



PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIVING OUR FAITH

(203) 775-9070



PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org



119 JUNCTION RD, BROOKFIELD, CT

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 2- 5 [Holy Week Services & Events](#)
- April 12 - [Bible Study](#)
- April 13 - [Ladies Night Out](#)
- April 17-19 [Women's Camp Calumet Retreat](#)
- April 25 - [Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering](#)
- April 28 - [Book Club](#)
- Sunday Worship at 10:00am in-person or on Zoom (link on our website homepage)

Get Involved!

Looking to do more at Prince of Peace to grow your faith and support our mission? Here's a few opportunities to consider:

- Share your computer skills as a **Zoom Service Tech**
- **Serve as a worship leader** - we've got spots for acolytes, lectors, ushers, communion assistants and more
- **Help plan an event** with Parish Life



Orbiting Holy Week

Holy Week, culminating with observance of Jesus' resurrection, is the sun around which our Christian lives orbit. For our faith it is the definitive word about who God is and what God does: Jesus is God's heart on full display, showing us God's endless generosity of mercy, forgiveness, healing, love, justice, and peace...and resurrection. To take a whole week to revel in such good news is no indulgence, it is a necessity so we might learn to live and love again.



15 minutes in the Bible

Life is busy. It's hard to set aside 5 minutes let alone an hour. But... what if you found 15 minutes this month to pause and reflect on a story in the bible.

**Don't have 15 minutes now?
Write a post-it reminder or
put it in your calendar.
If you write down a goal,
you are more likely to do it!**

Bible reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Reflection

Jesus' resurrection shows us God's power for bringing life out of the most unlikely circumstances. Where do you see the need for new life or renewal in your life's circumstances?

Financial Summary
FEBRUARY 2026

	Feb 2026.		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget*	Actual	Budget*
Income	50,539.74	29,201.50	84,440.67	58,663.00
Expense	31,522.81	31,675.05	51,934.95	63,550.10
Net	19,016.93	(2,473.55)	32,505.72	(4,887.10)

Financial Narrative

February donations exceeded the budgeted amount by over \$21,000.

A few expense line items, including Cleaning and Bookkeeping, are a month behind. This is likely because the February invoices were not received in time and were paid in March, so expenses should be at least \$3,000 higher.

Salary expenses remain under budget. Payroll increases will be implemented in the first March payroll and will be reflected in the March reports.

Office supplies are slightly over budget due to several payments made to Southridge for outstanding invoices from 2025.

Attendance
MARCH 2026

	In Person	Online	Total
3/1/26	49	17	66
3/8/26	59	9	68
3/15/26	56	9	65
3/22/26	98	6	104
3/29/26	78	5	83

BIBLE STUDY:

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

April 12 after Sunday's worship service

VESPER'S SERVICES
April 15, 29 6:30pm



POP INTO LADIES NIGHT

JOIN THE LADIES OF POP
Monday, April 13 (2nd Monday)
MICHAEL'S TAP ROOM IN BETHEL @ 7PM

FOOD * FELLOWSHIP * FUN

RSVP USING THE QR CODE
TEXT/CALL LORRAINE
WITH QUESTIONS
845-416-0900




GOOD TIDINGS!...FROM PASTOR MICHAEL ANDERSON

Because eucharist is first and foremost the celebration of the divine hospitality made present to us in the person of Jesus, it is an action which addresses every form of inhospitality in our world, confronting it with the image of what might be and ought to be. Jesus as the outreach of divine hospitality is not only the primary hospitality of creation but the further redemptive hospitality of healing grace.

Hellwig, Monica. "The Eucharist and the Hunger of the World," Sheed & Ward, Kansas City, Missouri, 1992 in A Triduum Sourcebook I, edited by Kathy Luty, Liturgy Training Publications, 1996, Chicago. Pg. 38.

"The redemptive hospitality of healing grace." Wow, what words! What a way of seeing Jesus! What a way of describing the life we get to share!

The Eucharist, or Holy Communion as we commonly say, is near and dear to the heart of Lutherans. It is an encounter with the very presence of God that both calls out our human feebleness and lavishes us with mercy, forgiveness, love, healing, peace, and restorative justice - which are precisely what our desperate souls crave. Holy Week is our big ol' extravaganza for getting real about our desperation and God's mercy.

