



BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 85, Number 16

May, 2022

Spring is a wonderful time here at Prince of Peace.

We are welcoming new members in May and welcoming the newly baptized in June. This is most typically how new folks come into our fellowship. Such joyful occurrences always cause me to reflect on the nature of the church. I ask myself (and by implication, you) what does it mean to be a baptized child of God? And because there are no individual Christians, what does it mean to be a baptized member of the church?

Baptism is always what God does. If baptized as an infant then God comes to us before we can talk, know much, or promise anything. If baptized later then God doesn't consider what we have to say, what we know, or what we might want to promise. We are Christian because of being drowned and raised by God in the waters of baptism. This status as a baptized child of God never expires. We are our whole life long one of God's children – loved, forgiven, and never alone.

Baptism means community. There are no individual Christians. We are only Christian together. This is both a curse and a blessing. I need you to help me be a Christian – you who are not like me, who I get frustrated with, who don't value the same things as I do. I need you to speak God's word of forgiveness, to share God's peace with, to work together in God's mission. To quote the *New Member Litany* from our May 1, 2022 worship - It is the Spirit of caring for one another, of forgiving, of helping each other, of weeping and rejoicing together, it is the Spirit of love revealed in the life and death of Jesus.

It is my prayer that the gift of the Spirit be ours together, this season of Easter, uniting, inspiring, leading and calling us, and the whole world, to newness of life. I am thankful for you and glad our lives are bound together and to God: through Jesus Christ our lord.

Claim your baptism. Live in community. Affirm your discipleship. He is Risen!

The Rev. Paul Lutz, Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN



WORSHIP IN MAY UPDATED as of 3/9/22

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).

- The wearing of masks is now optional.
- Social distancing by staying in household pods and staying six feet away from others is still encouraged.
- Please sign in upon arrival.
- We have a seasonal bulletin to be used each week during Easter. Please return the bulletin to the tall table to be used again.
- Communion can be received around the altar. Please pick up a communion kit.
- The offering will be gathered when worshipers arrive and brought forward during the service.

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. will also be on Zoom and streamed to our Facebook page.

Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Sunday School in-person in the downstairs Music Room for children Pre-K –6th grade. See the Sunday School page on our website for details.

**Fellowship
after
10:00 a.m. Service**



If you would like to be a host of our coffee hour in May please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex.

APRIL ATTENDANCE

	10:00 a.m. Inside	10:00 a.m. On-line	Total
4/3/22	57	8	65
4/10/22 Palm Sunday	78	8	86
4/17/22 Easter Sunday	77	15	92
4/24/22	50	2	52

	12:15 pm.	7:30 p.m.	On-line	Total
Maundy Thursday	19	22	4	45
Good Friday	n/a	39	10	49

COUNCIL CLIPPINGS

Council met on April 27, 2022



They reviewed Easter Activities:

- Recent Fundraiser for the Crisis in the Ukraine include the Youth Group project of selling Easter chocolate, which yielded over \$300.
- An Easter Hunt was held for the community on April 9th. More than 80 children attended. Egg hunts, games and Easter Bunny pictures were available. The Bake sale yielded more than \$300.
- A collection of more money was done for Ukraine after playing of the Ukraine National Anthem as a postlude for a worship service.
- The worship service for Easter Morning was attended by more than 79 people who enjoyed wonderful Easter music and Anthem.

There will be a New England Synod Assembly in Worcester, June 9-11, 2022. Participating will be Pastor and Janet Lutz and two 2 voting members -Meg McLoone and Nan Carlson.

The church council will meet for an afternoon retreat on May 1, 2022, after a Thank You Reception for Pastor and Janet Lutz.

The June Congregational Meeting will follow the worship service on June 12, 2022. Church Council Members will be voted on for the coming fiscal year. A picnic lunch is planned for the whole church, following the congregational meeting. SAVE the DATE.

New members will join on May 1st and a Baptism is planned for May 22nd and June 5th.

Jim Sharp has been working on the update of our Constitution.

