strike captured by Twins BBQ patron

Endings and beginnings are often almost indistinguishable. We can observe this reality in our personal lives and in our communal life in the church. Cultivating the sensitivity to notice when changes are afoot or that the Holy Spirit is up to something is what we call discernment.

As you peruse this month's Living Our Faith Newsletter, invite prayerful discernment into your reading: what endings and beginnings do you notice at Prince of Peace? What might the Spirit be up to among us?



15 minutes in the Bible

Life is busy. It's hard to set aside 5 minutes let alone an hour. But... what if you found 15 minutes this month to pause and reflect on a story in the bible.

Don't have 15 minutes now?

Write a post-it reminder or put it in your calendar.
If you write down a goal, you are more likely to do it!

Reading Matthew 26:6-13

Reflection

- Jesus memorably renames the apostle Peter, "Rock," indicating it is on Peter and his profession of faith that Christ will build his church. But in Matthew 26:6-13 a woman's remarkable treatment of Jesus by anointing also serves as a profession of faith.
- In what ways has the Gospel led you to love more broadly and grow in compassion? How does your experience of the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit's work in you, inspire your recognition of Jesus as Lord?

Financial Summary



	July 2026		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	31,720.93	24,352.00	227,042.38	218,432.00
Expense	27,767.00	30,522.05	213,767.24	232,601.24
Net	3,953.93	(6,170.05)	13,275.14	(14,169.24)

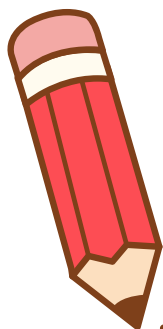
Financial Narrative for July 2026

- Contributions in July were up from budget by about \$7,345. The church continues to have a strong financial position. The year-to-date revenue continues to be on budget.
- Expenses are significantly under budget, resulting in a surplus of approximately \$3,954 for the month and \$13,275 for the year to date, with underspending spread across most areas. The only two noticeable line items over budget are Office Supplies and Parish Life, we are aware of these expenses and continue to monitor both accounts closely.



Church Attendance

	In Person	Online	Total
8/2/26	57	7	64
8/9/2026	56	6	62
8/16/26	50	10	60
8/23/26	60	5	65
8/30/26	45	6	51



GOOD TIDINGS!...FROM PASTOR MICHAEL ANDERSON

Do you know what the word, “incarnate,” means? Yes? No? Maybe? Kinda? If you’re unsure, here are some hints:

Most often, the word shows up in our worship services around Advent and Christmas.... It’s used in the Nicene Creed to help us talk about something God does.... It’s super important for understanding God’s Son....

“Incarnate” means having a body. Other ways of putting it might be, “embody,” “make manifest,” or “having concrete, actual form.”

I like to think of it as, “coming to life in a physical, human way.” Does it make sense now, about why we use this word in reference to Jesus? He is God coming to life in a physical, bodily, human way. He is the living, breathing, walking, talking, forgiving, healing, loving, dying, rising, mercy of God. Could you even imagine that mercy could have a body - a real, physical body? Phew. It’s a lot. We’re baptized into all that Jesus is - his Way, his mercy, his forgiveness, his grace, and so on. That means that all of those amazing qualities are our inheritance. Grace is our starting place so that we’re free to live with ever-opening hearts for this amazing creation - all of which is our neighbor.

We’re not done with this incarnating business just yet. The gift of the Holy Spirit makes you and me and all of us together the risen BODY of Christ in the world so God’s mercy continues to be shared.

All of the updates you’ll read in this newsletter, all the blurbs - about worship, or church council, or Evening Prayer, or ice cream, or service opportunities, or faith formation - all of them, no matter how grand or how humble, are more examples to point to about God’s mercy in Christ incarnating in and you me. Miraculously, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, embodying what we might think of as “divine,” is our learning what it means to be human.

I’m grateful for all the ways you make yourselves available for how Christ is coming to life in you and through Prince of Peace. Rest assured, there is no part of us, our lives, or our church that God cannot use for God’s kingdom purposes. September discipleship blessings to you all.

In Ever-Opening Love,
Rev. Michael Anderson

Share Your Gift of Music!

Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

No experience required — everyone is welcome!

Have you ever wanted to sing or play handbells?
Whether you're experienced or completely new, we'd love to have you join us!

