



# BLUEPRINTS

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 84, Number 6

June 2020

Dear Members and Friends of PoP,

Here is a summary the latest (5.20.2020) recommendations from Jim Hazelwood, Bishop of the New England Synod, ELCA. You can watch the entire clip on our Facebook page or on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR4SB40Dy5E&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0RIJNJQFeG5xutrbWOwWCuXxw131w3GJBWdz7IzmyK8OLjF8N2wsgj3GA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR4SB40Dy5E&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0RIJNJQFeG5xutrbWOwWCuXxw131w3GJBWdz7IzmyK8OLjF8N2wsgj3GA>

The bishop invites us to spend the next six weeks, until July 1, 2020 (probably longer), to explore the implications of five COVID 19 realities for re-opening our building, while we continue to abstain from inside, in person worship.

1. What will it look like to be **six feet apart**? As we enter, as we leave, and as we gather in church what are the implications, requirements, preparations needed to maintain six feet away from each other?
2. Due to how the virus spreads through air particles, there could be **no singing in worship**, no choirs, or lectors speaking in front of a group of worshippers.
3. Unlike our typical worship, there could be **no touching** - "Passing of the Peace", greeting one another, no shaking hands, or hugging, due to the need for social distancing.
4. There could be **no food**, no coffee hours, or goodies, dinners or receptions in order to avoid spreading the virus.
5. And because those 65 or older (most of our congregation) are sheltering in place, **who would attend** worship, faith formation, or gatherings?

These considerations are being discussed by your Executive Committee, Council, and newly created "Re-formation Teams" (introduced inside the Blueprints). You are encouraged to share your thoughts with any of those individuals, groups, or with me. Please stay tuned for more information and considerations of what would need to change, how that would happen, and what would it look like for Prince of Peace to safely re-open our building.

Let us pray: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (ELW)

Yours on the Journey,

The Rev. Paul Lutz

Dear Church,

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am encouraged by your resilience and creativity in our witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am also inspired by your generosity. Through the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund and our Daily Bread grants, we are providing critical support to struggling yet vital ministries across this church. Through Lutheran Disaster Response International we have intensified our accompaniment of global partners. We are church together. This is a trying time for us all. At the same time, we know that a disproportionate burden of illness, death, discrimination and harassment falls on communities of color. This pandemic has exacerbated racism and racial inequities deeply entrenched in society and across the church. We see this in the growing anti-Asian racism and the disproportionate number of deaths in black, American Indian and Latin communities. I have been learning from the leaders of the ELCA's ethnic associations how the data we see on the news is experienced in real life. I have listened to leaders of color share the impact of this pandemic on their communities — on their lives and on their ministries. These stories are difficult but important, so we are launching a special series on [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) to lift up these voices for us all to hear. We also seek to ensure that our COVID-19 response more effectively tends to the realities of racism and racial inequality. We are church together.

Recently, in cities across this country, we have seen horrifying anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages displayed during public protests against government orders that are intended to protect lives. No matter our politics or opinions about our elected leaders and their policies, all of us must come together on the basis of our church's commitments to condemn racism against indigenous people and people of color, white supremacy, sexism, and anti-Semitism whenever they occur. Whether our churches and communities are racially diverse or predominantly white, our work for racial and economic justice for all people is work for all of us. We are church together.

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are joined to each other. Paul helps us to understand this by speaking of the one body of Christ, with many members. While this is always true, perhaps we feel it more acutely in this time of physical distancing. In our longing to be church together, let us be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

In partnership,

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*

Presiding Bishop, ELCA

# Re-forming the Church - What Happens Next?



During a recent zoom special council meeting, it was decided to organize four teams to create a phased approach to "re-forming" at PoP. The four teams are worship, faith formation, social ministry, and fellowship.

