

Hope

PEACE CONNECTIONS
November 24, 2021

Pastor's Blog ~ 'Along the Way'

Back in March of 2020, when COVID came into our lives, I started a daily devotional as an opportunity to keep connected to my congregation with scripture and reflections and prayer. It became therapeutic for me and well received. I continued those devotions for over a year over 380 devotions!

In March of 2021, I moved to a new church. It was important for me to take time to get settled in before taking on this task. I put the daily devotions aside, and spent my time and energy learning the ropes at the new place. Seven months into the new call here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake, we are settled in. I felt it was now time to start again.

The title of the Blog is "Along the Way." Faith is a journey. It is a journey we do not make alone. We do it in community with God and each other. My hope is that this can be one way we can join in this journey together. I hope that as we continue down this path, some of you may share some reflections as well. That would be welcomed!

For the content, I will be sharing the readings for the coming Sunday as well as a couple of hymns or songs as the focus for the daily devotions. Please know that it is very possible that you may hear stories or insights used in these devotions in the Sunday worship sermon. Also, if you have read my devotions in the past, it is pretty likely that you will see some stories that you've seen before. Good stories deserve to be repeated.

I hope this daily blog provides you an opportunity to join me reading some scripture, sharing a reflection or two, and offering a short prayer. Please feel free to share them with others, and I always welcome your comments and insights. You can email me at pcpopwestlake@gmail.com any time.

Using the Revised Common Lectionary, the week's devotions will look like this:

- Monday – Old Testament Lesson
- Tuesday – Psalm
- Wednesday – Song or Hymn or Video
- Thursday – Epistle Lesson
- Friday - Gospel Lesson
- Saturday – Song or Hymn or Video
- Sunday – An invitation to join us for worship

The first devotion will be available **this Monday, November 29th** at: [Pastor's Blog](#).

I hope you will join me along the way!

Peace, Pastor Charlie

Pastor's Blog
ALONG THE WAY



Sunday Livestream Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am



This Sunday, worship with us online! Please visit our [website](#) where we will Livestream our Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.



Online Giving



Your generous online offering allows us to preach the gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community who need help. As a community, we are grateful for one another's loving support.

[ONLINE GIVING](#)

Second Harvest Food Bank



For the month of **December**, requested items are Cereal and Canned Soup. The collection containers are located as you enter the Education Wing. Thank you!

Women In Transition

COVID has caused many things to change, including the Women's Re-Entry program. Group meetings have been suspended, access to buildings is limited and services are less available. However, the need is much greater, including domestic violence and homeless victims. I have chosen a new name to include them all - 'Women In Transition' (WIT). Thanks for all your support - Keep it coming! Jan Filkill



There is a great need for umbrellas, along with new socks, gloves, toiletries, hygiene products and underwear. Items can be dropped off at the donation station. Sorry, but we are not accepting other clothing donations at this time. Thank you! Questions, please contact Jan Filkill 440/871-6673.

This Week's Worship Music

If you are joining us this Sunday for the 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service, below is the set list that we will be playing. The music can be found on YouTube. See you then!

Come Now is the Time to Worship/O Come O Come Emmanuel
One Little Child
All Who Are Thirsty
Shining Light



Nov 24- Dec 5, 2021

Wednesday, November 24

10:00 am Organ Practice

2:00 pm Pr. Charlie's Bible Study/CR

Thursday, November 25

Happy Thanksgiving!

Office Closed

Friday, November 26

Pr. Charlie's Day Off

Office Closed

Saturday, November 27

2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, November 28

9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service

10:10 am Christian Education

9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Monday, November 29

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:00 pm Organ Practice

6:30 pm Social Ministry Mtg

7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, November 30

7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 1

10:00 am Organ Practice

2:00 pm Pr. Charlie's Bible Study/CR

Thursday, December 2

Sexton Day Off

Friday, December 3

Pr. Charlie's Day Off

6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 4

2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, December 5

9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service

10:10 am Christian Education

9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Carlson Boots and Socks for Christmas

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is again accepting donations of socks and new or gently used water resistant boots of all sizes to benefit the men served at the 2100 E. Lakeside Homeless Men's Shelter. This is in partnership with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry.



We are currently collecting socks and boots with plans to deliver the **week of December 21st** before Christmas. Please drop your socks and/or boots off at the donation station in the administrative wing.

