



# BLUEPRINTS

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 84, Number 8

August 2020

### Outdoor Service for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation August 1, 2020 5:00 p.m



Church Council Representative: Andrew Confortini

I present Cassandra Buzzell, Emma Cable, Ava Cantone, Andrew Confortini, Morgen Kleppin, Chris Mattera and Riley Roksvold

who desire to make public profession of their faith, to re-commit to the Christian life,  
and to receive the laying on of hands.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for Cassie, Emma, Ava, Andrew, Morgen, Chris and Riley, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold these your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

Dear Friends and Members of Prince of Peace,

When I was a kid, we rode bikes with no helmets, traveled in cars without safety belts, and even drank water out of the hose. You too? Today that is considered at risk behavior. And while I think being protective of our children and others is generally a good thing. I have also seen how it can become a problem when we fall into the erroneous belief that the goal of life is to be safe and comfortable.

How important is being comfortable to you at this stage of your life?

St. Paul suggests a different goal for us in his letter to the church in Rome. *Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.* (The Message)

The life Paul refers to is only achieved by moving away from our focus on self-comfort. The goal of the Christian life is to leave behind ourselves and our own desires. If we truly want to grow in our character and our faith, then we must be willing to change our goal from one of safety to one of sacrifice.

What creature comfort would be difficult for you to live without at this time in your life?

God created us to be a part of a grand adventure. God designed us to take risks and face challenges, to accomplish mighty goals that will have a lasting impact. One of the most powerful and impactful ways we experience this grand adventure is in community. Whether it is through Prince of Peace or your school or company or neighborhood or family, we are called together to help others. If you want to experience the full adventure that your life is intended to be, then you have to be willing to take action and serve those in need with God's love.

What sacrifice of time, resources or comfort might be God calling you to today?

*Faithful God, you care for us day by day, and with you as our companion we are never alone. Grant to each one of your children fulfillment in life, confidence in your steadfast love, and support in the community of your people in order that we may live sacrificially to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lutz', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Rev. Paul Lutz, Pastor

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In a recent article (Churches Who Survive the Pandemic Will do Three Things) written by Chris Morton and shared in Fresh Expressions, aspect for congregational survival are suggested. I'd like to explore all three in this space for as many months. I do so in hopes of a conversation about Prince of Peace and life on the other side on this pandemic. So, please read and let me know what you think.

## **Invest in Distributed Leadership**

Churches who thrive during and after the pandemic must let go of their individual pastor-centric model and distribute the church's work to capable leaders.

Churches that will thrive in the pandemic and beyond will focus on distributing the church's work away from single individuals managing large gatherings to a multiplicity of leaders empowered to lead smaller segments in initiatives befitting the needs and limitations of the moment.

If this sounds familiar, it's precisely what the early church had to do. Acts 6 tells of how the Apostles commissioned others to manage the day-to-day tasks so they could focus on teaching. Many churches have avoided this dispersal of power, choosing instead to allow paid professionals to do this work.

## **Five Ways to Start Distributing Your Church**

1. Study the shift towards de-professionalization and empowerment, focusing on texts such as Acts 6.
2. Celebrate publicly the work of individuals who are already gathering people safely, loving and serving their neighbors, discipling new believers and caring for the needy.
3. Identify pioneering leaders who can experiment with fresh expressions initiatives that safely gather church members as well as non-Christians.
4. Encourage people to gather in safe ways by geography or affinity. Use tools for simple liturgies or service projects.
5. Commission those who have a proven capacity for roles such as teachers, counselors, and organizers of tasks to pursue these opportunities officially. In turn, paid leaders should focus on empowering these newly commissioned leaders to grow in their roles.

There you have it. The first characteristic of congregation that will survive the pandemic.

1. What do you think? What do you understand is being suggested? Do you agree?
2. How would that look at Prince of Peace? What would be lost? What would be gained?
3. Is this a direction we should go?

Let's talk about this. Call or email me what you think. Share your thoughts with a Council member or someone on the Forward Leadership Team. We will talk about it during coffee/social hour and other places as well.

~ The Rev. Paul Lutz

## THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING COUNCIL LEADERS

It is with a great deal of appreciation and admiration that we say thank you to those Council members who relinquished their leadership positions in June. Their job this last year was not an easy one with the onboarding of a new pastor, the resignation of a long-time church musician, and the start of a pandemic. We are grateful for their faithfulness to their tasks, their willingness to consider new possibilities, and their desire to hold on to important traditions. We are in a better place as a faith community because of the good efforts of Andrew Confortini, Nicole Cable, Marilyn Roginski, Kristen Mattera, Joan Manka, and Alison Cantone.

## THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

Because of your generosity we were able to share Souper Bowl of Caring funds (over \$800.00) with the American Cancer Society and Brookfield Cares. The selection of a local and national organization was made by the Confirmation Students.

We also forwarded \$225.00 to the ELCA Disaster Relief funds to assist with the ongoing recovery from the Australian fires.

We also are to continue to assist our neighbors in need through your donation to the PoP Love/Discretionary Fund. We give funds to purchase food, pay utilities, and make rent to those experiencing financial struggles in our community. Donations are always welcome.



