



# BLUEPRINTS

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 85, Number 30

October, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

I am here to confess that I am a “leaf peeper”. As a long-time Midwesterner, I am fascinated by the fall foliage in New England, and the brilliant changing colors that often overwhelm the landscape. If you ask anyone outside of New England, they will tell you—“That’s what New England is famous for!”

We have a friend from Denmark who is visiting us this week. She came to “see the leaves”. In a few weeks, we have friends from Nebraska who will be our guests, and of course, they came to “see the leaves”.

Of course, everyone, everywhere makes quick and unfair assumptions. I have been asked many times if Nebraska has anything more than corn. And on the other side of that, I believe a significant part of the country believes that New England has nothing more than pretty leaves.

Of course, there’s more than the beautiful fall foliage. You have to live in this part of the country and experience this part of the country to know that. New England, and Connecticut are amazing—so full of history, fascinating sites to see, cultural opportunities and so much more.

I use that illustration because I want to ask the question, “What is Prince of Peace known for?” If you were to randomly ask a person on the street in Brookfield or any other surrounding community that question, what would the answer be? Would they even know we exist? And if they did know about Prince of Peace, what would they say about us?

I have been challenging the Church Council to think about this. What are we known for as a congregation? What do we want to be known for? What is our identity? How can we make a bigger impact in our community? How can we make a difference in our little corner of the world and beyond?

We have a wonderful Mission and Vision Statement. We have reduced those statements (which no one has set to memory) to this phrase, “**Gathered Together to Serve**”. I don’t know if that will catch on, but it does define who we are and what we hope to be. Prince of Peace needs an identity in this community. We need people to talk about us (in a good way, of course). We need people to admire what we are trying to do in service, enough so that they may want to be a part of it.

I’m going to keep talking and challenging folks to think about this. Just like New England is more than pretty leaves, Prince of Peace is more than a building. We are truly “Gathered Together to Serve”. So who or what are we serving? Why is our gathering any different than anyone else’s? What do we have to offer?

It’s something to think and talk about.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark A. Grorud, Interim Pastor

## 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](http://princeofpeacebrookfield.org)).

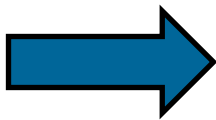
Please sign in upon arrival.

We have a seasonal bulletin to be used each week and most weeks a colored insert for each Sunday. Please return the seasonal bulletin to the tall table to be used again.

The offering will be gathered when worshipers arrive and brought forward during the service.

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

### ATTENDANCE IN SEPTEMBER



	In Person Attendance	On-line Attendance	Total
9/3/23	40	7	47
9/10/23	54	6	60
9/17/23	53	7	60
9/24/23	65	7	72



## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday is November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have lost loved ones **during the past year**, please print their names on the signup sheet in the narthex, so they can be included in the prayers and listed in the bulletin on All Saints' Sunday.

## Financial Summary for August

	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church			
	August		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	28,281.24	21,279.48	270,158.76	158,232.08
Expense	23,675.04	21,250.63	172,661.15	178,201.47
Net	4,606.20	28.85	97,497.61	(19,969.39)

## 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 cost \$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.



# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

from September 19, 2023

**Present:** Pastor Mark Grorud, Nan Carlson, Liz Davies, Laura Duffy, Lorraine Lavery, Meegan Lepler, Meg McLoone, Heather Pontonio, Jim Sharp, Donna Vitetta and Monica Walsh.  
**Excused:** Paul Adam.

**Devotions:** Nan led devotions. Are you burned out? You have to be fired up to be burned out. In the story of the fiery pit, King Nebuchadnezzar made an image in gold. He threatened those who did not bow down to the image with being thrown into a "blazing furnace." Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused and were thrown into the pit. The King was waiting to see them burn. He saw 3 men, unharmed, walking out of the pit. He also sees a 4<sup>th</sup> man. Who was he?

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Monica and second by Nan. All are in favor.

**Approval of August, 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve the August minutes as corrected was made by Monica second by Laura. All are in favor.

## **Members in need:**

Maimo starts infusion next week. Mary Weisensee fell. She is at home with home care. Alan Nemetz is in Bethel Health Care. Marci and Jim's daughter, Lori was in Danbury Hospital and had an MRI. June Ginand is in Haddam Nursing Home. Colin is doing better. Gracie is doing great and gaining weight.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Properties:**

- Another flood in the Youth Room on the first day of Sunday School. They checked the court yard. It rained Wednesday. No water in the Youth Room.
- Phone line update: The phone system is no longer serviced by Frontier. The storm blew out the fuses. Is there a short some place? Frontier is leaving the area. We need to look into a new phone system. We have two lines for preschool, two lines for the church, and one line for fax and internet.
- The new owners next door will landscape the area between the two properties.