Come be part of a welcoming group where we make music, build friendships, and share our gifts in worship.

You don't need to be a musician.

You just need a willingness to learn, participate, and have fun!

Sanctuary Choir: Use your voice to help lead our congregation in worship.

Handbell Choir: Discover the joy of making beautiful music together—one bell at a time!

Come as you are. No auditions.
No experience necessary. All are welcome!

Interested?
Come join us and make a joyful noise!

Starting September 9, 2026

Handbells: Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

More information? Contact Brian
music@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

10:30am-12:00pm

After a brief workshop service, spend some time helping others in our community!

Make sure to wear your yellow God's work. Our hands or your blue Live Generously shirt!

No pre-registration required, just join us in the Fellowship Hall.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Join Us for Our Sunday School Open House!

Sunday, September 20th | 9:00 a.m.

We invite all Sunday School Families to join us as we kick off our new year together!

During our Open House, we will introduce the new Sunday School format, share more about what families can expect throughout the year, answer questions, and talk about the many ways families can become involved.

Whether your family has been part of Sunday School for years, is returning after some time away, or is considering joining us for the first time, you are welcome!

We are looking forward to a year filled with faith, fellowship, service, learning, and fun.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: LORRAINE LAVERY

MARC.LORRAINELAVERY@GMAIL.COM

POP into Ladies Night

Join the ladies of POP every
2nd Monday of the month at
Michael's Tap Room in Bethel @ 7pm
FOOD * FELLOWSHIP * FUN

Monday, September 14

Text/Call Lorraine
with questions
845-416-0900



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The next quarterly meeting for the
PoP Cemetery Committee will be
held on **September 17th at 6:00
p.m.** at the church.

Steve Davies
Committee Chairman



POP BOOK CLUB

The PoP Book Club will meet on September 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the church office reception area, to discuss the book *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. If you use the library, please request a hold for the book now. We have one copy available to share, please contact anitastolle@gmail.com for the copy.

Theo arrives in the Southern town Golden, Georgia and begins a mission to buy portraits of the towns people from a local coffee shop and gift them back to the subjects asking only for their stories in return.

Hope to see you there!

Anita Stolle, Laura Duffy, Nancy Tolmoff



SEPTEMBER EVENING PRAYER SEPTEMBER 9, 23, & 30 AT 6:30PM.

Demands on our attention are endless. But whether the demands are due to life responsibilities, a night out with friends, a get together with family, or another hour scrolling social media we can still feel strained. God has a word for you in your joy and in your need.

We will rest in silence, give our attention to the one who always attends to us, listen with our hearts for God's voice, and share with God what is on our hearts and minds.

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER

On September 9 after Evening Prayer (which begins at 6:30pm), Pastor Michael will lead an introduction to Centering Prayer, a contemplative Christian spiritual practice.

What is Centering Prayer?

Well, it's prayer - a silent prayer of intention. As for its other nuances, you're simply invited to, "come and see" on Wednesday, September 9. If Centering Prayer is of interest to you, but the offered date doesn't align with your availability please contact Pastor Michael about scheduling an additional introductory session.

WELCA ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

There will be a WELCA Zoom Bible Study on September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Pastor Michael for study materials and the Zoom link.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study will resume again on Sunday, September 27 after worship services.

CHRISMONS WORKSHOP

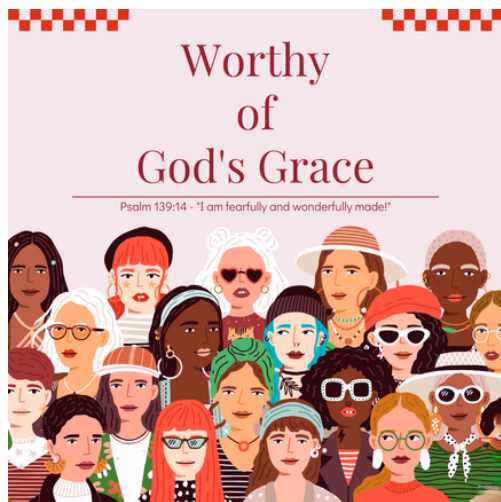
Monday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Join with fellow church members to make some new Chrismons to add to the beautiful collection for our church tree.