When I was a teenager I would sometimes complain to my pastor step-father that I'd be into church more if it would finally ditch its antiquated ways and get relevant. At the time I was unaware I'd entered a useful wilderness phase of life I now look back on as the Completely Full Of Myself While Being an Insufferable Know-It-All Era. My malady was in no-way special - it was just, boring, garden variety self-centeredness embedded in adolescent development. Complaining to my step-father was in part my unreflective regurgitating of what my peers said about religion, but it was mostly a fancied-up, emotional rant on having outgrown the initial faith of my childhood and not knowing how to say it, becoming old enough to want to test the assumptions and traditions I'd inherited from my family, and believing that if something wasn't entertaining enough to hold my attention it couldn't be worthwhile. (If you have any resonance with this, schedule time with me or email me and we'll get coffee/ grab lunch/ go for a walk and compare notes, I'd love to hear your reflections - my treat.)

When you're full of yourself, there is "no room at the inn" for the Lord of Life to rest. Who can teach to anyone who thinks they're above learning? Christ is not a lesson to be applied, he is the healing mercy of God. When all you value is your own self-justification and schemes for success and happiness and all your energy goes into defensiveness, your craving for God's grace intensifies proportionally to your disillusionment but you do not yet understand that you are lovesick for the Great Physician, the Master of Galilee. But God's pursuit of us is tireless and the hospitality of God's grace is always being served revealing that the heaven we've hoped for has always been closer than our own breath.

In light of our lives, in light of the world, how eager are we for Holy Week's arrival every year? How eager are we for Christ's Passover from death to life that ferries us from self-involvement to neighbor love? Identify your aching hunger, bring it to this week's gatherings, and encounter the redemptive hospitality of healing grace lavished on us in Maundy Thursday's Holy Communion, in Good Friday's Passion and saturating prayers, and in our Lord's resurrection. Come and hear and taste and see how the seemingly limitless inhospitality in us and in the world is confronted by God's unspeakable hospitality shared in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Michael



HOLY WEEK

SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday (4/2)
Prince of Peace, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday (4/3)
Stations of the Cross with Brookfield Ecumenical Partners -
Begins at the Congregational Church of Brookfield, 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday (4/3)
Prince of Peace, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Easter Vigil (4/4)
Joint Worship at St. Paul's Episcopal, Brookfield, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise (4/5)
Prayer Service - Happy Landings on Rt. 25 in Brookfield, 5:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt (4/5)
Prince of Peace,
Breakfast at 8:45 a.m.
Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m.

Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday (4/5)
Prince of Peace, 10:00 a.m.

BOOK CLUB UPDATE

Book Club will meet on April 28, 2026, the last Tuesday of April. We meet for one hour starting at 1:00 p.m. We meet in the church office reception area. All are welcome. Reading our book choices are not a requirement. Join our discussion and help choose our next reading.

We chose two books this month. *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen was written for a Jewish friend and went on to become Henri Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. It is sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ. Hope you will feel Beloved in your spiritual life.

The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah is a World War II fiction novel of often ignored stories of women in occupied France. The story follows two estranged sisters as they navigate danger, love, and survival under Nazi occupation.

Please join us and share your thoughts on our choices.

If you have any questions you may contact Anita at anitastolle@gmail.com.



Easter Logic Puzzle

Using only the clues below, match the disciple with which quote they said after Jesus rose from the dead, where they said this quote, and in what order.

		<i>Disciples</i>					<i>Location</i>					<i>Quote</i>				
		John	Peter	Mary Magdalene	Cleopas	Thomas	Fishing Boat	Road to Emmaus	Empty Tomb	Shore	Upper Room	Were our hearts not burning?	My Lord and My God	I have seen the Lord	It is the Lord	You know that I love you
<i>Order</i>	First															
	Second															
	Third															
	Fourth															
	Fifth															
<i>Quote</i>	Were our hearts not burning?															
	My Lord and My God															
	I have seen the Lord															
	It is the Lord															
	You know that I love you															
<i>Location</i>	Fishing Boat															
	Road to Emmaus															
	Empty Tomb															
	Shore															
	Upper Room															

<i>Order</i>	<i>Disciples</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Quote</i>
First			
Second			
Third			
Fourth			
Fifth			

ANNUAL CAMP CALUMET RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Women of Prince of Peace....Our **next retreat at Camp Calumet is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026.** The cost will be approximately \$190 and that includes, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and snacks. You will make that payment directly to Calumet when you arrive.