## ANGELS EVERYWHERE

We Lutherans seem to think of angels dropping out of the sky, appearing in Bible passages and in works of art. Well, I've seen angels right here in Danbury, Newtown and New Milford! You think, "There she goes again". So, where exactly did I see them?

I saw women bringing meals to a family in need. I saw a man bring a carload of food down to Daily Bread last week. I saw a woman offer a loaf of banana bread to someone who had done a favor for her. I saw a father participating in the Confirmation service I see angels sewing masks for children as they prepare to return to school. Angels are all over. They are able to help others and they do so willingly.

Did you know that Daily Bread has a website: [dailybreadfoodpantry.com](http://dailybreadfoodpantry.com)? Log on, if you will. And note that there is a Pay Pal account which you can use for donations to the food pantry. You can still drop food at church but they also need monetary donations. If you drive by St James Church in Danbury, you will see angels working there, too.

We distribute masks to people in the community as well as Food Banks through out the area. It seems like they don't last forever. Feel free to contact the church office if you need a mask.

~ Nan Carlson



## COUNCIL NEWS

The Congregational Council met over Zoom on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

The following items were on the agenda.

- Update/Report from Heidi Riddle, PoP Preschool Director about the Preschool
- Clarification of Church Musician/Sunday organist position
- Distribution of Church directory and request for Church Council members to call/check-in with members
- Update of the current plan to re-opening PoP
- Resolution regarding terms for Council members
- Misty Hollow sale. Review next steps and creation of Misty Hollow Sale Task Force
- Identification of potential candidates to fill open Council position
- A brief discussion of the Forward Leadership Survey results. Recommendation for communication to the congregation
- Sign up for monthly devotions



## Worship Plans Moving Along - Inside and Outside

Thanks to all those involved in getting PoP prepared to open the building for in-person, in-building pandemic worship. We have a list of tasks we need to accomplish and many volunteers are going at it. We are hoping to announce a Sunday worship date soon. Read through the Friday Weekly Email to get the latest news. Sign up to receive the email on our website.

Please respond to yet another email survey coming your way soon. This one is to determine what would need to happen for you to feel safe in returning to in-person, in-building worship at PoP. We want to do all we can for your return.

Also, if you would be open to worshipping outside in the parking lot sometime while the weather is still nice, please let Pastor Lutz or a member of the Worship & Music Committee know. We are hoping to schedule a few services soon. Again, read through the Friday Weekly Email to stay current. And, sign up to receive the email on our website.

# GIVING STATEMENTS SENT OUT THE WEEK OF 6/29

*(Statements are for activity period January 1– May 31)*

Hopefully you recently received as an email or will receive in the snail mail soon, your current Giving Statement from Prince of Peace.

If you would like to receive an electronic statement instead of in the regular mail, please email Nicole Cable, Financial Secretary, and she will update the system.

In addition, she can run a statement at any time you may need it. Please contact her at: [andcable03@yahoo.com](mailto:andcable03@yahoo.com) or home phone 203-775-8358.

I thank you for your returning to God a proportion of your income through the ministry of Prince of Peace. Your giving, especially during this pandemic, makes possible the continuation of our primary ministries as well as the introduction of new ministries.

Thanks to you we are providing weekly worship and learning opportunities, reaching out to members and friends with care and compassion and helping our neighbors in need through support of the Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, the Loaves & Fishes Hospitality center and the much used PoP Love/Discretionary Fund.

New ministries your giving made possible included music licenses for online worship broadcasting, Zoom and Constant Contact subscriptions for meetings, bible studies, and communications, as well as the ongoing Youth Room repairs, to name a few.

And while it may be easiest to see your offering as helping to keep us afloat, that would be misleading. It is only after you reflect and respond to the many blessings in your life by directing a portion of your financial resources to the ministry of Prince of Peace that such an accounting can be provided. In other words, what is done with your generous gifts is secondary.

Our first priority as Christians is to return to the Lord a proportion of what we have been given. It is for that Christian act that I thank you. It is that Christian act that I encourage you to maintain all summer long. As a favorite Offering Prayer of mine reminds us: *we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. LBW.*

*~ Pastor Lutz*



## VIRTUAL WORSHIP



Please join us whenever convenient for your household for virtual worship. Each Sunday service is posted by 8 a.m. on our website. The abbreviated virtual worship experience including hymns you can sing along with, a gospel story worth telling, a sermon that speaks to our current reality, prayers for the community and world and community announcements about what's happening at PoP. Check your email for the link or go our website (<http://princeofpeacebrookfield.org/>) and click on the date of the service you would like to experience.

## OFFERING AND TITHES

Please help us stay current with our financial obligations during this difficult time.

We say "Thank You" to all who have mailed in their offerings.

We are now able to offer online giving here.

Now you can give a one time gift or a reoccurring gift through a checking account or a debit/credit card.

Please use this link to set up. <https://princeofpeacebrookfield.org/giving/>



**REACHING OUT.....**

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.....  
.....

