



BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 85, Number 21

December, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

My email inbox which had been filled with political advertisements and requests last month, is now filled with special sales offers leading up to Christmas. I don't know which is worse. But we are in the season of giving and receiving. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, perhaps with special opportunities to reconnect with family and friends, and above all, giving thanks for all of God's blessings in your life.

Now we are looking toward Christmas, another season of giving. And I invite you to think about some special opportunities for giving in the coming days and weeks:

Give your time. Take the time to be in worship for all the special Christmas opportunities. There is a wonderful Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 11. On Wednesday, Dec. 21 we are trying something new with a Christmas Eve, Eve, Eve, Eve service. For those of you traveling, or spending Christmas Eve with your family, this is a unique opportunity to worship and enjoy the special music and message of Christmas. Then of course, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, and a service of Lessons and Carols on Jan. 1. Take the time to celebrate the birth of our Savior with all these special opportunities.

Give your talents. There are many special opportunities to volunteer in service to others this time of year. Be a volunteer in the spirit of Christmas.

Share your gifts. A couple of good news/bad news things I want to share this with you in all transparency. For 2022, Prince of Peace adopted a deficit budget of nearly \$67,000. That's the bad news. The good news is that it looks like the congregational deficit may be down to \$25,000 by the end of the year. Can you consider a special gift to your congregation this year at Christmas? Caryl and I do that every year. We pledge at the beginning of the year, but by the end of the year we also have to re-acknowledge the gifts we have received through our community of faith. So we give a special Christmas gift. I invite you to consider doing that as well.

The second good news/bad news item. 2023 will be another tight year financially for PoP. If you have not yet submitted your giving commitment letter, will you please consider doing that now? Those commitments are one of the most critical elements in planning PoP's budget. Your generosity going forward in supporting your congregation will be the basis for our ability to continue to minister to one another and reach out to the community and the world. Thank you.

The Gift you've received. After all of this, we have received the greatest Gift of all, a Savior, Jesus, the son of Mary, and the Son of God. In the midst of all gifts of the season, and the importance of our own sense of giving, this Gift stands out among all others. It is a Gift God didn't have to give. But in grace and mercy, and with overwhelming Love for all humanity, this Gift was given.

May your Christmas time be blessed with the knowledge and assurance that Christ has come to our world, and Christ has come to you.

A Blessed Christmas to all!

Pastor Mark A. Grorud

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN

DECEMBER

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 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.

HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

We are continuing to work to establish our pre-Covid worship practices at Prince of Peace. On Sundays we will once again offer Holy Communion by intinction. As you kneel at the altar to receive the elements, the Body and Blood of Christ, you will be offered a wafer of bread first, and then a Communion Assistant will come with the chalice. You may dip the wafer into the wine (intinction). When you have received the elements, you may return to your seat and the next person can take your place at the altar.

For those who wish to continue to use the communion packets of bread and wine, please feel free to come to the altar with those who are using intinction. If you wish to remain in the pew, you may do so and commune as you hear the words of Institution spoken at the altar.

ATTENDANCE

IN

November



	10:00 a.m. Inside	10:00 a.m. On-line	Total
November 6	69	3	72
November 13	47	11	58
November 20	53	13	66
November 27	63	10	73



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ALL MONTH!



AT PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
BROOKFIELD, CT

December 10 @ 8:00-10:30am
Breakfast with Santa & Holiday Boutique
\$10 per person, \$40 family max

December 11 @ 10:00am
Christmas Pageant during Service
& Holiday Boutique after Service

December 21 @ 7:30pm
Christmas Eve, Eve, Eve, Eve Service NEW

December 24 @ 7:30pm
Christmas Eve Service

December 25 @ 10:00am
Christmas Day Service (*A light and airy Christmas*)

January 1 @ 10:00am
Service of Lesson and Carols



More details at www.PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org

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 donor or recipient of the flowers are welcome to take their arrangement after the service on Sunday.

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 in front of the lectern or at the baptismal font. We do not have flowers at the altar during lent.

Need to contact Pastor Grorud?

At this point, he will be in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week and other times as the calendar requires.



If you would like to visit with him about anything, please contact him or call Rene in the church office to set up a time to chat.

He is also available by phone at any time. His home phone is 203-210-7762. His cell is 402-620-8032. Please feel free to call if you have an immediate concern or question.

NEW VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES OF PRINCE OF PEACE 2022

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

November Council Highlights

Thank you to all for your participation in our November events, the Craft Fair and Stewardship Sunday.

December 10th 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. we will be hosting a pancake breakfast with Santa. This will be open to the public and the charge will be \$10 per person, children under 5 years old are free, and there will be a \$40 cap per family. There was a motion made and passed.

The fellowship committee needs your help. The fellowship committee supports funeral receptions, Friday Night Live (gathering of members for dinner 1x a month), and coffee hour. Sign ups for Friday Night Live and coffee hour are in the narthex.

