

JOY

ADVENT WEEK 3

PEACE CONNECTIONS December 8, 2021

Scranton Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up again! Thank you to all who sponsored a student this year! Remember to please return your wrapped gifts with tags attached by Sunday, December 12th.

If you weren't able to sponsor a child and still would like to give—coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and...of course...mittens are always appreciated!

We will be delivering gifts the morning of Wednesday, December 15th. We can have a small group be a part of the delivery team so if interested please reach out to Diane Merhaut if interested! Thank you!



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.



All Congregation Christmas Pageant ~ Sunday, December 19th

On Sunday, December 19th at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, members of Prince of Peace of all ages will gather to share the story of the Birth of Jesus. Readers, actors, musicians and singers will join the congregation in telling the story of Christmas.

During the Education / Fellowship Time at 10:10, we will celebrate Jesus' birthday in the Fellowship Hall. This celebration will be for all generations! Come and join the celebration. (We will be gathering in the fellowship hall and asked to sit at a table with others who were born the same month. Ornaments will be made - one to take home and one to share. We will celebrate everyone's birthday as we gather together).



Congregational Budget Meeting

The annual budget meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 12 from 10:15 -11:00 am.**
The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.



You are able to view a copy of the budget on our website's **"LOG IN" Member's Only Page**. If you do not have a login yet, you will be prompted on how to sign up (click on "Log In" located at the top right corner of the homepage). Several hard copies will be available at the meeting.

Please let Megan know if you wish to receive a hard copy in advance of the meeting: popw.officemanager@gmail.com

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 blog is now available on our website. Check it out now! [Pastor's Blog](#)
I hope you will join me along the way!

Peace, Pastor Charlie



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

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.



Young at Heart

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021** at 12:30 pm. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at Buffalo Wild Wings located at 26774 Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the lower lobby. Questions, see Kathy Kettler. Hope to see you there!



This Week's Worship Music

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

Trading My Sorrows

Light One Candle to Light for Messiah

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

As It Is In Heaven



December 8-19, 2021

Wednesday, December 8

10:00 am Organ Practice

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

Thursday, December 9

Sexton Day Off

Friday, December 10

Pr. Charlie's Day Off

Saturday, December 11

2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, December 12

9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service

10:10 am Christian Education

10:15 am Annual Budget Mtg/FH

9 & 11:00 am Livestream

6:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday, December 13

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:00 pm Organ Practice

7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, December 14

10:00 am Discovery Group/Library

7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 15

10:00 am Organ Practice

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

Thursday, December 16

Sexton Day Off

Friday, December 17

Pr. Charlie's Day Off

Saturday, December 18

2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, December 19

Christmas Pageant

9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service

10:10 am Christian Education

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

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!

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 at popw.officemanager@gmail.com.

Thank you to all who supported the van usage all these years!



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00 pm Children's Worship
6:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service
9:15 pm Pre-Service Carol Sing
9:30 pm Festival Candlelight Service



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00 pm Children's Worship
6:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service
9:15 pm Pre-Service Carol Sing
9:30 pm Festival Candlelight Service

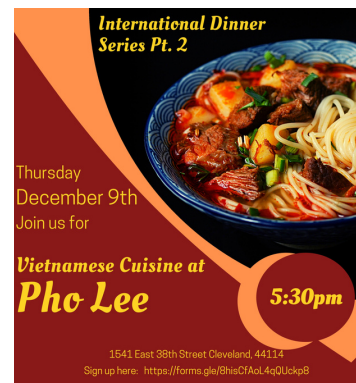
Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:00 am Hymn Sing Service, "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Prince of Peace Youth

International Dinner Series Part 2 [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

Thursday, December 9th. We'll be enjoying Vietnamese Cuisine at Pho Lee at 5:30 pm.



Blood Drives are Back 2022

Join us as we help the support Red Cross donation drives. The first drive of 2022 will start on January 23rd 8am-2pm. Sign up online at redcrossblood.org

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



November 2021 Health and Safety Update

COVID-19 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

Prayer Concerns

Please join us in praying for members and friends with recent needs: Pr. Sherman Bishop, Dr. Phil Blitz (father of Jann Daniels), Mike Dragony (nephew of Dale and Monica Dragony), Kathy Duncan (friend of Kathy McCollum), Doug Henderson (friend of Lia Staaf), Don Hurtt (son-in-law of Ellie Sanow), Jill Johnston (daughter of Jann Daniels), Jenn Kalivogui (Mark Blakeslee's cousin's daughter), Pat Merhaut (step grandmother of Shawn Merhaut), Shawn Merhaut, Family of Andrea Princehorn (friend of Mary Sue Claus), Lee Saunders, Jan Schoch, Jane Silverman (friend of Pat Sprague), Linda Thompson, Annette Waters (friend of Deb Gibson). **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), 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), Pat Merhaut (step grandmother of Shawn Merhaut), Angela Missig (daughter of Gloria Starr), Bob Mociulewski and wife, 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>
12/05/2021	39	130	169
11/28/2021	68	128	196
11/21/2021	32	148	180
11/14/2021	76	125	201

December 12, 2021 Sunday Readings:

First Reading:	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6
Second Reading:	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel Reading:	Luke 3:7-18

Happy Birthday

12/08 Ron Claus	12/11 Sara Burdette
12/08 Christie Wiedt	12/11 Jann Daniels
12/09 Marge Jaracz	12/13 Ian Cornick
12/10 Laurel Covell	12/16 Joe Rowe
12/10 Monica Dragony	12/18 Matthew Roman
12/10 Lora Robinholt	12/18 Justice Strieter
	12/18 Bud Zanders

Happy Anniversary!

12/11 John & Judy Cuciak
12/12 Don & Diane Miller
12/17 Dave & Carol Novotny

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.