By now, we have heard of the sale of Misty Hollow with a net gain of over \$400,000. The following is a list of projects which have been on hold in the past few years. The Executive Committee, Church Council as well as the Property Committee are managing the following recommendations:

- Organ electrical system, with safety concerns
- Flooring and furniture for the Youth Room
- Church Sign- Update and relocation
- Wi-Fi /New computers- in “the works”
- Possible new AC for church in future
- Possible cut down two evergreen trees in front of church to increase visibility of sign.

Actions taken:

A motion was made and passed to invest half of the proceed in long-term and short-term funds following the recommendation of Finance Committee member Rich Mercado.

A motion was made and passed to use 10% of the proceeds to help our neighbors in need around the world under the direction of the Council.

Pastor Lutz, as acting Dean of the Naugatuck Valley Conference, will install two Pastors in congregations in Southbury and Waterbury.

Danny Smith, a frequent worshiper, has been ordained in the Christ Catholic Church – Worldwide denomination. His ordination took place in Prince of Peace on Maundy Thursday 2022.

Council meets again on Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.

How does this sound today? How are we doing resisting normalcy two-years later?

April 2020

Dear People of God,

Let's not go back to normal.

What was normal, after all, but a false assumption about the world and our place in it. Built on the flawed understanding that we are in control. We're not.

Normal was how we construct this worldview by holding on to certain conventions while dismissing others, all out of ego and an inflated sense of self-importance. Normal is a lie, a facade, a closed tomb. Let's not go back to normal.

To do so would mean we worship ourselves and not the Living Lord. To go back to normal would be to pretend that the virus was an exception, an unusual event, a blimp in an otherwise understandable and manageable universe. To go back to normal would be to pretend that sin, evil, and death doesn't exist. To go back perpetuates the myth that it is all about us. It isn't.

It is the dawning of a new day, my friends, the birth pangs of a new reality. The stone is gone! All that we thought was possible, probably, predictable and permanent, changed on that bright morning. We have come face to face with our own mortality and the mortality of our worldview.

We are now at a moment of decision. Do we seek comfort in the former or do we move toward the future with Easter eyes, recalculate the possibilities of life amid illness, disease, and death? Do we continue to admire an empty tomb, longing for what was, or do we follow the Risen Lord?

The Christ of scripture says that if you want to be first, you must be last; if you want to live, you have to die; and if you want to hold on to anything – health, wealth, family, life - you have to do so with open hands.

So, now with Christ ahead of us, let's step out of normal into his resurrection life. Let's follow the living Lord by dying to self and by keeping our hands open for the amazing gifts and promises of God that flow to us unconditionally.

What will it mean for you to live as a baptized child of God in this new reality? And because there is no such thing as an individual Christian, what will it mean for you to live with others? Are you ready for a life outside the tomb, a life of surprises, a life of love, and abundance?

Let's leave normal behind, cling to each other, and the God who has called us together to be Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. A new day awaits us, someplace better!

Can I get an Amen?

The Rev. Paul Lutz, Pastor

Musings from the Bench!

How time flies! It seems like only yesterday that we embarked on rebuilding and renewing our music program. Both the Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choir have faithfully returned to rehearsing weekly and engaged in active worship. In March, albeit small, our Youth music program returned with an initial offering joining the Sanctuary choir. Even more engaging and exciting news was the gift of a small tracker pipe organ for our youth and 'young at heart' to learn about the process of how it works and to develop a plan to refurbish and restore it to its former glory. To that end, I would like to tell you the 'rest of the story'!

As some may know, our Sanctuary organ needs work and there will be more about that in the future, but as a preface to that, I have been actively looking and exploring many different social media accounts to see what future options may look like. It was during one of these fact-finding missions that I came across a listing that read in part ... *"Pipe Organ, Tracker action ... best bid to someone capable of re-assembling and using the instrument; free donation to a church or an educational institution that will use this instrument for its intended purpose"*. Needless to say this caught my eye and I pondered, how this might serve a purpose here at POP. The other part of the listing that caught my eye was this instrument was located in someone's residence, so it couldn't be that big. The footprint in total is actually about the size of a king size bed, and no more than 8' in height, when fully assembled. Hmm ... This post appeared on a Monday. So I made an inquiry if this instrument might serve the needs of a growing youth music program, exposing them not only to the inner workings of a mechanical pipe organ, but having the full potential of being used as an instrument for future students to learn upon. Furthermore, would that fill the need as listed by the current owner. That same evening there was a scheduled W&M meeting where I proposed the same question, in which they met it with great enthusiasm, considering not only our current needs, but embracing potential future growth of the program.