The members on the call committee were approved by counsel. We thank those members for their commitment in helping us during this transition time.

The CAT is live and ready for YOUR input. All members are highly encouraged to take this opportunity to fill out this assessment as part of the call process for our new pastor. We thank the transition team for all their hard work.

POP is back to offering intinction of Communion wafers into wine at the Communion rail. There will also be Communion kits available for those who would like to continue using them, either at their seats or at the Communion rail.

Due to some scheduling conflicts, please refer to the Friday email for updated executive and council meeting dates.



CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Cemetery Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.



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
near the end of service*



Dec. 4 - Pageant rehearsal during Sunday School and from 11am-12pm

Dec. 11 - Christmas Pageant during service (rehearsal at 9am, pageant is the sermon)

Dec. 18 - Sunday School as usual

Dec. 25 - no Sunday School

www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org/sunday-school

CONFIRMATION

6:00-7:00pm Thursdays

Date

12/1/2022

Theme

Apostles' Creed, Article 1

Problem Statement

I don't know if I believe in God.

12/8/2022

Apostles' Creed, Article 2

I don't see how Jesus has anything to do with me.

12/15/2022

Apostles' Creed, Article 3

The Holy Spirit seems really ambiguous, undefined, and impersonal. (P.S. Creepy, too.)

12/22/2022

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is just empty words to me.



Confirmation students - remember to complete your Sermon Notes!

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.



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>

THE CAT IS HERE

CONGREGATION ASSESSMENT TOOL

A key step in the process to call a new pastor is to complete the **Church Assessment Tool** - a 90-question online assessment of a congregation that is completed by members of a church.

It takes about 30-minutes to complete.

The link to complete online has been emailed to members and can be used multiple times on your computer so that all confirmed members of your household can individually respond.

Your response will help generate the VitalSigns® report that gives leaders a read-out on the health of the church, a sense of where members think Prince of Peace should head in the future, and a description of Prince of Peace as a unique body of people.



PREFER TO COMPLETE IT ON PAPER?

Copies are available at church.

WANT TO COMPLETE IT VIA COMPUTER AT CHURCH?

Sign-up at church for Sun. Dec. 18th after service.



SURVEY CLOSES DEC. 27TH

Save the date!

CONNECTICUT LUTHERAN YOUTH



**Join us for a new youth initiative
-Food, fellowship, fun-**

- Sunday, Nov 13 @ 4 PM Prince of Peace, Brookfield
- December Break TBD @ St. Andrew's, Ridgefield
- Sunday, Jan 8 @ 4 PM Holy Trinity, Trumbull
- Sunday, Feb 12 @ 2 PM Good Shepherd, Monroe



Bring a friend + activities for parents/caregivers, too!



CHRISTMAS GARDEN ORDER FORM – 2022

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 7:30 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: Wednesday, December 14th

6.5" Pot at \$8.50 each:

Red Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

White Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

8" Pot at \$22.00 each:

Red Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

White Poinsettia plant(s) = _____

14" Wreath at \$15 each:

Wreaths = _____

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

Love Fund: \$ _____

In honor of _____

by, _____

In memory of _____

by, _____

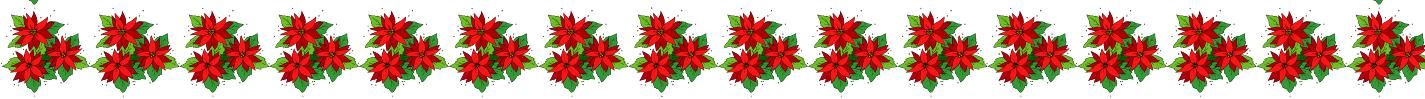
As a thank offering to God _____

by, _____

Your Name _____

Telephone _____

Please return the completed form to Rene's mailbox by December 14th.



PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH
**BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA**



Enjoy a pancake breakfast and a picture with Santa

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 10
AT PRINCE OF PEACE
119 JUNCTION RD
8:00AM TO 10:15AM



Ticket: \$10 per person

Children under 5 free

Family cost \$40

Cash or Venmo at the door

TICKET INCLUDES: DELICIOUS BREAKFAST,
PHOTO WITH SANTA, CRAFTS, GAMES, HOLIDAY
BOUTIQUE, FUN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

For more information:

SIGN UP ON EVENTBRITE LINK

Things needed for Pancake Breakfast

- Christmas trees (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Lights for Christmas trees (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Decorations for Christmas Trees (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Christmas stuffed animals/dolls to be used as decor (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Rustic Chair that Santa could sit in that would in a barn type theme (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Reindeer statues or other Christmas statues (deliver by Dec. 3rd, take home Dec. 11th)
- Skillets for making pancakes
- Pancake mix (that requires water only)
- Frozen sausage links
- Fresh strawberries
- Fresh cantaloupe
- Fresh blueberries
- Syrup
- Butter
- Pam spray
- Hot chocolate mix container
- Coffee
- Half & Half
- Apple Juice
- Orange Juice
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Forks & Knives for 200
- 200+ Cold paper cups
- 100+ Hot paper cups
- 10 red tablecloth rounds
- 10 green tablecloth rounds
- 10 white tablecloth rounds
- 4 red tablecloth rectangles