**..TO YOUR PASTOR?**

## HOW TO REACH THE PASTOR

And as always, Pastor Lutz is easily accessible. You can e-mail him

([poppastorpaul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poppastorpaul@sbcglobal.net)), call him on his cell (609.578.7921) or post on his Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/plutznj>). Although there will be no regular office hours, the church phone is checked every couple of days for messages.

## **"Creating Community" Email Devotions sent on Mondays**



Creating Community is an email devotion to guide your preparation for worship next weekend.

Imagine how much more clear and relevant God's Word will be if you have had an opportunity to read, reflect, and dwell in the Word prior to worship. You may do this devotion as an individual, with others, as a family or over Zoom as a small group. Each devotion arrives on Monday and can be engaged in anytime before Sunday's worship.

The devotion includes three simple steps:

1. Read through the text (provided)
2. Respond to the questions (select one of the sets of questions from the three possibilities)
3. Offer a Prayer (one is provided)

If you would like to receive these devotions please sign up on our website.

## **DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY IS SEEKING DONATIONS.**



Please consider a food or monetary donation to the DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY during this pandemic.

Your food-insecure neighbors will benefit from your donations of: Black beans or any kind of canned or bagged beans; Rice in 1,2 or 3 lbs. bags; Pasta any kind; Cereal - Cheerios, Corn Flakes. Rice Krispies (no sweet cereals); Tomato sauce in cans; Tuna; Chicken in cans; Peanut butter; Pork & beans or meals in cans; Canned vegetables, especially corn.

Drop off your food items or checks (payable to DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY) to the church's freshly painted front door anytime. Your neighbors thank you.



## **SURVEYS. SURVEYS. SURVEYS.**



We owe you the results of two surveys - the recent Four Questions Survey and the 2019 Worship Survey. We apologize for the delay in making the results available in a timely fashion - ministry, life, and a pandemic got in the way. But, please look for a link to the results of both surveys in your email box sometime soon. Or, you can contact the church office to have a copy sent in the snail mail.

## **2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING POSTPONED**

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering - Boundless has been postponed until 2022 due to concerns around COVID-19. The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit: [elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19](https://elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19)

## **MEN'S GOLF WEEKEND**

**September 11-13, 2020**

Coordinator: Dick Feddersen



Calumet's 24<sup>th</sup> annual Men's Golf Weekend promises to be the best one ever! There are three great golf courses for you to enjoy with fellow golfers. The fellowship and friendship will bring you back year after year. Pick from one of three plans. All include meals, golf, cart, and lodging options. Choose the one which best suits your needs.

Anyone interested can contact me, or [alice@calumet.org](mailto:alice@calumet.org).

~ *Dennis Schroeder*  
[dschro7561@aol.com](mailto:dschro7561@aol.com)

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Patricia Fettingner,  
Kathy Johansen
- 7 Sheryl Wagner
- 8 Matthew Hallock
- 9 Katlyn Manka
- 12 Beth Ann Fegley
- 13 Annie Ewert, Margaret McLoone,  
Rich Mercado, Vivian Wainwright
- 14 Matthew Arnold
- 18 Rebecca Pokorski
- 19 Glenn Christy, Linda Coyle,  
Nan Carlson, Matthew Mattera
- 24 Joan Manka
- 26 Louise Kleppin
- 27 Melinda Schroeder
- 30 Gail Lehman,  
Gerry Nabozny, Eric Reich
- 31 William Hubric, Jr.,  
Chris Klauck



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Debbie & Alan Nobes
- 12 Renata & Chuck Maass
- 18 Cathie & John Fegley
- 19 Joseph & Heather Pontonio
- 21 Connie & Bill Strait  
Glenn & Dawn Arnold



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

## NOTE OF THANKS

Just a "Shout-Out"

Thank You to my brother Andrew Confortini for his leadership, and service to Prince of Peace the last two years.

Sincerely with Regards,  
Rudy and Gale Confortini

## PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CHURCH ARCHIVES

I am presently putting together the archives for Prince of Peace and there are no pictures or information about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Plus, there are few group photos of Confirmation classes from recent years. If anyone has any information or pictures you are willing to share, please give me a call.

Thanks.

~ *Marcí Sharp*

(203) 775-4657

### CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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You?		

## Virtual Worship Services

We are online for worship, study, giving and fellowship!

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

Zoom Women's Bible Study happens on the third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Join us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for a Zoom Fellowship/ Coffee Hour.

For more information and a secure invite, please contact Pastor Lutz.

## Contact Us

Pastor: The Rev. Paul Lutz

Website: [www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org](http://www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org)

E-mail: [poplutheranchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poplutheranchurch@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: (203) 775-9070

Fax: (203) 775-9573

### ***Our vision...***

***"Prince of Peace is a loving and caring family of Christians. We gather to hear the Christian story in word and song and to experience that story through the sacraments. The members of our family are involved in a mission of Christian unity. Through worship and Christian fellowship we are empowered to commit our talents in a way that makes a difference in our lives and the lives of those we touch."***

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE DELIVER  
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August 2020