

# COME & SEE

A SAVIOR IS BORN

## A Christmas Message from Pastor Charlie



## Dear Prince of Peace Family

*On behalf of the staff of Prince of Peace, I thank you for the generous gifts we received from you through the Christmas Purse. We are honored to serve at Prince of Peace, for we know that we are not alone in carrying out our mission to Grow in Faith, Serve with Love and Live in Peace.*

*We wish you all a very merry Christmas. May the good news of great joy that our Savior has come fill your hearts and your lives. May the Prince of Peace bless you this season and in the new year.*

*God bless you all. Thank you again!*

*Peace, Pastor Charlie*

## 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



## Hymn Sing Worship

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

10:00 am "Twelve Days of Christmas"

## Christmas Eve Livestream Worship Services



This Christmas Eve, worship with us online!

Please visit our [website](#) where we will Livestream our Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm.

**You Tube**

# 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.



## Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year. We will be open again on Monday, January 3, 2022. Pr Charlie will be on-call if needed.

## 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! ?'s contact Jan Filkill 440/871-6673.*



## Christmas Eve Worship Music

If you are joining us this Friday for the 6:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service, below are the songs we will be singing. The music can be found on YouTube.

*Joy to The World, Breath of Heaven,  
O Come All Ye Faithful, Angels We Have Heard on High  
The First Noel, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,  
O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night,  
Go Tell It on the Mountain*



# Christ is Born



## December 22, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Wednesday, December 22  
10:00 am Organ Practice

Thursday, December 23  
*Sexton Day Off*  
12:00 pm Caring Connections

Friday, December 24  
*Christmas Eve*  
4:00 pm Children's Worship  
6:30 pm Cont. Candlelight Service  
9:30 pm Festival Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 25  
*Merry Christmas!*

Sunday, December 26  
*Hymn Sing Service*  
10 am In Person Worship Service  
[Livestream](#)

Monday, December 27  
*Offices Closed*  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, December 28  
10 am Discovery Group/Library  
7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 29  
10:00 am Organ Practice

Thursday, December 30  
*Sexton Day Off*

Friday, December 31

Saturday, January 1  
*Happy New Year!*  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, January 2  
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service  
10:10 am Christian Education  
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)



# Christmas Letter to the Congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ gathered at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake:

Merry Christmas to you and yours. My wife, Lisa and I are so thankful to be a part of the Prince of Peace family. We look forward to celebrating our first Christmas here with you!



As we approach Christmas, my hope and prayer is that you don't miss it. I know that sounds strange, but even on that first Christmas, there were some who missed it. For I imagine there were many who made their way to Bethlehem for the census but didn't realize what was happening in that very town. There were many who didn't see that inside the stable on the edge of town, a baby was born, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a feeding trough for a bed. They didn't see the glow of heavenly host from the shepherds' field. They didn't notice the parade of shepherds searching stable after stable for the Christ child. They paid no heed to the words of joy and excitement from the shepherds. They didn't notice the unattended sheep on the hillside. They missed it.

But the shepherds didn't. They heard the message loud and clear. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." But the fear of the shepherds was soon relieved, for the angel calmed them with the words, "Do not be afraid. For I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Hear again the message - **For Unto YOU Is born a Savior. FOR YOU!** Here is God saying that God is giving you and me something (or rather someone) special. God WITH us.

**FOR YOU is BORN!** God is born. God being carried in Mary's womb for nine months. God going through the process of childbirth just like every one of us did one way or another.

And this child is born in a stable. No room in the inn, unnoticed by most people, laid in an animal feeding trough — that is extra-ordinary. This just goes to show how much God wants to get close to us. So close he becomes one of us. God, who is without beginning, takes on a beginning. God, who is eternal and cannot die, becomes human and is subject to death. For you he is born.

**To you is born this day, a Savior.** God sends us His Son - not to scold and chastise and send us away. Instead, he comes into our brokenness, to stoop down into the mess we find ourselves. He reaches out to us, no matter where we are, what others think of us, what we have done and left undone. He comes as one of us — a child in the flesh and seeks us out, finds us, with arms outstretched in love and welcomes us home.