The council is suggesting the following members on the "Re-forming Teams":

**Worship** - convenor: Jerry Nabozny (Council), Susi Lehmann (Altar Guild), Kevin Fay (Music Staff), Nan Carlson (Forward Leadership/Accountability Team), and Nancy Tolmoff

**Faith Formation** - convenor: Heather Pontonio (Forward Leadership/Accountability Team/ Sunday School teacher), Deb Nobes (Preschool), Alison Cantone (Council/Confirmation Guide), and Liz Davies (Council/Confirmation Guide)

**Fellowship** -convenor: Andrew Confortini (Council/Oktoberfest Chef), Joan Manka (Council/Committee member), Casey Johansen (Council/Forward Leadership/Accountability Team/Fellowship Host), and Paul Adam

**Social Ministry** - convenor: Monica Walsh (Forward Leadership/ Accountability Team), Julie Parker (Council/Forward Leadership/Accountability Team), Steve Davies, and Janet Lutz

Pastor Lutz will be an ex-officio member of all four teams.

All of the teams have met once. At that meeting, they reviewed all the congregational activity in their ministry area with an eye for Phase 1 preparations (What's most in need of attention in our area?) as suggested by the New England Synod, ELCA. Then they began to create a list of suggestions and questions to share with the Council.

If you have thoughts, suggestions, concerns in any of these ministry areas, please speak with the Council. We want to know both what you need today in this pandemic to continue to experience worship, faith formation, fellowship, and social ministry. And we would like to know what we need to do before you will feel safe returning to our building.

## 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.....**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
**..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.



## REPORT FROM COUNCIL

The council met on May 20, 2020 on Zoom. Here is a summary of what they considered:

- Reviewed current financial situation
- Heard from the newly established Re-formation Teams. (See elsewhere for purpose of teams, ministry areas and team members).
- Agreed to follow the New England Synod, ELCA, Bishop's request to abstain from inside, in person worship until July, and possibly longer.
- Approved the following students to be Confirmed (when and where to be determined):
  1. Cassandra Buzzell
  2. Emma Cable
  3. Ava Cantone
  4. Andrew Confortini
  5. Morgen Kleppin
  6. Chris Mattera
  7. Riley Roksvold
- Determined the current Council terms and vacancies for the Nominating Committee's work.
- Selected Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, for a Congregational meeting to vote on sale of Misty Hollow and election of new Council members. (Location and format of meeting to be determined.)
- Approved a congregational short survey to gather positive stories about why PoP matters to our members.

## **June Congregational Meeting Scheduled**

**Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**

The Congregational Council has selected Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, for a Congregational meeting. The sole purpose of the meeting is to vote on the sale of Misty Hollow and the election of new council members. (The location/venue and format of the meeting will be announced closer to the meeting date).

## **SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, PRINCE OF PEACE?**



( an invitation from Pastor Lutz's sermon on 5.17)

"Let's start a campaign of writing "love letters"; words of encouragement and gratitude to health care workers, or to essential workers in food service, elder care, and other industries. Even to families who are struggling at home with schooling or to teachers who have taken their instruction online. Or perhaps you can make your own list of those you feel for? If you don't want to write, be creative -call, text, draw a picture, paint a sign to hold or post, write a poem, or a song. Everyone can do something to share the love of Christ with a hurting world. As Churchill said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste!" I think the Advocate would agree. Love beckons us..."

Let me know who you are sending love to. I'll send a letter too.

## **"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.





## FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Parents of Sunday School children, we are supplying several options for faith formation at home. Download the Taking Faith Home insert from our website for daily family prayers, rituals and traditions. In addition on the web page there are Sunday School readings, questions, and activities that correspond to the bible story presented in the worship clip

Parents of Confirmands, we have moved to a Zoom class every Tuesday. Let me know if you have any questions.

Adults learners, I would like to also create an Adult Faith Formation blog to continue our learning. How many would be interested in such an experience? We could also hold the Woman's Bible Study online with Zoom. Ladies, are you interested?



As a friend of mine said recently, .... it is also a time to recall that our God is an abundant, enduring and fiercely caring God who responds to our prayers by reminding us we are all ministers capable of serving our neighbors and the common good at ANY time.

## NEW WAY TO BE THE CHURCH

So, what ideas do you have for new ways to be the church at a time like this? Here are some thoughts that may trigger some ideas for you.