No Experience Necessary

Contact Karen Frank with any questions.
karendfrank63@gmail.com
(959) 209-2123





The New England Women of the ELCA Convention is coming soon!

Marci Sharp will be going and hope that other women from PoP will be able to go as well.

Please let Marci know if you would like more information or would like to attend.

(203) 947-4413 or marcisharp703@gmail.com

**New England 7B Women of the ELCA
Camp Calumet, NH
October 22-24, 2026**

You Are Invited!

Women from across New England are warmly invited to gather for the 14th Biennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA. This year's theme is: **Worthy of God's Grace**. Whether you have attended many conventions or this will be your first, your presence strengthens our community.

Convention Highlights

Keynote Speaker: Cassandra Wilson, Vice President, New England Synod Council

Worship, Bible Study & Music: Pastor Chris Dion (Faith, Bristol, CT) with Lynn Arrezzini (Bethesda, New Haven, CT)

Craft Gathering: Mason-jar "fairy light" project

Silent Auction for Triennial Scholarship: Featuring donations from Units with the theme "Self-Care"

In-Kind Gifts: Supporting Bridging the Gap (Augusta, ME). Requested items include shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, and feminine hygiene supplies.

Thrivent Partnership: Thrivent panel discussion workshop and Action Card opportunities for attendees

Why Your Presence Matters

The Biennial Convention is a time to reconnect, renew, and celebrate our shared ministry.

We gather to:

- strengthen our regional community
- support one another in faith
- learn and grow together
- contribute to service projects
- participate in worship and fellowship

What we truly need is **YOU**.

Registration Flyer Coming Soon

A second flyer with registration details, lodging options, costs, and QR code will be released once final confirmations are received.

Pop Holiday Craft Fair

**Saturday, November 7, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Crafts, Books, Christmas Decor, Jewelry, Bake Sale & Lunch

Our annual Craft Fair will be on November 7, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. To make it a success we need donations of food, bakery items, crafts, gently used Christmas items, used jewelry and **YOUR** help the day of the fair. Below you will see a QR code and a button to sign up for donations and also for a time you can work a 2 hour (or longer) shift at one of the booths. Use either one to sign up!

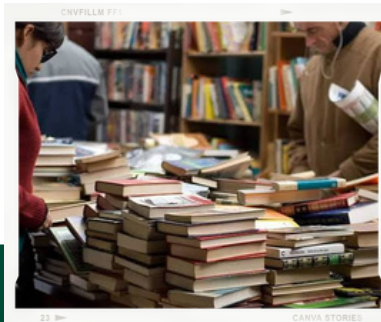


[Sign up Here](#)

We will be setting up the craft section on Friday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m. so if you can help with that, please let Marci Sharp know. (marcishapr703@gmail.com)

Thanks in advance for all of your help...Many hands make work go faster.

Marci Sharp



Prince of Peace Front Door Keys



As part of our regular church administration and safety updates, we are gathering an inventory of all active building keys. Please email Rene if you currently have a front door key at rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org.

If you have a key that you no longer need, please return it to Rene in the church office.

MEET A MEMBER

WAYNE STOLLE

How long have you been a member?

I've been a member for about a year. I was raised in the Episcopal Church in CT. I've been a Lutheran since 1976 when we moved to our 1st house in Kalamazoo, MI. I've been a member of 4 other congregations since moving here in 2025.

**What's your favorite event or worship service?**

My favorite worship event is listening to the Word and attending bible study to grow my faith.

What brings you joy?

When I think of joy, I think of my loving wife Anita, my 3 children and their families. I don't get to see them as often as I wish with 2 grandchildren living in PA and 2 grandchildren living in MI, but I love to see them grow. I enjoy woodworking but it is evolved into repairing things around the home and yard. I also enjoy my church family and service to the church.

What's a fun fact that others don't know about you?