May we be like the shepherds, who heard the message loud and clear: *For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! This gift is for you!*

It is my honor and privilege to join with you in sharing this good news with our community. We not only get the opportunity to share the story, but we get to live the story. We do this by sharing God's love in word and deed. Together, we grow in faith, serve in love, and live in peace.

Your partnership in this ministry is a blessing to me. Thank you!

You have welcomed us with open arms and made us feel right at home! We are also enjoying the opportunity to be close to our kids and grandkids. This is a good place to be for all of us. We are glad to be here and look forward to what God has in store for us in the years to come.

On behalf of my wife and all our family, we wish you all a VERY Merry Christmas.

Peace,

Pastor Charlie and Lisa Woodward



# Prince of Peace Christmas Pageant

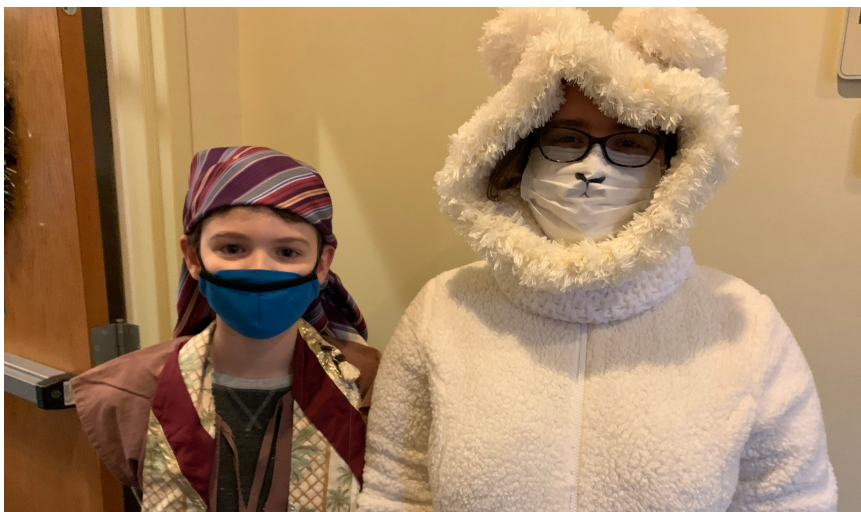
Thank you to all the Prince of Peace members and friends who participated in Sunday's Christmas Pageant and Happy Birthday to Jesus party! Merry Christmas!





# Prince of Peace Christmas Pageant

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## Pick Up Your 2022 Offering Envelopes

Giving Envelopes for 2022 are available for pick up. Every household will have a packet.

The giving envelopes will be arranged alphabetically based on last name. If you do not see a packet, please notify the office and one will be provided. Thank you.

*Donations for the 2021 tax year must be given to the church no later than December 31, 2021.*



## Love, INC

Monthly Sponsors Needed! Consider becoming a Love INC sponsor for 2022.



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

Our congregation has found a helpful way to meet the needs of those who come to our door for assistance through Love, INC. This ministry is not funded through our budget rather it comes from those of you who have chosen to sponsor a month with \$125. Individuals or ministry groups are encouraged to prayerfully consider sponsoring. May God bless this cooperative effort as we work to transform lives In the Name of Christ.

To sign up for 2022, please send an email to [popw.officemanage@gmail.com](mailto:popw.officemanage@gmail.com) with Love Inc in the subject line.

## Women In Transition

### Chopping for Change

LMM has been awarded \$900,000 in federal funds for our Chopping for Change program! We're excited to continue to do this important work and to continue to reduce recidivism in our community. Special thank you to Senator Rob Portman for his work around the Second Chance Act. [Read full article](#)



An innovative partnership between LMM, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and the Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry, the "Chopping for Change" program provides significant work experience and training for women in the criminal justice system and that empowers them to re-join the labor force.



## Altar Flowers

Thanks to all who donate flowers to grace our altar. There are openings to sponsor flowers in the upcoming weeks.

Sponsors may take the flowers home following the late service that day, otherwise, the staff will deliver the flowers when making visits to members.

## Support OMNI through the Amazon Smile Program

If you plan on shopping at Amazon, you can donate 0.5% of your order to OMNI by visiting [Amazon Smile](#) first.

Login to [Amazon Smile](#), select your charity, shop, and a portion of Amazon's proceeds go to OMNI. All of the prices are exactly the same, but Amazon donates a portion of their profits to OMNI. Search for the charity by name: Orphan Medical Network International.