If you have any questions, contact Tom Splawski.

Decorate Prince of Peace's Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas!



Altar Guild is looking forward to arranging poinsettia plants in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve services -- with your help by providing the plants! Take your plant(s) home after the traditional service on Christmas Eve. Prices are \$8 and \$21.

Place your completed order form and check/cash for poinsettias in the basket on table in the narthex today! Or, contact Dineen Terstage (440-455-9558 or dterstage@gmail.com) to order.

We are again purchasing the plants from Casa Verde Growers. *We can take your order through this Sunday, November 28.*

The Season of Advent - Volunteers Needed

In the Scandinavian Lutheran tradition candles are lit every day during the season of Advent, not just on Sundays. Again, this year, we are looking for 23 volunteers to make a very brief video of someone/themselves in their home lighting a candle and reciting a very short prayer/reading. It does not need to be a candle in an Advent wreath. However, if you don't own an Advent wreath and would like to make your own, we've attached a [LINK](#) to a site with some creative ideas.



You will be provided with the reading for your day but should feel free to substitute your own if you prefer. Just keep it short. If you have children in your home, it would be nice to involve them. We would like to see as many familiar faces as possible. We will be posting the videos daily on our FB page. If you are interested, please [SIGN UP HERE](#)



Hanging of the Greens

Join the Altar Guild to decorate the church for Christmas.
Friday, December 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Pizza supper – Then decorate!!

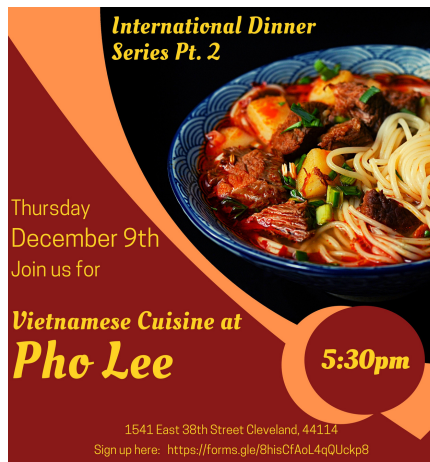
Sign up in the lower narthex so we know how much pizza to order. ?'s, contact Dineen Terstage, 440-455-9558.



Prince of Peace Youth

International Dinner

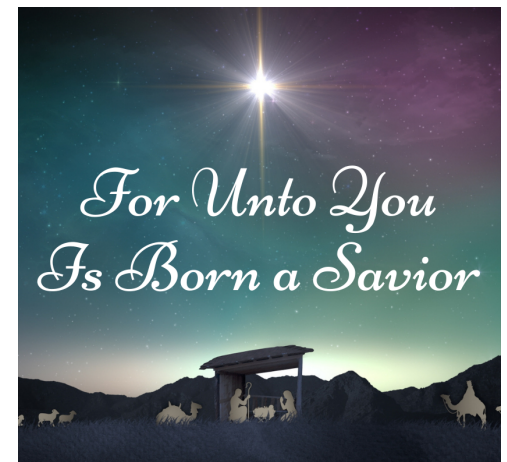
[SIGN UP HERE!](#)



National Youth Gathering 2022!



All Congregation Christmas Pageant ~ Sunday, Dec. 19th



Get on Board and Follow Us!

Facebook ~ Instagram

email: poplutheranyouth@gmail.com

For more information, visit our website:

www.princeofpeacewestlake.org/youth

Comfort Quilters

The POP Comfort Quilters took a break from assembling our usual quilts at our last meeting! Instead, we made 20 fleece hats that will go under the Mitten Tree and be given to Scranton Elementary School. We used leftover pieces of the fleece we use on the backs of our quilts.

What a fun project. We had a great time designing and creating!!



Scranton Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up once again this year!

Each year, teachers identify children from Scranton Elementary with significant hardship allowing us to help make their Christmas a little brighter! Each "Mitten Tag" includes information with gift ideas for each student.

The tree with the Mitten Tags is now up! Volunteers will be present for you to sign out tags. Coats, mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks are also welcome! If you choose to participate, we ask that wrapped gifts with the tags attached be returned no later than **Sunday, December 12th** in time to deliver to the school on December 15th.

For questions, contact Diane Merhaut. Thank you!



Welcome Prince of Peace's Newest Memebers!