Things to be done:

- Make snowflakes to be hung by the ceiling

If you would like to help please click on the sign-up-genius links in the Friday weekly update or type in the following:

To help with the event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eada72faaf4cf8-pancake>

To donate to this event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eada72faaf4cf8-donations>

Christmas Boutique and Christmas Cookie Sale

After the worship service on December 11th, the women will be holding the Christmas Boutique...so just in case you still have some shopping to do...this is the ideal place. We are also selling Christmas cookies that the women of the church have prepared. (If you can donate a couple dozen of your favorite holiday cookies that would be great...just let me know). We will also be opening the boutique and cookie sale on Saturday for the "Breakfast with Santa" so if you can bring them that morning it would be appreciated.

Marci Sharp (203) 775-4657







Norwalk Community Chorale Presents
61st Annual Christmas Concert

Still is the Night

Saturday, December 10th, 2022

7:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Norwalk Concert Hall
125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT

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



THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Prince of Peace is once again participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. There are 25 Tags available. If you take a tag, please make sure you write your name on the sheet on the table after the correct tag number. The tag numbers are written in black marker. Gifts purchased should not exceed \$30. If the item on the angel tag is more than \$30, feel free to substitute the item. When the tags were prepared, it was not possible to research the price of each item. **Attach the entire tag to the gift.** It is very important that the tag be secured to the gift because it has the family number and the name of the child on the tag. When these become disconnected, it makes it difficult to try to match up the gift to the child.

Ernie Lehman

DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT

All gifts need to be back to the church by

December 12th.



Prince of Peace

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

December 16 at 6:00 p.m.

*At the home of Susi Lehmann
45 Aunt Hack Road Danbury CT*

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 3rd 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 Susi at lleh45@sbcglobal.net if you would like to attend and what you will bring.

Please join us for an enjoyable evening!



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 5th and 12th. Families will gather in Fellowship Hall (by classroom) to enjoy festive holiday songs and share in laughter and community. We also continue to await word from NAEYC for our re-accreditation visit. The visit is due to occur prior to January 16th. As we look forward to next year, we begin enrollment for the 2023/2024 school year. Please note, the school will be closed for winter break from December 19th through December 30th.

Warmest holiday wishes from the Pre-School!

Best,

Heidi Riddle
Pre-School Director



CEMETERY COMMITTEE NEWS

At the September meeting of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee, it was decided to raise the price of cremation plots to \$400 for church members and \$550 for non-members.

Prices for full plots will remain at \$700 for church members and \$1000 for non-members. The cost for opening and closing of a cremation plot will remain at \$250. The price increase is the first since 2013 and is well below the cost for plots at most other area cemeteries. The price increase will become effective January 1, 2023. For questions about the Prince of Peace Cemetery, please contact Ernie Lehman or the church office.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Tom Herpel
7	Heidi Adam
8	Bill Duffy
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
29	Al Morey, Mark Nobes

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

27 Marci & Jim Sharp - 60 years!

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

BAPTISM

Declan Cruz Brown was baptized at Prince of Peace on November 6th. His parents are Kyle & Jacqueline Brown. His Baptismal sponsors were Patrick O'Loughlin and Amanda Woodin.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Pop for the beautiful edible arrangements bouquet of fruit and all of the get well cards. Thank you to the preschool for the lovely flowers. And thank you to all the council members that filled in for me while I was gone.

Rene T.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED "SNACKS" FOR OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY MAILING. We packed boxes that were sent to 8 of our college students. I'm sure they appreciated receiving them...especially during exam time!

Marci Sharp

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.

Mary Weisensee

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 2022-2023

Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Paul Adam	203-797-1950	
Linda Sutton Burns	203-743-1948	lindaburns1971@gmail.com
Nancy Carlson Assistant Vice President	203-778-1171	nancsew@gmail.com
Liz Davies Assistant 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 Secretary	203-775-1724	mkloon@yahoo.com
Heather Pontonio	203-947-9744	heather.pontonio@gmail.com
Priscilla Rivas Treasurer	203 -830-9016	guanacaste@snet.net
Donna Vitetta	914-672-1209	donnavitetta@gmail.com
Monica Walsh	203-512-1166	mwalsh21@sbcglobal.net
You?		

Church Contact Information:

By email – 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 December 4, 18

10:00 a.m. in person inside worship
10:00 a.m. Zoom service

Sunday, December 11 Christmas Pageant - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 21 Christmas Eve, Eve, Eve, Eve Service 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

Contact Us

Website:
www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org

E-mail:
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.

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- 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 2022