It was great joy that the very next day, there was an email from the owners letting me know that they had decided, based on the proposal of use, they would love to give the organ to us. You see, unbeknownst to me at the time, there was another interested party, and in full disclosure, the owners were also Lutheran :-)

The organ itself is a c. 1898/1908 Bernhard Mudler tracker organ with a reverse console (rare in its own right) and was manufactured in Philadelphia. On Easter Sunday, with the help of Paul Adam, Erik Zimmitti, his sons and others, we unloaded the truck with our new project. A project it will be, but one that I know in the end will bring great satisfaction to all who will partake in its rebirth. More to come next month.

Please see the next page for pictures.....

Brian Muller
Music Ministry Director



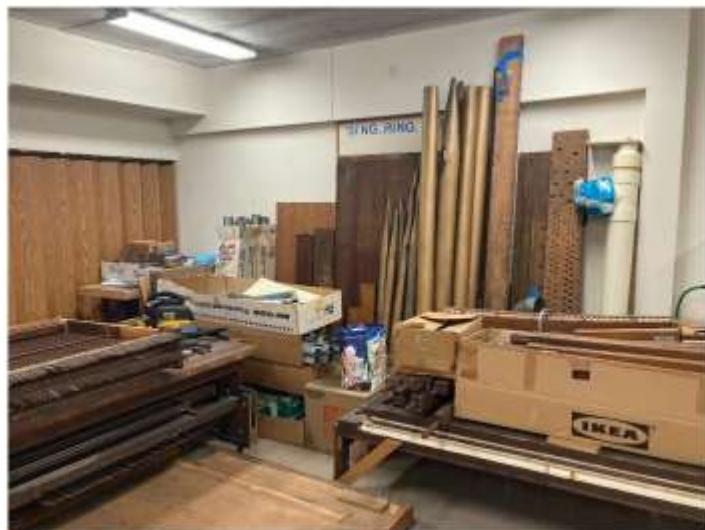
Apr 9, 2022. Bernhard Mudler tracker as received in Rockville, MD (Gerald Miller - Donor)



Apr 16, 2022. Removing the organ from the Residence of George Miller



Apr 16, 2022. Loading the Truck - Rockville, MD



Apr 21, 2022. Bernhard Mudler Organ as received at Prince Of Peace - Music Room

Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-A Thon

A big Thank You to all those ladies who came to produce dresses on April 2nd.

We completed 38 dresses that morning and sewers took another 20 dresses home to complete. What a morning! It was fun and productive.

There are more kits, ready to sew at church. Just let me know how many you wish to sew. Our ambassador, Liz Skanzynski, was there to assist and she even sewed a dress herself.

The dresses are truly beautiful. They are well made and will make young girls happy, wherever they go.

Each dress was measured and tagged. Janet Lutz placed a small doll in one pocket and a new pair of panties in the other pocket.

Prince of Peace ladies and friends really know how to spread God's love in the world.

Nancy Carlson
203-778-1171
nancsew@gmail.com



Friendly Reminder

For those of you that are knitting baby blankets, please note that they need to be turned in by Mother's day (May 8th) when they will be blessed.

Marci Sharp

ATTENTION Knitters & Crocheters



For those of you who are making baby blankets, we will be blessing them on Mother's Day (May 8) and then I will be sending them to Global Missions. The Hats and Scarves that we make for the Seafarers will be blessed in October after which I will be sending them to Chaplain Ruth at the seaport in New Haven. If you need patterns for blankets, hats or scarves - please let me know as there are specifications for them. Items can be brought to the church any time and left under the mailboxes with my name on them.

Questions...contact Marci Sharp at (203) 947-4413 or e-mail me at bowmanrae@aol.com.

Fundraiser, Community Event, Community Service- WOW!

April was a busy month at POP!

POP Youth Group successfully raised \$345 through its Easter chocolate fundraiser! Everyone is enjoying the yummy chocolate from Emalyn Sweets! Thanks to owner, Linda Sparaco for supporting our youth group in this fundraiser.