On Sunday, October 24th, we welcomed Prince of Peace's newest members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

This Sunday, please make sure to say hello to our new members!



Anita Briggs



Diane and Walter
DieKroger



Diane and Jerry Karp



Brad, Bethany, Natalie
and William Pearce



Patricia and Michael
Pietraroia



Pr. Charlie and Lisa
Woodward

Prince of Peace Blessing Box

PoP's Blessing Box is an emergency, self-serve FREE pantry, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's for anyone who has trouble buying things in a grocery store because of health or financial concerns. You don't need to sign up or ask permission to use the box -- just take what you need, when you need it. POP members are encouraged to donate items in cans, boxes or plastic cartons, household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. No perishables and no glass jars, please.



Prince of Peace Endowment

The Endowment Committee, in the spirit of giving during this holiday season, has agreed to matching grants totaling \$5,000 to two organizations:

- up to \$2,500 in matching funds for Second Harvest Food Bank
- up to \$2,500 in matching funds for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries (LMM): Donated boots, socks, etc. will be included as fair market valued gifts for LMM. Please make your checks payable to the respective charities and have them into the church office by Sunday 12/12/21.
- The Endowment Committee also will grant \$900 for Scranton Elementary School to augment gifts given via the "mitten" tree and the "present" tree.

We are so grateful for the generosity of Prince of Peace to have created this opportunity for Community Outreach during this Christmas season. Thank you!

Time and Talent

In the old hymnal, we had this offering prayer:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (LBW page 87)

Our time and talents are gifts given by God that we can use to give back to God what God has first given us.

I invite you to join in filling out the [Time and Talent Survey](#). A booklet describing our outreach and service opportunities can be found here on our [Engagement Page](#). Take time to look through the many ways to serve and get involved. Your gifts, your time and your talents are always welcomed and appreciated.

I encourage you to consider this as a goal - WORSHIP PLUS TWO. I hope you will make every effort to join in worship either in person online every Sunday. I also encourage you to get involved in two other areas of ministry and service. It could be worship leadership (reading, greeting, ushering, choir, assisting minister, altar guild, etc.), education (leading and/or participating), service or fellowship. Find a way to get engaged in the life and ministry of Prince of Peace. My hope is that everyone would participate in two (or more!) areas of ministry and service. Where is God calling you to join in?

The church is not a building - it is a gathering of people who are joined together in the mission of Jesus Christ. Our mission at Prince of Peace is to Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Live in Peace. You are invited. All are welcome.

Thank you for joining with me in this mission. Together with God leading the way, we can do great things.
Pastor Charlie

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



Sale of the Prince of Peace Van

Based on the limited use it has been getting and the ongoing costs to maintain and insure the aging church van, Council agreed to sell it. The proceeds from the sale have been deposited into the Transportation Fund.



Members who need a van or large vehicle for church sponsored events can rent the needed vehicle and get reimbursed from the Transportation Fund. This will allow members to rent a safe, reliable vehicle for their event that fits their needs. If you have any questions about how the process will work, please contact Megan Harber: popw.officemanage@gmail.com

November 2021 Health and Safety Update

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

On November 1, we had the opportunity to meet with our Health and Safety Team. Once again, we discussed the current issues surrounding the COVID19 Pandemic and the hopeful news that a vaccine is now available for children ages 5 to 11 years old. There is hope that we are heading in the right direction, even though it might not be as quickly as we had all hoped. Let's continue what we are doing, and we will get through this together.

We share again that our two guiding principles at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church remain the same:

1. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, carrying out God's mission as God leads.
2. To be mindful of the health and safety of all.

We will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines, and we plan to meet again in early December to review where things stand in our community.

So for right now, things remain the same. We continue to encourage the following:

- If you are able to do so, get vaccinated. We ask that all our volunteers and staff are vaccinated to ensure their health and well-being as well as those they serve. We encourage you to do the same.
- If a booster shot is recommended for you, consider that as another level of safety.
- Get a flu shot. Dave Covell suggests ANY time is a good time to get the flu shot. That being said, you may consider getting your shot in early November, as it will provide good defense against the flu during the holiday season and into the new year.
- Masks are recommended for the times we gather in close quarters with each other. That includes the sanctuary.
- For the time being the nursery will remain closed. That should not discourage parents from bringing their children to worship. As baptized children of God, that is where they should be!
- Online options are available for worship and many of the education offerings to provide participation remotely.

