



BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 85, Number 1

January 2021

Dear Friends and Members of Prince of Peace,

There are fewer people reading this than before.

It's true. Several households (5 officially, more unofficially) have left or retreated from involvement in Prince of Peace in 2020. The reasons are many – theological differences with the ELCA, too many changes, disagreement with our response to the pandemic, now able to watch other church services online, etc. - but the result is the same. Our congregational family is smaller now than it has been in many years.

This new reality saddens me. It is not what I hoped for nor what I've been working towards. I regret that there was not an intentional interim before my arrival to better prepare PoP for its next chapter in ministry. Like you, I am disappointed that some people no longer think of PoP as their church family. We will miss their participation in our life together. We will be different because of their departure.

Notice I didn't say we will be poorer or less or inferior because some households have left. I don't think that will be the case. We will be different to be sure. And what the difference is will be up to us to decide. God has not abandoned us. Our call to be a vital and vibrant congregation under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit still exist. The question before us at the start of 2021 is what form will it take now that we are leaner and more agile?

The Congregational Council, the Forward Leadership and Accountability Teams, and others see this as an opportunity to "reset" our ministry. What are the foundations of our life together that we can bring a renewed focus to? What are the essentials of Christian community that are now calling for our attention? What is our unique and holy mission and purpose in Brookfield that we are being empowered to continue? These are some of the questions that will guide us as God's people in 2021.

At our Congregational meeting (January 31, 2021) you will notice a leaner program of ministry/budget. Some of the customary aspects of congregational life will be absent and others will be reduced. All of this will help to "reset" our focus and ministry. We remain God's called, gathered, enlightened, and empowered people. There is a reason for Prince of Peace that continues to direct and guide us, even in new ways with fewer disciples and resources.

I remain confident that God will see us through this time of change, loss, and resetting of ministry. I thank you for your partnership in ministry and ask that you continue to pray for me, our leadership and Prince of Peace in 2021.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Paul Lutz

WORSHIP IN

January

Continuing through January 2021 worship will remain at 9:30 a.m. (over Zoom). Each service can also be watched at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook Live or viewed at another time or day using the link on our website. See the PoP weekly emails for the Zoom link.

There are now three options (Four, if you count not participating at all. Not a recommended option.)

1. You are invited to join us for Zoom worship and stay after for some fellowship time. You'll need to provide your own coffee or morning beverage of choice. There is no need to leave the zoom worship meeting and enter the zoom coffee hour meeting. Worship will flow into Fellowship. And, you can stay for as little time or as long of a time as you like.
2. You are invited to join us for Zoom worship and leave when the worship has concluded.
3. You are invited to join us for Fellowship/Coffee Hour without participating in worship, where we catch up with each other, talk about PoP, and share in Christian community.

The same Zoom invite will be used for both worship and Fellowship. You will be admitted at 9:30 a.m. for worship. If you click in close to 10:15 a.m. you will be admitted as soon as worship is concluded. Again, you can stay for as little time or as long of a time as you like. See the PoP weekly emails for the Zoom link. We will use the same link through the season of Lent.

Fellowship/Coffee Hour Goes Earlier



The consensus of the Coffee/Fellowship Hour participants was to add this social time immediately following worship. So, starting January 10th, 2021 (The Baptism of Our Lord) The Fellowship/Coffee Hour will begin at the conclusion of the worship service (approx. 10:15 a.m.).

Congregational Conversation about Communion During the Pandemic

Opportunities for congregational conversation about Communion during the pandemic will be scheduled during the season of Lent (February and March). We will explore how to make theological decisions, the Means of Grace, and the variety of current communion practices. Stay tuned for the listing of days and times.

Communion in the Parking Lot

There is also some conversation around building on the success of our Christmas Day “Communion in the Parking Lot” experience and offering Communion in the parking lot once a month. Stay tuned for a January opportunity to be announced in the weekly e-mails.

BINGE READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK

You are invited to join with others in a binge reading of the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the primary source of our Sunday Gospel stories during this liturgical year. This will be a one time event during the season of Lent. You can get a head start by reading it through the gospel yourself. It takes about 90 minutes. But don't give away any spoilers.

JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Zoom Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31st at 11:00 a.m. Look for the link in future weekly update e-mails.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION IS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Time is available during the week when you can come in, hear the words of institution, community prayers, eat and drink the bread and wine and meditate on this spiritual gift in solitude. Please contact Pastor Lutz if you would like to receive communion at Prince of Peace.



