

PEACE CONNECTIONS

March 16, 2022



Prayer Wall

If you ever make it to Jerusalem, a must-see site is the Western or Wailing Wall. The wall has stood for over 2000 years. The wall surrounded the Temple in Jesus' day. The Temple was the place where God dwelt. Seated on the Ark of the Covenant, the Temple was the place God resided. It is the closest that the Jewish community comes to the former Temple site.



Pilgrims from around the world come to the wall to pray. These old stones show their age, with many nooks and crevices from a couple inches to several feet in size. These pilgrims often will bring written prayers and place them in crevices as an offering to God.

When we were visiting our exchange student in Germany, we visited his family's church. Inside the doors, there was a table set up with bricks – a prayer wall for the church. I brought that idea home to us at Prince of Peace for Lent.

In the narthex, a table with a brick wall will greet you at the entrance of the sanctuary. Pieces of paper and pens will be there for you. Take time to write a prayer – joys and sorrows. At the end of Lent, we will take all these prayers and burn them in our fire pit outside – an offering to God. Pr. Charlie

Wednesday Noon Soup and Study – Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays through April 6, we will gather at noon for a Soup Lunch and Study.

Our study will focus on Adam Hamilton's video series "24 Hours that Changed the World." Hamilton will lead us on a journey through Jerusalem to the holy sites of Jesus' journey to the cross. All are welcome to join us. Here is a [video preview](#)

We will take turns making soup for the group (a sign up will be available online soon), and all participants are invited to bring a salad or side dish or bread to share.

For more information contact Pastor Charlie.



Sunday Livestream Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am



On Sundays, you can 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 **March** requested items are Canned Beef Stew and Canned Vegetables. The collection containers are located as you enter the Education Wing. Thank you!

Easter Flower Sale Now through March 27, 2022

Altar Guild is looking forward to arranging our traditional spring garden for Easter--with your help by providing the plants!



Easter lilies, tulips, hyacinths and hydrangea plants will be ordered from Dean's Greenhouse. Take your plant(s) home after the Easter Sunday service.

Place your completed order form and check/cash for flowers for our Easter Sunday Garden in the basket at the order table in the narthex.

Order forms are available at the order table. We can take your order through Sunday, March 27th. Questions? See Dineen Terstage.

Contemporary Worship Music

If you are joining us this Sunday for the 9 am Contemporary service, below are the songs we will be singing. The music can be found on YouTube. See you then!

- *Come As You Are*
- *Lord Have Mercy*
- *All Who Are Thirsty*
- *Shout to the North*



March 16-27, 2022

Wednesday, March 16
12:00 pm Noon Soup and Study

Thursday, March 17
Sexton Day Off
12:00 pm FLOW
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, March 18
Pr. Charlie Day Off

Saturday, March 19
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, March 20
9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service
10:00 am First Communion Class
10:10 am Christian Education
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Monday, March 21
10:00 am Staff Meeting/CR
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters/FH
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, March 22
7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 23
12:00 pm Noon Soup and Study

Thursday, March 24
Sexton Day Off
12:00 pm Caring Connections
12:00 pm FLOW
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, March 25
Pr. Charlie Day Off

Saturday, March 26
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, March 27
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service
10:00 am First Communion Class
10:10 am Christian Education
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Urgent: Ukrainian Families Need You



Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

Although the situation in Ukraine is changing every day, I have an update for you on our response efforts.

Right now, our teams are working with partners in and around Ukraine. [Your emergency gift today](#) will deliver urgent support and care, like:

- Food, shelter and other critically needed items
- Mission Quilts and Kits for families who fled their homes
- Medicine and supplies for clinics

I can't stress this enough. Every second counts here. With so many families displaced, and so many surrounding regions at risk from the ripple effects of this situation, we cannot wait. [We must act now to help families.](#)

We are committed to responding to the needs of the people of Ukraine. Your love, and your gift today, will reach families affected by this crisis.

I will continue to keep you updated on the situation as it unfolds. Please keep praying with us – [and please reach out to neighbors in need with an emergency gift.](#)

In Faith,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. We are committed to responding to the needs of families affected by this crisis, until your love reaches every neighbor. Please keep praying with us – and please reach out to neighbors in need with an emergency gift.





March

- 20th - Blood Drive

International Dinner Series: Thank you for all that attended our outing to Das Schnitzel House. In May we will be dining at an Indian restaurant. Stay tuned for details!