- Take care of yourself. Read. Try to relax. I've rekindled a new music listening habit that had gone away because of a busy life. Restoring the practice has been such a gift. Exercise 30 minutes a day if you can. Taking a walk works.
- Reach out to others in new ways. Social distancing does not have to mean social absence. Try a Zoom meeting. Stay in touch with PoP friends by cell phone, email or by writing a compassionate note.
- Renew or energize family relationships and relationships with other friends with whom you've lost touch. You may have "forced" free time now to build on relationships that have lagged.
- Check on your neighbors. You can still knock on a door and give the gift of a smile, showing that you care. (That would be a group of less than 5, right?)
- Have a grudge against someone? No time like the present to mend fences.
- Say thanks to a doctor or nurse or EMT volunteer you know who may be having a tough time right now.
- Keep your offerings to the church going. Thanks to you, the ministry of PoP continues in the hardest of times. Remember PoP, its pastor and faithful staff and leaders in your prayers
- Others?

## Where is Prince of Peace?

During this pandemic Prince of Peace's doors may be closed, but God's work continues through our hands! Our Social Ministry has sprung to the task of bringing Prince of Peace to our community and the world.

Here is a sample of what is happening:

**-Prince of Peace Community Sewing Group-** a group of both POP members and community members worked together to respond to the needs of those who were working closely with COVID patients. These items were donated to Danbury Hospital (Emergency Room, 8th and 12th floors), Greenwich Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital, and Danbury Visiting Nurses. Also face masks are being made for church members, family and friends and any community member who was in need. The group's sewing machines are still humming with face masks being made for Nursing homes and Food Banks (Filosa/ Hancock Hall, Bethel Health Care, Brookfield & Bethel Food Pantry, & Daily Bread Food Pantry). Approximately 1,500 scrub caps and face masks have been created by this talented group!

**-Loaves and Fishes-** small groups of 2 are serving food on the 2nd Sunday of each month following state guidelines for safety. Meals are being prepared and handed out in bags.

**-Daily Bread-** members provide food and monetary donations to support those in need of food at this time

**-Naomi Circle-** blankets, quilts, baby blankets and hats created by POP members and then shipped to those in need in the world.

**-LOVE fund-** monetary donations that Pastor Lutz can pass onto those in the community in need.

Alleluia! POP is alive and well, serving those in need!

~ *Monica Walsh*





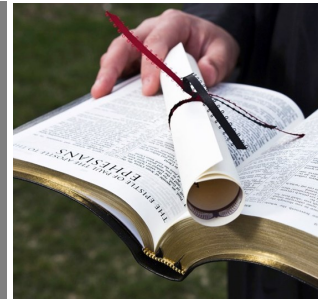
# GRADUATION?

Have a soon-to-be graduate in your family? Consider the following resource as a way to help make it even more memorable.



*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*

— Eleanor Roosevelt



## Graduation Milestone Moment Online

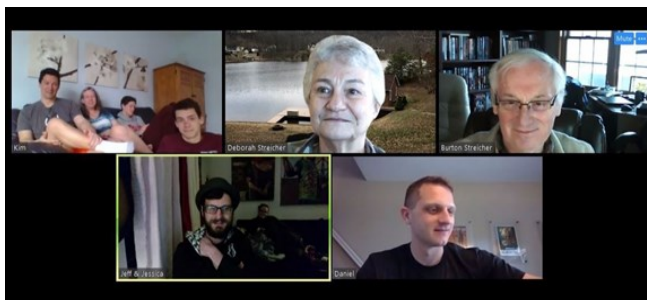
Sometimes it is not possible for families and friends to physically gather together to celebrate a special occasion. This Graduation Milestone Moment Online provides desired outcomes, suggestions, and a discussion guide to use for an online celebration of a graduation. A graduation gifting stone is shown as a possible inexpensive send-ahead gift to remind the graduate of the online celebration. Just because families cannot get together in person does not mean they can not still share the joy of this important life milestone and recognize God's presence in the moment.

### Desired Outcomes:

- Provide a discussion guide for faith-filled conversations to have online with the graduate to recognize God in this moment.
- Celebrate this special time in one's life when graduation ceremonies are being canceled or rescheduled due to mandatory stay at home restrictions.
- Experience prayers and blessings from family and friends that provide a memorable moment for the graduate.
- Send messages of love and support by creatively using online resources that surround the graduate with the love and grace of God.