Believe it or not, I was a registered youth FIFA referee and high school soccer referee for 12 years. It all started when our kids started sports and saw the need for officials in the games they played.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST

For Information/Discussion:

- Mass on the Grass is Sunday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. It was determined that everything is set as the Mass on the Grass Committee met previous to Council to fine tune any details and determine set up times. The service will be held rain or shine with indoor setup plans set.
- Council Retreat: Scheduled for Saturday, September 12 in the Brookfield Library Meeting Room from 9-3. Chris B. will set up a sign up sheet for Brunch type options for the retreat.
- God's Work Our Hands: Sunday, September 13 after the 10:00 service. Pastor informed the council that there will be a Baptism during the service. Chris B. – Chair, has arranged for four work stations with projects to benefit Loaves and Fishes – Warm Weather Packs (winter hats, mittens sweatshirts), Dorothy Day - sandwiches, Danbury Hospital – women's health care kits and Brookfield Pantry – Family Meal Kits. Pastor suggested including some window washing in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.
- Courtyard Working Group: The first step in this project will be to confirm those individuals willing to serve and begin planning. Kim will contact those who signed up and it will be announced in the weekly update for any additional individuals that would like to join the group, along with an announcement that it is planned to remove the yew bushes in the courtyard.

Communication of September 2026 Meeting Dates and Times

Executive – September 8 – 6 pm - via zoom

Council – September 15 – 6:30 in person





GIVE ONE, TAKE ONE PRAYER ACTIVITY

Write a prayer request for yourself or someone you care about on an index card and place it on the bulletin board by the Green Room. Then take a different card, pray for that person, and continue to keep them in your prayers throughout the week.

Give a Prayer

Take an index card from the holder.

Write your prayer request on one side of the card. Place the card on the bulletin board with your prayer facing the back and "Please pray for..." facing outward.

Take a Prayer

Choose an index card from the bulletin board that has "please pray for..." facing outward. A prayer request will be on the other side of the index card.

Spend a few moments praying for the person whose card you received.

Throughout the week, continue to remember that person and their needs in your prayers.

"

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity with food and other items for the recipients. Here are a few numbers about the Food Pantry on Park Avenue in Danbury and at the original location at St Andrew Episcopal Church. Over 4,900 unique households were served (or 17,150 unique individuals) welcoming them for a total of 33,000 visits. Shoppers carried away \$2.5 million of food of their choice. 501 Volunteers worked 27,500 volunteer hours.

A visit to the food pantry is a wonderful experience. Volunteers are helpful and smiling. Translators are available. There's an activity center for children to stay as adults shop.

Food is presented as people shop for their food preferences in a path around the building. Nutritional food is valued in a point system where fruit and vegetables are more available in lower numbers and ultra-processed and high fat items "cost" more. The Nutritional Department of UConn has established a program to teach clients about the benefits of basic nutrition.

How can we help?

The best donation is money that food can be bought at lower prices and purchase foods that are not available through donations.

- Consider donations of low sugar and salt content.
- Consider nonperishables with current expiration dates in non breakable containers.
- Cereals, tea, coffee, baby food, condiments like ketchup, mustard, hot sauce.
- Baking supplies like flour, sugar, cake mixes.
- Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent.
- Soap, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies.
- Used books for children. Portuguese, Spanish.

Thank you for your donations.

Remember to pray for food insecure people.

Nan Carlson



NOTE OF THANKS

July 17, 2026

Dear Marci,

On behalf of Global Health Ministries, we thank you for your generous donation of knit baby blankets in support of our mission to help the hands that heal throughout the world. Each day, our global medical partners provide lifesaving procedure's and vital health & wellness initiatives to those who need it most.