Calumet is a wonderful experience and that's why the women of POP go back year after year (and have done so for 30+ years. We know that there are some women at Prince of Peace that would love to go but the expense is just not in their budget...SO...our Women of the ELCA would like to offer a Fellowship to cover the expenses at Calumet to one woman from POP that would like to attend. Please let me know if you are interested in receiving this Fellowship.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on a table in the Narthex in March. Friends are welcome as well as any POP woman. Questions, please call me at (203) 947-4413. If you are riding with someone else, it would be nice if you chipped in at least \$15.00 for gas to your driver!

A Saturday morning program hasn't been decided as yet. In addition there will be free time to relax, shop, etc ...of our own choosing. I'm sure we will have "movie time with popcorn" in the evening.

We will plan to leave the area on Friday morning. We can check in any time in the afternoon and our first meal at Calumet will be dinner on Friday

Thanks!
 Marci Sharp
 (203) 947-4413 (cell)
 Or email: marcisharp703@gmail.com



MEET A MEMBER

KAREN FRANK

How long have you been a member?

I started attending services in 2024 after moving to Brookfield, became a member in the spring of 2025.

What's your favorite event or worship service?

Every church season has its appeal but I enjoy the time after Pentecost.

What brings you joy?

Being in Nature, just relaxing or going for a walk, and working in the yard gives me satisfaction in addition to happiness.

What's a fun fact that others don't know about you?

I have driven across the country 4 times, during the years when I was working for traveling nurse company. Also during a break between jobs I drove to and around Alaska, then toured the Canadian Rockies on my way back to New England.



NAUGATUCK VALLEY WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING GATHERING

The Naugatuck Valley Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering is coming up on April 25th. It will be held at the Lutheran Home in Southbury.

If you would like to find out more information about this event please contact Marci Sharp at
(203) 775-4657 (home)
(203)-797-4413 (cell)

Let's have a good turnout from POP!



PRINCE OF PEACE PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

This March, Prince of Peace Preschool students have been delighted by daily visits from Lucky the Leprechaun, whose playful antics have brought excitement to every corner of the school. Each day, Lucky has been spotted in a new location, surprising students with his speed, creativity, and mischievous spirit. The fun reached its peak on Tuesday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, when Lucky came to life and warmly greeted families as they arrived, creating a magical and memorable start to the day for all.





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

For Information/Discussion:

- ELCA Synod Court case update as of March 17, 2026. Pastor provided information to Synod to include worship spaces of the ministries of the New England Synod, ELCA, adjoining spaces (classrooms, office spaces, fellowship halls, parking lots, playgrounds, cemeteries etc) for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, being protected spaces. These protections on these spaces are in effect at all hours of the day (not just during worship) and cover all activities in the building - even outside community groups and other worshipping communities. Note, with a Judicial Warrant signed by a judge, usually naming a person to be arrested, DHS officers still have the right to enter any area of our buildings and worship spaces.
- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 6:30. Good Friday Ecumenical Stations of The Cross will begin at The Congregational Church at 10 a.m. and is usually done by 12:00. We have been invited to an Easter Vigil Service at St Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday April 4th, time to be announced and Pastor is preaching. Easter Sunday sunrise service will be at Happy Landings in Brookfield at 5:30 a.m., and Easter Sunday Service is at 10:00 at PoP.
- Council Annual Check-in - Executive and Council discussed the First Annual Check-in highlighting areas of positive growth and areas needing attention regarding the church as a whole. Council's "welcoming initiative" will continue as we move forward.
- The church ByLaws will be reviewed over the next year.
- The Church Directory is coming! Pictures of both families and individuals are still needed.
- A Church app is being developed.
- Brookfield "Block Party" will be on Sunday, June 7th. Prince of Peace will have a spot and will provide face painting.

Communication of April 2026 meeting dates and times

Executive - April 14th - 6pm - via Zoom Council - April 21st - 6pm - in person

DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity with food and other items for the recipients. Here are a few numbers about the Food Pantry on Park Avenue in Danbury and at the original location at St Andrew Episcopal Church. Over 4,900 unique households were served (or 17,150 unique individuals) welcoming them for a total of 33,000 visits. Shoppers carried away \$2.5 million of food of their choice. 501 Volunteers worked 27,500 volunteer hours.

A visit to the food pantry is a wonderful experience. Volunteers are helpful and smiling. Translators are available. There's an activity center for children to stay as adults shop.