**Faith Formation:** -Sunday school started. They have 8 kids. More adults are willing to teach and more youth are helping.

-There were 12 at the Adult bible study. There was one child in the Music Room. Bible study went well.

### **Youth Group:**

9 youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to sophomore in college. The sophomore will be more of an assistant. The children planned the first part of the year. They would like to have a Bake Sale in November. They will be doing individual service projects. They will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 4-6 p.m. They will have a meeting regarding the New Orleans trip in 2024.

### **Worship and Music:**

-Brian is trying to recruit people for a contemporary service. -Pastor suggests that we go back to two Sunday services. The second service would be another option and a different type of service.

# **COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS** *(continued)*

## **Caring Committee:**

We need more people on the committee.

-there was a large delivery of food to the food pantry.

The Danbury food pantry serves a large population.

-The food pantry received a grant and they purchased a van. There are opportunities to volunteer. Check on their website.

-We can provide complete thanksgiving meals: Set up boxes to collect all side dishes.

## **Parish Life and Fellowship:**

Will meet this month. Oktoberfest is on the 22.

**Finance Committee:** Webster Bank has made new changes.

## **Communication Committee:**

-New flyers were included in the Welcome bags.

-We are now listed properly on Google searches. We are adding pictures and accurate information.

-POP was not listed in the Brookfield directory. They do not have a section for churches.

-We need to talk about and approve a snow plan.

## **Christmas marketing:**

-Liz updated the Newtown Bee and included the youth.

-We can let people know about the Christmas service at the OktoberFest.

## **Preschool:**

-the water was tested.

-looking into cameras for around the building.

-They had CPR training.

**Angel Tree:** We will participate in the Angel Tree Project again this year,

## **Church Sign:**

Heather will work up a sign that relates to Pre School.

The Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall: telling people who we are. Open House is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Pastor's minute or two:**

-Pastor spent a little more time: 60%.

-Having more conversations with people.

**Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting made by Nan and Donna second. All in favor.

**Next Executive committee meeting** October 16 at 6:00 on ZOOM

**Next council meeting** October 17 at 6:00

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer





# FAITH FORMATION

Prince of Peace, Brookfield, CT

PO Box 5184, 119 Junction Road, Brookfield, CT 06804

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**10:00-10:45am during the service**

*kids start in Sunday School and join parents in church by Communion.*



**No advanced registration required!**

**Have sports conflicts? Attend class when you can.**

**This year focuses on bible stories and key characters.**

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**11:15ish-12:15pm in the Green Room**

**Parents, send your kids to Youth Music Ministry while you are in Bible Study!**

**5 WEEK TOPIC:  
WHEN YOUR WAY ISN'T WORKING**

If you're feeling discouraged, frustrated, and worn out, it's a good indication that something in your life is out of sync.

Fortunately, there is a solution to this problem found in Scripture. In John 15:5, Jesus tells his followers, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can't do anything." Instead of going it alone in this life, we are to stay connected to him.



Included on our website each week, these flyers are a simple, yet effective, tool to help your family extend your faith formation practices in your home.

# FAITH 5



When modeled every week at church and practiced every night at home, FAITH5 carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, and promote mental, and spiritual health. Learn more at <https://faithink.com/about-faith5>

**Interested in helping with Sunday School, leading a bible study,  
or have a topic for Adult Bible Study?**

**Please let Heather know. [heather.pontonio@gmail.com](mailto:heather.pontonio@gmail.com)**



# Love to Sing?

PRINCE OF PEACE INVITES YOU TO JOIN

## THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

REHEARSALS: THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:30-8:30PM  
STARTING 9/7/23

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
BRIAN MULLER - MUSICMINISTRYPOP@GMAIL.COM

Prince of Peace

# FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Friday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Liz & Steve Davies

*Location: 10 Ironwood Drive Sandy Hook, CT 06482*

A little about Friday Night Live...

FNL is an evening consisting of adult couples and individuals, with good food and fellowship. We usually meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening of the month. We usually meet at a host home, or the host can decide to have it at church.

If you would like to attend, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex at the church or you can e-mail the host. Couples bring an entrée to serve eight and either an appetizer, a side dish or a dessert.

Individuals bring one item.

