

May 8th, 2026

PEACE CONNECTION

Friday May 8th
Pastor Doug's Day Off

Saturday May 9th
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday May 10th
Happy Mother's Day
9:00 am Praise Worship
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
11:00 am Traditional Worship
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday May 11th
10:00 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday May 12th
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Doug

Wednesday May 13th
2:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Doug

Thursday May 14th
Sexton's Day Off
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday May 15th
Pastor Doug's Day Off
9:00 am Travel Quest- Warther
Museum

Saturday May 16th
1:00 pm Art Club
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday May 17th
9:00 am Praise Worship
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
10:30 Arden Courts
11:00 am Traditional Worship

Monday May 18th
9:00 am VBS Planning Meeting
10:00 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday May 19th
11:00 am Women's Discipleship Group
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Doug



Bereavement Announcement: Larry Nickel

Friends and family will gather from 11 am- 1pm on Saturday May 9, 2026 at Jenkins Funeral Chapel, 2914 Dover Center Road, Westlake. Graveside service will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Memorial service Saturday May 16, 2026 at t Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Click the [link](#) to the obituary. To see Larry's profile story from 2019, [click here](#).

Save the Date(s) & Summer Planning

- **Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 24**

Please remember to wear red! Additional information will be shared soon regarding a potluck gathering and pavilion events planned for later this summer.

- **Communion Walkthrough & Usher Training — May 17**

Between services on May 17, we will hold a communion walkthrough along with brief usher training at the pavilion.

For questions, please contact: Anita Bauknecht at anitabauknecht@gmail.com

- **Pavilion Service Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for 2-4 volunteers each week to assist with setup and takedown before and after pavilion services. If you are interested in serving, please contact Brandon Bilek at brandonbpop@gmail.com.

Prince of Peace Clean Up The Woods Day

Join us on Saturday May 30th from 10 am to 1 pm. We will be picking up all sizes of sticks and branches. Bring rakes, saws, branch clippers, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc. Pastor Doug predicts blue skies and warm fellowship.

Young at Heart

Please join us on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 12:30 pm. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, located at 25984 Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lower lobby. Questions, contact Kathy Kettler at (440) 825-2674.



New Member Profile Story

This week's feature:

Ramune (Ramona)

Balog Dorner

Ramune was welcomed as a new member at the 11 am traditional service. Her sponsor, Diane Merhaut , was also present for her Baptism as well ! Such a blessing we have witnessed as Ramune will grow in the Prince of Peace community. Ramune was born in East Cleveland, Ohio at Huron Road Hospital. She grew up in Cleveland in the North Collinwood neighborhood. After high school, she continued her education by attending Cleveland State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Ramune received her Master's in Reading from Baldwin Wallace College (University now).

Ramune has 2 older brothers in her family. She met her spouse Kurt at the school where she taught. Ramune has 1 son and 2 step-sons. She began her teaching career teaching Kindergarten for 4 years at Urban Community School in Cleveland on the near west side. After that , Ramune taught for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for 28 years until her retirement in 2014. She currently still substitutes for the school district at Scranton School. This was the connection that developed her friendship with Diane Merhaut!

She became a member at Prince of Peace on April 26, 2026. Ramune finds this church community to be very welcoming and aligned with her Christian values. She wants to become involved with community service. She has attended one social event and looks forward to joining church activities and committees over time.

Her hobbies and interests provide enjoyment and relaxation in her free time. Ramune enjoys gardening, Jazzercise, traveling to El Salvador, and spending time with their dogs Hunter and Luna. One thing that people at POP would not know about her is that she is Lithuanian and her first name Ramune means "daisy" in English. Ramune brings her experience to Prince of Peace that will benefit this community in many ways. Her background offers many opportunities to contribute her Time and Talents. Her participation will help spread The Good News far and wide!

By : Tom Robinholt / Profile Reporter



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Pastoral Letter: Gospel Witness in Public Life

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus.

In this season of our life together, I find myself reflecting on the ways Christian language, symbols, and scripture are increasingly visible in our public life. As people shaped by the Gospel, this invites both gratitude and discernment. We give thanks whenever the name of Christ is spoken, and we also hold a deep responsibility to be clear about what that name means for us as ELCA Lutherans and for the world.