Food is presented as people shop for their food preferences in a path around the building. Nutritional food is valued in a point system where fruit and vegetables are more available in lower numbers and ultra-processed and high fat items "cost" more. The Nutritional Department of UConn has established a program to teach clients about the benefits of basic nutrition.

How can we help?

The best donation is money that food can be bought at lower prices and purchase foods that are not available through donations.

- Consider donations of low sugar and salt content.
- Consider nonperishables with current expiration dates in non breakable containers.
- Cereals, tea, coffee, baby food, condiments like ketchup, mustard, hot sauce.
- Baking supplies like flour, sugar, cake mixes.
- Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent.
- Soap, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies.
- Used books for children. Portuguese, Spanish.

Thank you for your donations.

Remember to pray for food insecure people.

Nan Carlson





EASTER



WORD SEARCH

Y K C M I R A C L E F D B H G X A W F E
 H R O L J S Y S K C I H C K L W Y L O H
 T J E L L Y B E A N S G N I S S E L B S
 O F U E C T K Q I C F R I P Q F N B I A
 I W G R H N I W F A V A S B S R J R W C
 R N M N S T T X I X B J O H N S X E F R
 A W M V T B Y T T W E U E B R A Y L O I
 C O Y T Y Y H E R S T A P S O U R I R F
 S L Z A K C U P U W V A R G H G E G G I
 I L S H D G E S F E O F A N T O V I I C
 S A V A U N Y L N D U I Y I F O O O V E
 A M T O L D U T E J S Y E L O D S U E G
 D H B Z X V W S H B E O R K N F S S N Y
 U S A S X S A E R C R G D C W R A O E P
 J R N O I E S T E E H A Z U O I P W S P
 C A J Z N O J O I L T M T D R D K F S A
 C M T Y P I M W R O B S L E C A D A Q H
 T R A D I T I O N C N I A A L Y P N S Y
 I S A I W G B S D O G K B E P O B J J Z
 M G B U X K N A N O I T C E R R U S E R

WORD LIST

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ANGELS | CHICKS | FAITH | HEAVEN | MARSHMALLOW | RELIGIOUS |
| BIBLE | CROSS | FORGIVENESS | HOLY | MIRACLE | RESURRECTION |
| BLESSINGS | CROWN OF THORNS | GOD | JELLYBEANS | PALM | SACRIFICE |
| BOUQUET | DUCKLING | GOOD FRIDAY | JESUS | PASSOVER | SALVATION |
| CELEBRATE | EASTER SUNDAY | HAPPY | JUDASISCARIOT | PRAYER | TRADITION |

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Peter Fegley
- 4 Mary Weisensee
- 6 Stanley Bjurback, Steve Davies
- 7 Pastor Michael Anderson
- 8 Ginger Coogle, Julie Parker
- 12 Ryan Tanger
- 14 Doug Diefenbach
- 16 Matthew Adam
- 18 Pam Hohenshelt
- 19 Jon Schroeder
- 20 Timothy Brumbaugh, Bill Schroeder
- 24 Keena Martel, Debbie Nobes
- 27 Steven Hohenshelt, Margaret Nicolais
- 28 Patty Fecarotta, Christopher Walsh
- 30 Jake Bernardez

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

A memorial service will be held for long time Prince of Peace member, Allen Nemetz on Saturday, April 25, 2026, opening with a 10 a.m. gathering with family and friends, followed by an 11 a.m. memorial service, then a brief burial of ashes and a reception with a light luncheon at Prince of Peace.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Dory & Ron Kutz
- 23 Monica & Russell Walsh
- 24 Laura & Doug Berendsohn
- 25 Nancy Humphreys & Anthony D'Ausilio
- 30 Ginger & David Coogle, Kim & Tom Maier

2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL



If you have a question about finances please contact
 Priscilla Rivas
 203-830-9016 or
 guanacaste@snet.net

Back row (L-R): Pastor Michael Anderson, Lorraine Lavery (Vice President), Tim Brumbaugh, Meg McLoone, Heather Pontonio (President), Christine Buzzell, Deb Nobes (Secretary);
 Front row (L-R): Paul Adam, Kim Gerardi, Karen Frank, Monica Walsh (Vice President), Johnny Halas, Jim Sharp

CONTACT US

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pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org.
Cell phone: (203) 794-4694

Prince of Peace PreSchool: (203) 775-0140

The church office is open most weeks Mon-Fri, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call first.

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

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P.O. BOX 5184
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BROOKFIELD, CT 06804



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