Thank you for your diligence and care for your neighbor. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Health And Safety Team

- Judy Splawski, MD
- Cynthia Strieter, MD
- Dave Covell, Lorain County Health Commissioner
- Mark Givens, Church Council Member
- Pastor Charlie Woodward

**COVID-19
UPDATE**

Prayer Concerns

Please join us in praying for members and friends with recent needs: Deb and Hank (friends of Deb Gibbons), Devon and children (friend of Dineen Terstage), Emma (granddaughter of Gerry and Fran Wilhelm), Paul (brother of Diane Merhaut), Dr. Phil Blitz (father of Jann Daniels), Mike Chambers (family of Jann Daniels), Kathy Duncan (friend of Kathy McCollum), Grace Dye (former PoP member), Jill Johnston (daughter of Jann Daniels), Marion Macko (mother-in-law of Gloria Starr's daughter), Shawn Merhaut, Family of Andrea Princehorn (friend of Mary Sue Claus), Eric and Nicole Quinn (friends of Matt Wenham), Lee Saunders, Janice Schlegel (mother of Diane Schlegel), Fran Wilhelm, Family of Hugh Yeoman (friend of Lia Staaf). **Also, we pray for chronic, long-term care needs:** Charlotte (gr. granddaughter of Jan Schoch), Ren (granddaughter of Linda Baumbach), Stephanie Bailey (niece of Mary Sue Claus), Cathy Blitz (sister-in-law of Jann Daniels), Joanne & Tony Cacciatore, Don Chismar, Marcia Drysdale (friend of Jane Dillon), Matthew Gilbride, Denny Giza (friend of Ellie Sanow), Chris Henry (nephew of Lisa Arrigo), Dawn Higgins (neighbor of Fran Molnar), Gale Johnson (friend of Kathy Kettler), Deanne Lahner (niece of Mary Sue Claus), Angela Missig (daughter of Gloria Starr), Steve Park (cousin of Deb Gibbons), Jenn Pitts (daughter of Judy Kazak), Lois Reichert, Greg Rolitsky (friend of Mary Sue and Ron Claus), Pam Rotella. **Please notify the office of prayer concerns. These names will be shared with our prayer chain ministry & remain on our prayer list during Sunday worship for 3 weeks.**

Giving Report

Operating Giving through October, 31, 2021	\$295,658
Percent of Annual Budget Received	84%
Remaining Goal	\$ 54,342

Attendance at Prince of Peace

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
11/21/2021	24	148	172
11/14/2021	73	125	198
11/07/2021	61	129	190
10/31/2021	76	148	224

November 28, 2021 Sunday Readings:

First Reading:	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
Second Reading:	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Gospel Reading:	Luke 21:25-36

Happy Birthday

11/24 Lowell Dillon	11/29 Matthew Winar
11/24 Jean Winslow	11/30 Julia Worsencroft
11/25 Michelle Lehman	12/01 Jackson Pogachar
11/25 Johnathon Missig	12/01 Taylor Reisner
11/25 Teresa Peter	12/01 Ruth Ann Whitback
11/26 Steve Duktig	12/02 Charlie Koch
11/26 Ezekiel Petta	12/02 Dolph Rolik
11/27 Colleen Regan	12/05 Landon Beard
11/28 Mary Meadows	

Happy Anniversary!

11/26 Dave & Jan Saunders
11/28 Doug & Sharon Olson

Prince of Peace Staff



Pastor Charlie Woodward
pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator
christianeducation.pop@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Chancel Choir Director
ifaleer@gmail.com

Megan Harber, Church Administrator
popw.officemanage@gmail.com

Mary Humer, Marketing/Communications Manager
princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
poplutheranyouth@gmail.com

Cindy Strieter, Contemporary Music Director
redguitar626@gmail.com

Ben Ubienski, Sound Technician

Ruth Williams, Organist
mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

James Dickey, IV, Church Council President
jmdickeyiv@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday and Friday 10 am-3 pm; Sunday 8:30-11:30 am

28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145
440/871-5565 • www.princeofpeacewestlake.org

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am in person.

[Livestream](#)

Christian Education - Sundays 10:10 am

Child Care - Currently suspended due to Covid.