As Lutheran disciples of the ELCA variety, we are guided by our social teaching, including the recent [Faith and Civic Life](#) Social Statement. This statement reminds us that our engagement in civic life flows from our identity in Christ, not from any desire to claim cultural dominance or political power. Our calling is not to elevate Christianity as a favored religion within society, but to witness to God's grace in ways that uphold the dignity, freedom, and flourishing of all people.

Scripture itself calls us into this posture. Jesus teaches that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39). The apostle Paul reminds us that in Christ “there is no longer Jew or Greek... for all of you are one” (Galatians 3:28). And the prophet Micah calls us “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). These texts do not point us toward privilege or exclusion, but toward humility, service, and expansive love.

In light of this, we affirm that our faith does not seek to diminish or vilify other religions or worldviews. Rather, we are called to live faithfully alongside neighbors of many beliefs, trusting that God's love is not limited by human boundaries. We also recognize that within Christianity itself there is a rich diversity of expression, and we resist any narrowing of the faith that would exclude or silence the breadth of Christ's body.

In recent days, we have been reminded of the fragility of our common life through acts of political violence. Such moments call us again to our deepest commitments. Violence, in any form, is contrary to the way of Christ. We are called instead to be people of peace, praying for all who serve in public life, for the world, and in our actions toward others. As followers of Jesus, we work toward a society shaped not by fear or harm, but by justice, mercy, and humility.

We are called to a public witness that reflects the heart of the Gospel: a witness marked by humility rather than boastfulness, by compassion rather than fear, and by love that reaches outward rather than drawing lines of division. We seek to be people who engage civic life thoughtfully and faithfully, advocating for justice, protecting religious freedom for all, and honoring the image of God in every person.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Laura L. H. Barbins, Bishop
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Comfort Quilters

This Sunday, we will be displaying our latest group of beautiful quilts in the sanctuary before they are taken to Community West Foundation to be distributed as needed. Last year (2025) we made 206 quilts which were taken to the Hospice of Western Reserve, Habitat for Humanity, and Community West Foundation!



GWOH

We are looking for some projects for this year's God's Work. Our Hands. on September 13, 2026. Please contact Nick Marple if you have any ideas and would like to lead your project. We will hold our first planning meeting in June. Nick's contact info: nicktmarple@gmail.com



Women in Transition

We are looking for a new coordinator for the Women in Transition Program. This is a non-profit organization that assists women re-entering the community who are being trained in culinary arts through Chopping for Change. Jan Filkill has lovingly collected and delivered donations for the past 25 years and is asking for someone to take over this much needed and greatly appreciated ministry. Requested items are collected year-round at Prince of Peace in the upper level and delivered to LMM as needed. One person can handle it, two may make it more fun. Jan has offered to have the new coordinator ride along with her for the next delivery. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Beth Cornick at bcomnick@outlook.com Thank you!



Travel Quest

Travel Quest is planning a day trip to the Warther Museum in Dover Ohio via carpool. The event will be Friday, May 15th we will depart from Prince of Peace at 9:00am. The cost is \$19 Senior admission. Followed by Sammy Sue's BBQ Lunch at your expense. Signup by May 10th in the Narthex!



Member Photo **DIRECTORY**

We are in the process of updating the Prince of Peace member directory and we noticed many photos are several years old. We would love to update your picture in the directory. We will be taking photos in the Fellowship Hall between services from 10:10-11:00 am on the following Sundays:

- May 10
- May 17
- June 14
- June 28

These photos are casual and are taken in front of the black background. Please plan on joining us one of these scheduled days!



Questions? Contact:

gibbons.95@gmail.com

Peace Pavilion Project and Capital Campaign

Progress, Gratitude, and the Final Push

Introduction

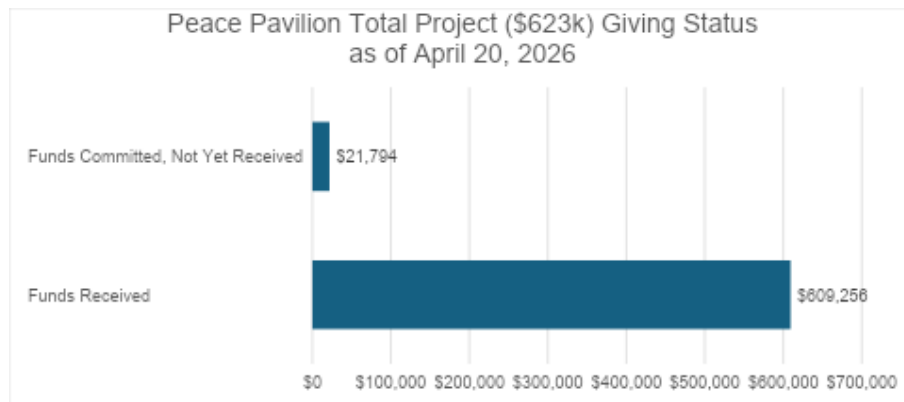
The Peace Pavilion Project that we completed last year stands as a testament to our congregation's vision, generosity, and enduring commitment to creating a space for peace, reflection, and collective spiritual growth. What a wonderful example of abundance and engagement. **THANK YOU!**

Giving Progress and Loan Payment Progress

Nearing Completion of Financing: Recall that our total capital spending for the Peace Pavilion is \$623,000 including our estimate of financing charges. As of April 20th, our total giving for the Peace Pavilion is just over \$609,000 or about 98% of the total. We have \$22,000 outstanding pledges that if collected would help us exceed our target by \$8,000.

We have two key points to highlight in this update:

- 1. If you have an outstanding pledge, we kindly ask that you consider giving prior to June 30th.** The reason for this "ask" is that we have one opportunity each twelve months to reduce our loan principal. Our next opportunity for this payment is in July and we could be in a position to pay off our entire loan balance if a sufficient level of additional giving is realized. Currently, we have loan principal balance of about \$138,000 and cash on hand of just under \$120,000.
- 2. If we do exceed our \$623,000 capital goal, we plan to deploy excess funds into the building fund.** This is due to the Peace Pavilion becoming part of our overall campus with ongoing maintenance managed as the responsibility of the broader facility maintenance scope.



The Peace Pavilion now stands as a living monument to what we can achieve together. As we move forward, let us celebrate how far we've come and remain focused on finishing strong.

THANK YOU for your steadfast support, your belief in our vision, and your commitment to leaving a legacy of peace.

In His service,

The Peace Pavilion Committee




PRINCE OF PEACE

FOOD BANK HELP DAY

2 JUNE | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM



PRINCE OF PEACE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO HELP OUT THE SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK AT 5510 BAUMHART ROAD, LORAIN, OHIO 44053 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026. WE WILL MEET AT THE FOODBANK AT 5:00 PM FOR PIZZA AND AT 5:30 PM BEGIN SORTING AND REPACKING DONATED FOOD ITEMS UNTIL 7:00 P.M. IT IS A FUN EXPERIENCE WITH TASKS FOR ALL. VOLUNTEERS MUST BE 16 OR OLDER PER THE FOOD BANK'S POLICY. WE ARE LOOKING FOR UP TO 15 PEOPLE TO HELP OUT THAT EVENING. PLEASE CONTACT CHARLIE KOCH AT (440) 478-9235 OR EMAIL HIM AT CAKOCH13@AOL.COM TO LET HIM KNOW YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE LOWER NARTHEX. A LINK TO SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER ON THE SECOND HARVEST WEB SITE FOR THIS REPACK DAY AT SECONDHARVESTFOODBANK.ORG WILL BE PROVIDED AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE REPACK DAY.



LARGE INTERIOR SPACE FOR RENT!

- 3,500 to 3,700 square feet available
- Potential child care facility or other multi-purpose use for rent
- Located at 28455 Center Ridge Road, Westlake
- Space is a secure area which includes six furnished classrooms, private entrance, ample parking, room enough for 50 plus children
- Five days a week usage from 6 am to 6 pm
- Private kitchen and large meeting room also available

MORE INFORMATION



Dan at 440-221-6411 or
Jerry at 440-653-3196

WESTLAKE ECUMENICAL VBS 2026



WHERE FAITH MEETS FUN THIS SUMMER!
JUNE 15-19, 9AM-NOON

FOR KIDS AGED 4THRU RISING 5TH GRADERS
COST IS \$20 PER CHILD, MAX\$50 PERFAMILY
HELD AT PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN

REGISTER
AT QR CODE





Sunday, May 10th, 2025

Prayer Request - Long Term

(All prayer requests made after Thursday at Noon will be posted the following week)

Emily Saunders (PoP Member)
Pam Rotella (PoP Member)
Al Tielke (PoP Member)
Angela Missig (Daughter of Gloria Starr)
Laura K (Friend of Deb Gibbons)
Bill Sweeny (Friend of Kathy McCollum)
Paula Collister (Sister-in-law of Liz Grider)
Daniel Reisner (Friend of James and Lisa Arrigo)
Jan and Larry (Friends of Dan and Barb Fronczak)
Monica Doptis (Grandchild of Dan and Barb Fronczak)
Liz Jones (Daughter of Dan and Barb Fronczak)
Robert Sieving (Brother of Chuck Sieving)
Lisa Piscola (Friend of Jann Daniels)
Tony and Michelle Glashauckus (Friends of Jann Daniels)
Matt Darcangelo (Friend of Matt Wenham)
Max Jensen (Cousin of Jann Daniels)
Toni Kulma and Pastor Jim Kulma (Supply Pastor for PoP)

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

April 26

Emily Saunders (PoP Member)
Sarah Mitchell (Friend of Joan Drobnak)
Cindy Kreis (PoP Member)
Doug and Barb (Friends of Mary Meadows)
Debbie (Relative of Mary Meadows)
John Cuciak (PoP Member)

May 3

Shane Overcash (Husband of Deb Gibbon's Cousin)
Megan Schlick (Friend of Fran Wilhelm)
Sandy Herren (PoP Member)

May 10

Joan Schroeder (Friend of Jann Daniels)
Family of Larry Nickel (PoP Member)
Barb Fronczak (PoP Member)
Audrey Swanson (PoP Member)

05/01 Dineen Terstage
 05/01 Jim Lappin
 05/02 Lillian Franz
 05/03 Brian Drobnak
 05/03 Grant Comnick
 05/05 Ellen Oster
 05/06 Lois Smilor
 05/07 Lillian Fortuna
 05/07 Ben Blakeslee
 05/08 Dave Saunders
 05/09 Josh Dragony
 05/12 Margaret Bailey
 05/12 Diane Karp
 05/14 Gloria McClellan

05/14 Cassandra Frey
 05/14 Jason Franz
 05/15 Brianna Lehman
 05/16 Hailey Vitko
 05/18 Stephanie Pogachar
 05/19 Blake Beard
 05/25anelle Marple
 05/27Robert Mayer
 05/29 Jerry Karp
 05/31 Jeff Babinski
 05/31 Logan Vitko

Date	Online	In Person	Total
05/03/2026	161	157	318
04/26/2026	180	157	337
04/19/2016	152	160	312
04/12/2016	159	160	319



Alden & Connie McGee 05/01
 Dennis & Terry MacKenzie 05/10
 Jeff & Chrissy Frey 05/13
 Dale & Monica Dragony 05/16
 Diane & Pat Fortuna 05/18
 Keith & Jane Wyant 05/20
 Kristi & Bob Draper 05/25
 Tracy & Tom Biller 05/29

Second Harvest

The requested items for May are:
 Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Olive Oil & Canned Fish

Giving Data

Operating Giving Report	YTD	AVG/Week
Total Giving as of March 31st, 2026:	\$154,585	\$11,891
% of Annual 2026 Budget Received to Date:	32%	
Remaining Giving to Meet 2026 Budget	\$364,415	\$9,343
Total Expenses Incurred through 3/31/26	\$129,266	\$9,943



Follow Us!

Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Doug Gunkelman, Interim Pastor
 pdpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
 jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician
 brandonbpop@gmail.com

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

Hailey Desmond, Marketing/Communications
 princeofpeacecommunication@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director
 & Chancel Choir Director
 ifaleer@gmail.com

Adrienne Patenaude, Office Administrator
 princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
 poplutheranyouth@gmail.com



Ruth Williams, Organist
 mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

Mark Givens, Church Council President
 mpgivens@ameritech.net

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-3

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 10-10:50 am

Adult supervised child care for children 5 and under is offered for both services and during

the Christian Education hour between services.