STIMULUS CHECKS AND POP

I write this on the morning of December 28, 2020. The news is that a stimulus check will be sent to most of us reading this as a part of the US Government's coronavirus relief package. I would like to suggest a Prince of Peace response to this stimulus check.

What if we took those dollars and collectively contributed to the support of a local business, family or relief effort? If 25 of us directed our \$600 toward this PoP initiative we would collectively give \$15,000. If 50 households participated we would have \$30,000. And if 100 individuals contributed to the cause, we would have \$60,000!

If you are interested in working with others to determine the local benefactor (s) of this PoP effort, let me know ASAP. If you are interested in supporting this cause with your stimulus check (or a portion of), also please let me know. Updates will be shared in the weekly emails.

Two caveats in the desire for transparency. Some of us may need this relief to help with personal finances. This request is not directed at you. Secondly, these funds will not benefit PoP at all. The project is to use funds we may not need, given to us by our government, to help those who do need them in the greater Brookfield area. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Pastor Paul Lutz



COUNCIL UPDATE

- Daily Bread continues to need donations. Financial support is appreciated for fresh foods.
- Pastor is looking for people to be a congregational voice on Zoom Worships.
- The Knights of Columbus donated a wreath at the entrance of the cemetery as part of the wreaths across America project.
- There will be a discussion about communion during a pandemic during Lent - February and March.
- January 31st is the Congregational Meeting.
- Council retreat will be February 6th 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- January 13th - 7:30 p.m. Executive Committee
- January 20th 7:30 p.m. Full Council
- New disciples/members will be joining POP in January.
- Please speak with a council member with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.



BIG ROCKS

“That a terrible place for the baptismal font,” Ricky said. The junior high class was touring the church.

“Why do you say that?” I asked.

“That’s what my mom said when she saw it. She is getting married again next month,

and I don’t think she like having a big rock in the middle of the aisle.”

Sally spoke up. She always does. “I don’t think its such a bad place.”

“What do you mean?” asked Ricky.

“Well” she said, “when I was baptized last year it was neat being in the middle of everything. I was surrounded by everybody. It felt so good to have the entire church so close.”

“Yes,” said Ricky. “But my Mom doesn’t want everybody so close. She wants to be able to walk down the center of the aisle by herself. She’s getting married, not baptized.”

Sally was silent.

“Although,” Ricky continued, thinking out loud, “all my friends will be there. Even all of you. And didn’t you say, Pastor, that baptism makes us all family?”

“You mean,” Sally interrupted, “Ricky is soon going to have two families?”

“No,” asserted Ricky, rather confidently. “I already have two families. I have my family with my Mom, and I have my family with all of you guys. I think my Mom forget that. I’m going to tell her.”

Gracious God, there are many “big rocks” that crowd out our self-determined paths. Thank you for the reminders such detours can bring and for the messengers that help is recall what our baptism can mean. Amen.

~ Pastor Paul Lutz

TWO EASY WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Do you shop at Amazon? Have Amazon Prime? Well the next time you shop go to Amazon Smile and select “ Prince of Peace Lutheran Church”. Be certain to select the one in Brookfield CT. There are many others.) Then each time you make a purchase Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Prince of Peace. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. But now you can support Prince of Peace by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.



Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? If so, you have two ways to exercise your financial stewardship. The first is that your account is earning “Choice Dollars” that you can direct to Prince of Peace several times a year. There is no cost to you and any Choice Dollars not distributed from your account are lost. Second, you have up to \$500 available to you in a Thrivent Action Team kit. There is an application and the funds must be used to help others in the church or in the world but it’s yours for the asking. For more information talk to your Thrivent Associate or Joe Tucciarone, Financial Associate, New Milford, 800-972-5716.

REMEMBER PRINCE OF PEACE IN YOUR WILL

As Christians, what we leave behind is much more than a track record of daily events. A meaningful legacy enables the gospel’s message to ring clearly and ensures those who follow us will discover what it means to be church in the 21st century.

A gift in your will or other type of legacy gift can provide Prince of Peace with the opportunity to explore and develop ways of undertaking ministry differently. Support that continues beyond your lifetime lays the foundation for a stable and exciting future that will continue to bring Christ’s vital and vibrant message of community, compassion, and hope to others.

Speak to Rich Mercado, Treasurer or to your financial advisor for more information.



FAITH FORMATION

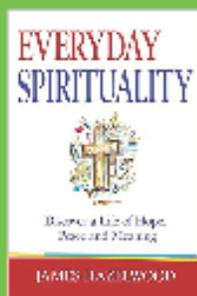
Prince of Peace, Brookfield, CT

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Thursday from 7:00-8:00pm

We have begun a weekly zoom discussion of "Everyday Spirituality: discover a life of hope, peace and meaning" by James Hazelwood. You can join is any Thursday at 7pm on Zoom. Ask Pastor Lutz to send you the zoom link.