*Please sign-up at the church or e-mail Liz at **elizdavies15@gmail.com** if you would like to attend and what you will bring. Please join us for an enjoyable evening!*



# OKTOBERFEST



OCT **22** 2023

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**11:15 AM**

**THERE WILL BE BRATS, HOT  
DOGS, SAUERKRAUT, POTATO  
SALAD, PRETZELS, AND  
DESSERTS. BEER/WINE TO  
PURCHASE. TAKE-OUT MEALS  
WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.**

**SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE  
OR IN THE NARTHEX.**

**PLEASE BRING A  
DESSERT TO SHARE**



# PRINCE OF PEACE PRE-SCHOOL

The new school year for the Pre-School began on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. We currently have 63 students enrolled, 15 Staff members and are operating 6 classes. We have scheduled Preschool Open House for Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The staff is enjoying getting to know their students and building their students developmental skills. We have started our first fundraiser which contains wrapping paper and holiday gifts. The profits from the fundraiser are planned to support our school enrichment programs. For anyone interested in viewing the offerings you may visit: <https://shop.meadowfarms.com/prince-of-peace-preschool-101215>. We will also be hosting a holiday pie and cookie fundraiser starting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. These delicious goodies will arrive in time for Thanksgiving! Order forms will be left in the church hall for anyone interested. We are looking forward to a great year!

Best,

Heidi Riddle  
Pre-School Director





# HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

YOU ARE WELCOME TO

CRAFTS, BOOKS, CHRISTMAS DECOR  
BAKE SALE & LUNCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023  
10 AM - 3 PM  
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JUNCTION ROAD, BROOKFIELD, CT



## PoP Craft Fair

### Saturday, November 4, 2023

The annual Craft Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** from **10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.** at our church. As you may or may not know, everything for the Fair is donated. You are being contacted to request your help. Please let us know what you can offer this year **ASAP**. We need baked goods for the bake sale, pies and cheesecakes for lunch, soups and chili for lunch, used books for the book sale and, of course, your handmade crafts.

**We will set up on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and need people to work for a short time on the day of the Fair.**

There will be a "sign-up genius" account created for this event. This website is set up like a gift registry. You can see how many food items or time slots are still available and which have been spoken for. The site will automatically send out a reminder a few days before the event. A link to this will be found in the upcoming weekly updates.

If you can volunteer your time, but your availability doesn't coincide with one of the slots, pick the one closest to it and leave a comment stating when you can help. We will happily make the adjustments.

If you have some able-bodied family members (youth or adults) who can come at 2:30 p.m. to help knock down tables and pack things away they would be **MOST APPRECIATED!**

If you have pledged a food that can be dropped off a few days early, please leave it in the church kitchen (or fridge) and label it "Craft Fair". Pulled pork has been popular in the past.

Any other food or craft item should be dropped off by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the fair. You may leave books on the labeled bench in the Narthex beginning Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

There is a growing concern for food allergies. Please add a list of ingredients of your hot foods and baked goods to an index card which we will post near your homemade items. This will help to avoid possible untoward allergic reactions in our participants.

A very successful feature of our Craft Fair is a sale of gently used holiday items and costume jewelry. Please bring the jewelry early as it must be sorted and displayed.

Last year was very successful because we tried a few new things and so many people stepped up to help. We are still grateful for last year's donations and volunteers but hope to continue this success into this year and years to come!

Thank you for your help! The Craft Fair would not be possible without your donations of time, food and items!







# Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 10, 2023 during the service

**WE NEED SHEPHERDS!**  
All ages are invited to participate!

Contact Heather for details  
203-947-9744 or [heather.pontonio@gmail.com](mailto:heather.pontonio@gmail.com)



**CREATED TO BE**

**2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**  
**New Orleans** **JULY 16-20, 2024**

#elcayg2024

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**MYLE**  
 Multicultural Youth  
 Leadership Event of the ELCA  
**JULY 13-16, 2024**

**the tAble**  
 An ELCA Gathering of  
 Youth with Disabilities  
**JULY 13-16, 2024**

**Young Adult  
 Gathering**  
 A new ELCA Gathering  
 for Young Adults  
**JULY 16-20, 2024**

[fb.com/youthgathering](https://fb.com/youthgathering)

[@elcagathering](https://@elcagathering)

[elca.org/gathering](https://elca.org/gathering)

ELCACT1100

Please contact Monica Walsh with any questions at [mwalsh21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwalsh21@sbcglobal.net).

# SEAFARER'S

Over the years the women at POP have been knitting scarves and caps for the Seafarers that dock in Connecticut. We will be blessing them before we send them off in mid October. Below are the instructions for those wanting to help out with this much needed project. The Seafarer's are so thankful for our gifts. Any questions you can contact Marci Sharp at 203-775-4657.

## KNITTED SEAFARER'S SCARF

Yarn – approx.. 300 yds. Worsted weight yarn (acrylic).....Size 6 or 7 needles  
Finished measurements: approx.. 6.5" by 46"

Cast on 32 stitches  
Knit even for 14 inches  
K4, P4 for 18 inches  
Knit even for 14 inches

Bind off with medium tension and weave in all ends.  
Tip: slip the first stitch of each row purl wise to neaten the edges.