Soap Sales are back! - Youth and CE made more homemade soap to sell during the Easter Season again. Our famous soaps have expanded with new scents, colors, and shapes. Sales begin Palm Sunday April 10th and continue until all soap is sold! Free will donation with suggested base pay of \$5 per bag. Proceeds to benefit Lutheran World Relief.

COMING THIS MAY!

We are planning an Ice Cream Roll coming this May. Stay tuned!



2022 Youth Gathering Update

After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and public health considerations.



We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.

With God's power at work in and through us, we can do far more than we dare ask or imagine! The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer. Grace and peace.

For the youth of Prince of Peace, we hope to provide other opportunities this summer and into the next year for faith formation, fellowship and service. Hilary Lucas and I look forward to talking to you about these ideas soon.

Peace, Pastor Charlie

Seminarian Thomas Johnston

For many years, we have supported seminarians preparing for ordained ministry in our church. What a blessing it is to support the future of our church through this support.

This **Sunday, March 20th**, Seminarian Thomas Johnston will be bringing the message for us at both our services.

Here is more information:

Thomas Johnston (he/him/his) is finishing his 2nd year at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Thomas originally hails from Charlotte, North Carolina, and has made his way to Ohio for school. Thomas is a life-long Lutheran, and his home congregation is St. Luke's Lutheran, ELCA in Charlotte. Thomas is currently a Candidate for Word and Sacrament Ministry through the North Carolina Synod. Thomas is currently doing his Learning in Context at Jacob's Porch at The Ohio State University. He will be heading out on internship later this summer.

Thomas really enjoys playing guitar, especially during worship and during free time. Thomas is currently a cat-dad to two kittens, Tiny and Greypaw. Thomas really enjoys looking at the intersections of religion and culture, and namely, the conversation between science and faith. Thomas usually has his head buried in a book: either a history book, a religion book, or a political science book.

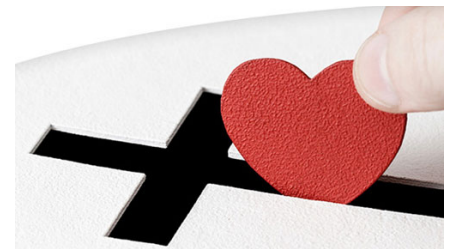


Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st

A big thank you to members who have already designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace.

The 2021 Choice Dollars will expire on **March 31, 2022**. If you own any Thrivent Financial products or services, you have a choice in directing where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. We really appreciate those who direct those Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace.

To direct Choice Dollars go to: www.thrivent.com or call 800/847-4836. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about Thrivent, please contact Tim Regan at 440-227-9593 or at timothy.regan@thrivent.com.



Charitable Donations

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money.

This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short. It can be used to satisfy your yearly minimum required distribution, or RMD for short, starting in the year you turn 72.

Please contact your IRA provider or financial advisor on how to make this type of donation. Let your IRA provider or financial adviser know that our legal name is Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 28455 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145 and our Tax ID number is 34-1027823.

Please contact Charlie Koch, Treasurer, (treasprinceofpeacewestlake@gmail.com) if you have any questions and of your intentions to make such a donation so we can make sure POP receives it.



Tug-of-War

We live in a troubled world. I don't think anyone will argue with that statement. In my 75 plus years I can not think of a time when we, as a society, have moved farther from our Christian goals and ideals.



There is a constant tug-of-war between good and evil, and when we stand down, evil fills in. Most all the problems we see in society today are because we have drifted away, and evil has filled in and grabbed ahold. Problems in our schools, problems of crime, problems with our drifting morals, problems of divisiveness, and on and on.

A friend in Tucson told me that over 78% of the population of greater Tucson believes in God. But only about 9% attend a church of any kind. We, as a society, just aren't active Christians any more. We have backed off and are standing down. We are part of the problem! He cited facts that show that there are tipping points. When just 10% of the population believes and is vocal about some issue, it can and does tip the 90% to follow. The fight to take God and Jesus out of the public schools had been building for over 50 years, and it has now tipped, and we, the passive 90%, now accept it as the norm.

And when you ask most people, Christians included, "Are there problems?" The answer is overwhelmingly. "Yes." But most people do not want to get involved, they do not want to make a commitment to fix the problems. Several years before he left office, former Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson was addressing the many growing problems facing the city. He stated, "We know what the problems are. We have known what the problems are for some time now. We just haven't done anything about them."

I believe that a return to our Christian goals and guidelines is the answer. And, I believe that a return to God's church is the start of the fix. Remember that the church is Jesus' bride. The next step is active, not passive, involvement in learning more about becoming the Christians that God wants us to be, then being active in living our lives for Jesus. Our church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has many wonderful society supportive missions and activities that need your active engagement and financial support.