Purchase your copy on AmazonSmile today.

Make sure to designate Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (make certain it is us) to receive the free charity support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We're bringing Sunday School into your home! Pre-K through 6th graders will meet via Zoom for 30-minutes of games, bible stories, and interaction!



Every Sunday - 8:30-9:00am on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81029667079?pwd=K204Y1VNI283Nk1GUUxTeVhOcFgzdz09>
Meeting ID: 810 2966 7079 | Passcode: 999695

Confirmation

Confirmation class for 7th & 8th graders includes weekly Zoom class and independent activities. If your child is not in Confirmation and would like to be, please contact Pastor Paul.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



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

For more information on these and other learning opportunities, contact the church office, Pastor Paul or check out the Weekly update email.

Finally, 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.

PRINCE OF PEACE PRE-SCHOOL

We are so thrilled to have made it to the Holiday Break safely and not having had to close school. The last week of pre-school saw much glitter and excitement. While this year did not allow for our traditional holiday parties at the pre-school, videos of the children were created to be sent out to families as a special holiday gift. We look forward to the coming year and are excited to be adding two new students to our program.

Best,

Heidi Riddle
Pre-School Director



Prince of Peace Pre-School

119 Junction Rd Brookfield CT 203-775-0140

NAOMI CIRCLE

The Naomi Circle had a surprise in December! The quilts which had been blessed, boxed, and sitting in the closet since May were able to be sent on their way! The annual spring drop off had been cancelled due to the pandemic so it was a delightful surprise to get a call from Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown, NY (our closest collection point) to say they were quickly arranging to be a stop for the InGathering Truck! On December 2nd, 12 finished quilts were left there to await the truck and continue their journey. In a few months we should be able to check their progress and see where they have gone.

~ Karen Muller

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 their most needed Non-perishable items:

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 freshly painted front door anytime. Your neighbors thank you.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Anneliese Menrath
- 5 Rachel Adam, Robert Stuhrcke
- 7 Maimo Passarella
- 8 Karin Schroeder
- 9 Bianca Giubileo, Kristin Staub
- 17 David Hall, Laura Neeb
- 19 Dawn Arnold, Kathy Hubric,
Donna Wright-Murphy, Pam Nemetz,
Michael Walsh
- 23 Pastor Ned McMillen
- 24 Daniel Koehm
- 26 Jaclyn Larkin
- 28 Ron Kutz
- 29 Pat Staub
- 31 Kristen Lacey, Krag Lehmann

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Barbara & Saverio Bruno
- 29 Laura & Bob Neeb

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Weisensee and her family on the passing of Mary's husband Gary Weisensee.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Laurie & Kevin Fay and their family on the passing of Laurie's mother Patricia Bressler Ames.

Please keep both families in your prayers during this difficult time.

NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank the knitters at Prince of Peace for the wonderful hats and scarves. They are all packed in Christmas-at-Sea satchels ready to be delivered to the Seafarers before Christmas. I know how much your handwork will be appreciated by them.

Ruth Setaro
Chaplain
 Seafarers International House

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

This year Prince of Peace cemetery Association was honored to be part of the WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA program. The mission of this program is to REMEMBER our fallen U.S. Veterans, HONOR those who serve and TEACH our children the value of freedom. Its sponsorship is comprised of many companies and organizations.

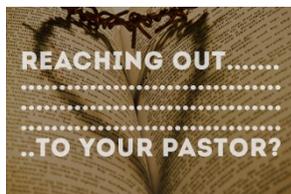
On Saturday, December 19th, National Wreaths Across America Day, wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery and in over 2,100 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. One of those locations was at the entrance to Prince of Peace Cemetery.

~ Ernie Lehman



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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Julie Parker Vice President	(203) 313-0600	jksp66@gmail.com
Kevin Peterson	(203) 740-8261	kevinrpeterson@gmail.com
You?		



HOW TO REACH THE PASTOR

Pastor Lutz is easily accessible. You can e-mail him (poppastorpaul@sbcglobal.net), call him on his cell (609.578.7921) or post on his Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/plutznj>).

Worship Services

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

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

Join us on Sunday January 3rd for a special pre-recorded service - visit our website.

Join us for Sunday's worship over Zoom on January 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. for a Zoom Fellowship/Coffee Hour (immediately following zoom worship no need to call back in).

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

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January 2021