Thank you for keeping the children of Zambia in your thoughts and prayers not only at Christmas but throughout the year!







## 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](http://redcrossblood.org)



## Get on Board and Follow Us!

Twitter@youth\_of\_pop ~ Facebook@poplutheranyouth

For more information, visit our website: [www.princeofpeacewestlake.org/youth](http://www.princeofpeacewestlake.org/youth)

email: [poplutheranyouth@gmail.com](mailto:poplutheranyouth@gmail.com)

## Young at Heart

We will be meeting on **Thursday, January 13, 2022** at 12:30pm. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at Lee's Seafood Boil which is located at 23642 Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted. Hope you can join us! The sign-up sheet is located in the lower lobby. ?'s see Kathy Kettler.



## Tables For Eight

All adults interested in joining Tables for Eight, to get to know your church family better, please find more info and sign up sheet in lower lobby at the Information Station.

*Our next re-mix of groups will be named by December 30, 2021.* Questions, see Jan Saunders

## Prince of Peace 'Comfort Quilters' Benefit Homeless

"Many thanks to the incredible Comfort Quilters of Prince of Peace Westlake for the 25 handmade quilts they made for the homeless," reports Community West Foundation, the Westlake-based charitable organization that supports Cleveland-area organizations that provide for the basic needs of the homeless and most vulnerable in our community.

"Year after year, they give their time and talent to help wrap those in need with warmth and love. Thank you for your continued support of #SocksPLUS and your local community members!" [Read more](#)



## 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](mailto: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



# December 2021 Health and Safety Update

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

On December 9, our Health and Safety Team gathered once again together with council president and vice president Jim Dickey and Sally Balch. As has been our practice, we discussed the current issues surrounding the COVID19 Pandemic. It is a confusing and difficult time right now. Vaccinations are available for more and more, as well as boosters. At the same time, another surge and variant arise.

With all this, we hold out hope that things will get better in the new year. 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 with our guidelines as listed below.

In addition to that, we will move forward on these two things:

1. Starting January 9, the nursery will be opened once again during worship services. All nursery attendants will be fully vaccinated and masked. Sanitation of the area will be done after each service, hand sanitizer, wipes and other cleaning items will be available.
2. The adult choir will begin again in January. The choir will be required to sing with masks for now, and all choir members must be fully vaccinated to participate. Singing masks will be provided to all participants.

While this is not back to normal, these are steps in the right direction.

We will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines, and we plan to meet again in January 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.
- If you are sick, stay home!
- 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:** Christine (friend of Kathy Kettler), Chris Castell (son of Julia Castell), Isaiah Cornick, Jayne Cramic (friend of the McCollums), Lori Crotty (friend of Charlie Koch), Kathy Duncan (friend of the McCollums), Ron Filka (brother of Kathy McCollum), Mark Givens, Don Hurtt (son-in-law of Ellie Sanow), Jenn Kalivogui (cousin of Mark Blakeslee), Howard King, Joan Link (friend of Lynne Knoll), Pat Merhaut (step grandmother of Shawn Merhaut), Larry Nickel, Linda Thompson. **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 November 30, 2021	\$316,272
Percent of Annual Budget Received	90%
Remaining Goal	\$ 33,728

## Attendance at Prince of Peace

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/19/2021	39	157	196
12/12/2021	44	144	188
12/05/2021	111	138	249
11/28/2021	68	128	196

As of 12/19/21 we still need \$15,000 to reach our goal.

## December 26, 2021 Sunday Readings:

First Reading:	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148
Second Reading:	Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel Reading:	Luke 2:41-52

*Happy Birthday*

12/23 Jim Dickey, IV	12/31 Amy Hrouda
12/24 Uwe Susemihl	01/03 Ashley Alspach
12/25 Matthew Alspach	01/03 Claire Dye
12/29 Roger Hauser	01/03 Chris Hallowell
12/30 Mike Gleespen	01/03 Noah Katrincsak
12/31 Russ Bauknecht	

*Happy Anniversary!*

12/28 Lowell & Jane Dillon
12/29 Jim & Marge Jaracz
12/30 Robert & Mary Mayer
01/03 Jeff & Amy Babinski

## 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](http://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.