Do you have some of God's money just waiting to be activated to help in this Tug-of-War of good vs. evil?

Dick Hardy
Profile Reporter

February 2022 Health and Safety Update

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Health and Safety Team met on February 26 to discuss the latest information from the CDC and reviewed our guiding principles.

On February 25, the CDC revised its guidelines regarding mask recommendations. Instead of basing mask recommendations solely on caseload, the guidance also will consider hospitalizations, current beds by COVID patients and hospital capacity.

In the past couple of weeks, the caseload and hospitalization numbers in our community have greatly improved, and based on this new guidance from CDC, our county and surrounding counties are communities where the CDC suggests masks be optional for gatherings.

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.

Based on these factors, we are changing our congregational protocols to be "mask optional", effective immediately. Those who wish to remove their masks in the church, classes, meetings, and gatherings may do so; those who wish to keep them on may also do so. We have a wide range of risk tolerance and health needs in the congregation, and our aim is to provide as many options for people to participate as we can, both in person and virtually.

High priority ministries that include individuals who may have increased risk will continue to be supported by wearing masks. Communion servers and the pastor will wear masks during the distribution; nursery volunteers will wear masks.

We encourage the following:

- If you are sick, please stay home. Whether you suspect a cold or flu, COVID or something else, and you show symptoms, please stay home and work on getting well!
- If you test positive for COVID-19, please let us know. As members of the church family, we want to offer any support we can. As with any health information, we will keep your information confidential.
- If you were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please consider wearing a mask to protect the possible spread to others.
- Be considerate of those who continue to wear masks. There are many reasons why masks are still the best option for many in our community.
- In all these things, we love one another through these challenging days!

Remember that worship is live streamed every Sunday at 9 am and 11 am on our YouTube Page, so that everyone can join in worship!

The pandemic has tested our patience and resilience, and we appreciate the ways in which the people, leadership, and staff of Prince of Peace have supported each other through the past two years.

God bless you all.

The Health and Safety Team

- Judy Splawski, MD
- Cynthia Strieter, MD
- Dave Covell, Retired Lorain County Health Commissioner, Council Vice President
- Mark Givens, Church Council Member
- Pastor Charlie Woodward
- Jim Dickey, Council President
- Sally Balch, Council Vice President

Prayer Concerns

Please join us in praying for members and friends with recent needs: JFK High School (students and colleagues of Dana Gros), Pastor Sherman Bishop, Randall Collister and family (brother of Liz Grider), John Cuciak, Jan Juhn, Family of Robert Mociulewsk (father of Lisa Woodward), Jen LiBassi Preising (friend of Jan Juhn), Kyle Winslow (grandson of Jean and Paul Winslow), Allison Wood (cousin of Matt Wenham). **Also, we pray for chronic, long-term care needs:** Charlotte (gr. granddaughter of Jan Schoch), Paul (brother of Diane Merhaut), Ren (granddaughter of Linda Baumbach), Jaime Alspach, James Arrigo, Stephanie Bailey (niece of Mary Sue Claus), Cathy Blitz (sister-in-law of Jann Daniels), 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), Pat Merhaut (step grandmother of Shawn Merhaut), Angela Missig (daughter of Gloria Starr), Jenn Pitts (daughter of Judy Kazak), Eric and Nicole Quinn (friends of Matt Wenham), 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.**

2022 Giving Report

	YTD	Weekly
Operating Giving as of February 28:	\$85,281	\$9,476
Percent of Annual Budget Received:	22%	
Needed to Achieve Budget:	\$294,719	\$6,271
Needed to Eliminate 2022 Budgeted Deficit:	\$334,719	\$7,122

Attendance at Prince of Peace

Date	Online	In Person	Total
03/13/2022	32	127	159
03/06/2022	57	131	188
02/27/2022	62	118	180
02/20/2022	64	95	159

March 20, 2022 Sunday Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9



03/16 Jon Wilhelm	03/27 Pamela Ventimiglia
03/18 Ellen Dye	03/27 Fran Wilhelm
03/20 Emma Goggin	03/28 Zack Dragony
02/21 Richard Balch	03/28 Joseph Fortuna
03/21 Sandy Connell	03/29 Dominic Carimi
03/24 Xavier Worsencroft	03/29 William Franz
03/27 Kyle Hollowell	03/31 Linda Baumbach
03/27 Judy Heimbuch	03/31 Doug Leavens

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.