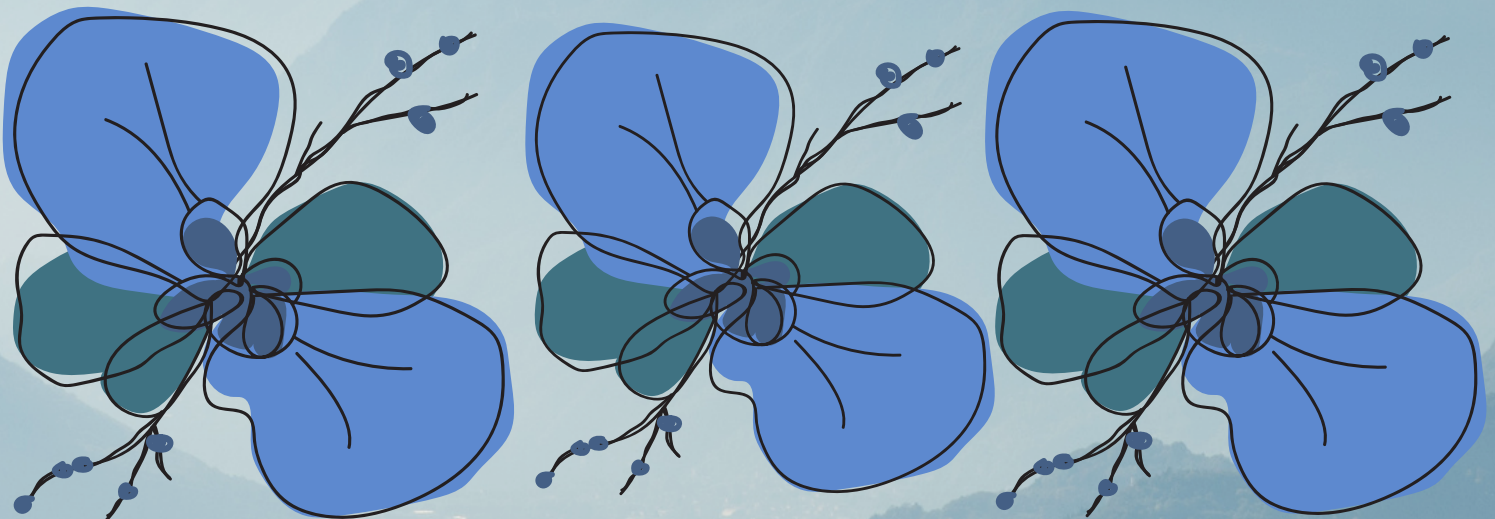
Because of your support in 2025, GHM has sent sixteen 40' shipping containers overseas to country partners like Tanzania, Madagascar, Liberia and Zimbabwe. Each container is filled to the brim with donated medical items specifically requested by the local staff. All in all, 168 hospitals and mission clinics around the globe have received medical supplies and equipment from Global Health Ministries.

There are many ways you can partner with GHM, from service projects to financial gifts to inviting a GHM staff to give a presentation. We often host tours of our warehouse so you can experience firsthand the mission we share. We'd love to talk with you about these possibilities! Please reach out to learn more by phone at (763) 586-9590 or email - office @ghm.org.

Together each year we serve over one million of our most under-resourced neighbors. What Jesus, our Great Physician, began is continued by friends like you to bring healing and wholeness around the world.

Thank you for being a part of this miraculous work.

Sincerely,
Heather Robinson
Global Health Ministries Executive Director



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Barbara Morris
September 2	Kristen Herpel
September 3	Renate Nalley Gerow
September 4	Tom Maier
September 6	Doug Berendsohn
September 11	Diane Morey, Kristen Schretzenmayer
September 14	Cathie Fegley, Brittany Hall
September 21	Liam Tanger
September 22	Robert Gerow, Peter Schretzenmayer
September 23	Leo Gerardi
September 25	Wallie Ladue
September 27	Kevin Buzzell, Joseph Fecarotta

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 18	Nan & Ken Carlson
September 23	Renata Nalley & Robert Gerow
September 24	Kathy & Bill Hubric



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

CHURCH COUNCIL



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

Back row (L-R): Pastor Michael Anderson, 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
not pictured: Chris Ostergard

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	2	3 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	4 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	8
6 10:00 a.m. Worship	<i>Labor Day</i> 7 Church Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	8 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:00 p.m. Executive Meeting	9 6:30 p.m. Evening prayer 7:00 p.m. Intro to Centering Prayer 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30pm Choir	10 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	11 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	12 9:00 a.m. Council off- site Retreat
13 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. God's Work. Our Hands.	14 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 7:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out	15 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 10:00 a.m. WELCA Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Council	16 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30pm Choir	17 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:00 p.m. Cemetery Committee	18 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Open House 10:00 a.m. Worship	21 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:00 p.m. Chrismons Workshop	22 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	23 6:30 p.m. Evening prayer 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30pm Choir	24 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	25 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	26
27 10:00 a.m. Worship	28 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	29 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 1:00 p.m. Book Club	30 6:30 p.m. Evening prayer 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30pm Choir			

CONTACT US

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Phone: (203) 775-9070

Fax: (203) 775-9573

Email for Rev. Michael Anderson:
 pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org.
 Cell phone: (203) 794-4694

Prince of Peace PreSchool: (203) 775-0140

The church office is open most weeks Mon-Fri, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call first.

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
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