Thanks to all that purchased items!

1st Annual POP Community Easter Egg Hunt was met with overwhelming interest from the community. This event was organized by Jaclyn Larkin, Farah Walsh, Jamie Walsh & Tori Walsh. By creating the event on Facebook they were able to create huge community outreach! 80 children registered for the event and brought their parents and grandparents with them to enjoy a day full of egg hunts, games, visits with Easter bunny and a chance to purchase baked sale goodies! \$338 was raised that day. Special treats from Texas Roadhouse - they provided Easter eggs with a coupon for free kids meal to each participant! Thanks to POP youth group and POP ambassadors that were there to share their smiles and help make this a special day at POP! Both of these events are donating money raised to ELCA Disaster Relief to help the people of Ukraine.

Black Bags - over 30 bags will be donated to Vietnam Vets of American in early May. This organization works to help provide services for veterans.



1st Annual POP Community Easter Egg Hunt





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 will start in Sunday School and join parents near the end of service

No per-registration required, Pre-School - 6th grades

kids must wear masks and bring their bibles!



www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org/sunday-school

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>

taking faith home

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The monthly WELCA Women's Bible study will take place on the **3rd Wednesday of each month.**



We are currently discussing **Angels in the Bible.**

Don't miss the weekly **CreatingCommunity** email devotion to help you and your household prepare for worship by dwelling in the word, responding to questions, praying and signing together. Sign up to have the devotion arrive in your email box every Monday.



NEED HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER HOURS?



We are looking for help throughout this year with:

- Cleaning Sunday School spaces
- Teaching Sunday School
- Serving as a Sunday School Helper
- As-needed projects

Reach out to Heather or Lorraine and we will share more details and sign-up forms.

marc.lorrainelavery@gmail.com

heather.pontonio@gmail.com

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Barbara Bruno
5	Rebecca Adam
8	Elizabeth Schretzenmayer Noah Schretzenmayer
10	Cynthia Nabozny
12	Heather Pontonio
14	Ernest Lehman Tim Maier
20	Patricia Fecarotta

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

9	Anneliese & Anton Menrath
20	Pam & Ned McMillen Will & Sheryl Wagner
21	Paul & Janet Lutz Michael & Margaret Nicolais

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Thank you to all of the hosts of Friday Night Live in 2022.

Most recently, thank you to Donna & Jimmy Vitetta for being gracious hosts in your lovely home in April. We are looking forward to seeing singles and couples join us at Nan & Ken Carlson's home in May.

Laura Duffy

YOUTH GROUP

There will be a youth group meeting on Friday, May 6th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Daily Bread Food Pantry

Just a reminder. Please remember the articles that are listed below for the daily bread Food Pantry. They tend to be most nutritious and are easy to distribute. Avoid glass jars and fragile packaging. Monetary donations are a good choice and easy to do on-line at dailybreadfoodpantryDanburyct.org.

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

Drop off your food items or checks (payable to DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY) to the church's front door anytime. **Please note all future correspondence to the Daily Bread food pantry should go to P.O. Box 2 Danbury, CT 06813-0002.**

Thank you for your donations and prayers.

Mary Weisensee

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 2021-2022

Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Nicole Cable Financial Secretary	(203) 775-8358	andcable03@yahoo.com
Nancy Carlson Secretary	(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
Tina Giubileo	(715) 797-6858	tinagiubileo@yahoo.com
Lorraine Lavery President	(845) 416-0900	marc.lorrainelavery@gmail.com
Susan Lehmann	(203) 744-2033	lleh45@sbcglobal.net
Meg McLoone	(203) 775-1724	mkloon@yahoo.com
Priscilla Rivas- Mancinone Treasurer	(203) 830-9016	guanacaste@snet.net
Julie Parker Vice President	(203) 313-0600	jksp66@gmail.com
Monica Walsh	(203) 740-7632	mwalsh21@sbcglobal.net
You?		

Worship Services

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

Sunday's May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

10:00 a.m. in person inside worship

10:00 a.m. Zoom service

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

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

Contact Us

Pastor: The Rev. Paul Lutz

Website: www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org

E-mail: 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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

May 2022