(Note): the 18 inches of ribbing will make the neck of the scarf narrow looking. This makes the scarf more dense and warmer around the neck without adding extra bulk.

## KNITTED WATCH CAPS FOR SEAFARERS

Yarn: 1 4 oz. skein of 4-ply acrylic (worsted weight).....Size 6-16" circular

Cast on 120 stitches.  
Knit 1, Purl 1 for 9 to 9 ½ inches  
Continue knitting in stockinette stitch (knit) for 1 to 1½ inches  
Decrease as follows:  
1<sup>st</sup> row – Knit 10, knit 2 tog, repeat to end of row  
2<sup>nd</sup> row – Knit 9, knit 2 tog, repeat to end of row  
3<sup>rd</sup> row – Knit 8, knit 2 tog, repeat to the end of row  
Continue decreasing in this manner until last decreasing row is K2, knit 2 to, repeat to end of row  
There should be 30 stitches left on needles.  
Cut yarn, leaving a 12 to 14 inch end.  
Transfer stitches from knitting needles to tapestry or large-eye needle.  
Pull stitches together firmly and secure by sewing criss-cross (in an X).  
Note: If you mark the beginning of the row with a marker it is easier than trying to determine the beginning, and will make the decrease rows easier.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Luke Lacey, Allen Nemetz
3	Bill Hubric
5	Saverio Bruno, Emma Cable
9	Edith Sherman
11	Ashleigh Fegley
12	Caroline Doré
13	Colin McLoone, Kristina Wagner
17	Maggie Mattera
19	Tina Giubileo
22	Hazel Petitt
26	Ken Carlson

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Kathy & William Hubric
4	Barbara & Peter Dulko
10	Margaret & Kevin McCloone
15	Paul & Heidi Adam Angela & Anthony Reich
16	Kristen & Peter Schretzenmayer
22	Kristen & Jim Lacey
23	Grace & Phil Burdick
26	Winifred & Rich Mercado
27	Frieda & Bill Braun, Diane & Al Morey

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

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, December 2, 2023

7:30 pm

**Norwalk Community Chorale's 63rd Annual Christmas Concert**

Norwalk Concert Hall

**FREE ADMISSION**

Brian Muller - Conductor

Will Duchon - Piano

# Daily Bread Food Pantry

The Pantry received a grant and a generous contribution for a new electric van. It's beautiful and will come in handy for food collections. Peter Kent, President of the pantry stands by the vehicle.

They are asking for personal care products like shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper and the like. The things that we all use and need.

They love the Cheerios and canned goods that we bring. In fact, the whole pantry is filled with love and concern for their clients.

Please consider donating weekly, one or two items. It's a good way to tell God that you are thankful for all the gifts he gives us.

Nan Carlson





# Daily Bread Food Pantry Update

**Donations have been down, and Daily Bread is in need of everything.**

With the cost of food, the pantry is giving out approximately 200 bags of groceries every three days that they distribute food.

***They need everything especially mac and cheese, peanut butter and pasta.***

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

Avoid glass jars and fragile packaging.

- 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

Toiletries:

Shampoo

Deodorant

Toothpaste

Please drop off your food items or checks (payable to DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY) to the church's front door anytime.

Monetary donations are a good choice and easy to do on-line by going to their website.

<https://www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com>

Thank you for your donations and prayers.



# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 2022-2023

Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Paul Adam	203-797-1950	
Nancy Carlson	203-778-1171	nancsew@gmail.com
Liz Davies Vice President	203-241-7818	elizdavies15@gmail.com
Laura Duffy	203-270-8644	l.duffy@charter.net
Lorraine Lavery President	845- 416-0900	marc.lorrainelavery@gmail.com
Meegan Lepler	203-482-6993	meegan.lepler@gmail.com
Meg McLoone Vice President	203-775-1724	mkloon@yahoo.com
Heather Pontonio	203-947-9744	heather.pontonio@gmail.com
Priscilla Rivas	203 -830-9016	guanacaste@snet.net
Jim Sharp	203 775-4657	jbsharpjr@gmail.com
Donna Vitetta Secretary	914-672-1209	donna vitetta@gmail.com
Monica Walsh	203-512-1166	mw Walsh21@sbcglobal.net

## Church Contact Information:

By email – [poplutheranchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poplutheranchurch@sbcglobal.net)

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.

If there is a pastoral emergency after church office hours, please contact any of the below council members and they will connect you with an on-call pastor.

Lorraine Lavery (845)-416-0900

Nan Carlson (203) 778-1171

Liz Davies (203) 241-7818

## Worship Services

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

### **Sunday's October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

10:00 a.m. in person inside worship

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

## Contact Us

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...***

*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

October 2023