### Suggestions:

- Be creative! Send gifts ahead of time to the graduate that can be opened while you are meeting.
- Use Zoom, Google, House Party or other online venues to meet with family and friends.
- Send a picture that all can use as a fun virtual background to celebrate this occasion.
- Design a slide show of pictures (maybe set to music) of the graduate.
- Invite all participants to pre-record a message for the graduate and show the videos during the time you meet.
- Build a gameshow with multiple choice questions about the graduate's life for all to have fun guessing the correct answer. A good site for this is kahoot.com.
- Provide a graduation cap and gown the graduate can wear or a special T-shirt.



info@milestonesministry.org  
304-300-0836

[www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*

— Eleanor Roosevelt



## Graduation Discussion Guide

Begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.



### Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What are some memorable stories of [graduate's name or "my"] previous years of schooling?
- What is something you look forward to within the next year?
- In 10 years, I predict [graduate's name or "I"] will be looking forward to ...



### Devotions

Read the following:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)*

- Where will you be "walking" in the next year?
- What word in this reading jumps out to you when you think of the coming year? Explain.



### Service

God's love is shown through acts of service. Consider what acts of service you can do with friends and/or roommates while away from home. Whether you live at home or have moved away, consider what acts of service you can do with friends and/or family to help others.



### Rituals and Traditions

Invite each person on screen to light a candle, or show a candle digitally on the screen. Ask each person to say a short prayer for the graduate by completing one of these, "God I pray for..." or "God I am thankful for..." or "God, I hope..."

Pray together:

**GOD of creation, pour out your Spirit on \_as he/she enters a new period of life and faith. Be with \_as he/she begins new ventures knowing you have blessed him/her with hope and joy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Conclude by all extending hands towards the screen for a blessing of the graduate:

*May God be a light unto your path this day and always.*

## HOW TO BE A STEWARD IN TODAY'S ECONOMY: MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT



I want to give you something to consider. It is looking as many citizens will receive a check from the government sometime in the near future. Like with all of your income, I invite you to join with me in considering a tithe.

A tithe is the giving of a percentage (typically 10%) of salary, financial gifts, interest, winnings or other income to others out of Christian concern. Jesus taught that "tithing must be done in conjunction with a deep concern for justice, mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23).

I invite you to consider any payment from our government as subject to tithing. There are many worthy organizations, small businesses, and efforts that would benefit from your generosity. Supporting "Brookfield Recovers", the Dorothy Day House, your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee house, or favorite charity, to name a few.

To be clear, this is not a request to send money to Prince of Peace. This is an invitation to see this government payment as an opportunity to practice tithing. I am encouraging you to continue to be the church in the world by helping others in need with an act of justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Let me know where you tithe goes. I will pray for the business.

~ *Pastor Lutz*



## NAOMI CIRCLE

The Naomi circle will wait to schedule its next meeting until the church is open again. If you are home and would like to sew tops or cut fabric squares please contact Karen Muller at [karmull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karmull@sbcglobal.net) or 203 743 6750. We can arrange a no contact drop off.



## UPDATE ON SUMMER 2020 VBS

There will be no Brookfield Ecumenical Vacation Bible School this year due to the COVID19 virus.

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Eric & Melanie Lambert
- 4 William & Carol Wilkens
- 6 Bill & Kim Weis
- 7 Joe & Pat Fecarotta
- 8 Thomas & Stacy Smith
- 10 Gene & Maimo Passarella
- 18 Carl & Carolyn Palmer
- 19 Allen & Pam Nemetz
- 23 Lee & Bernadette Reilly
- 27 Joe & Alison Cantone
- 28 Joe & Marilyn Roginski

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Anthony Reich
- 9 Katelyn Smith
- 10 Carol Gross
- 11 Brendan Nabozny, Juri Tolmoff
- 17 Bill Braun
- 19 Carl Palmer
- 20 Debra Neeb
- 23 Richard Estes, Kristen Mattera
- 25 Jim Sharp
- 26 Grethe Arthur
- 28 Wendy Martel, Stephen Murphy

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter Weiss and his family on the death of his wife, Marilyn Weiss.

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# MISSION SUPPORT

2019

[ Thank You ]

To the members of  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**Brookfield, CT**

from the

**New England Synod**

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
In grateful appreciation for giving

**\$15,000.00**

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and  
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

  
Synod Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## 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 confirmation happens on Tuesday evenings and a Zoom Women's Bible Study happens on the third Wednesday (5.20) 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

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June 2020