



March 6th, 2026

PEACE CONNECTION

Friday March 6th

Saturday March 7th

Sunday March 8th
Daylight Savings Time!
9:00 am Praise Worship
11:00 am Traditional Worship
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday March 9th
10:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday March 10th
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday March 11th

Thursday March 12th
Sexton's Day Off
11:00 am FLOW

Friday March 13th

Saturday March 14th

Sunday March 15th
9:00 am Praise Worship
11:00 am Traditional Worship

Monday March 16th
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday March 17th
11:00 am Women's Discipleship Group
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel
6:15 pm Crossfire Rehearsal

*Grow in Faith * Serve In Love *
Live In Peace*

SOAP Bible Study

Join us for our next study. We meet on Mondays at 7:00 pm.
Questions? Contact Mark Givens at mpgivens@ameritech.net.



March 9 - John 16
March 16 - John 17
March 23 - John 18

Lent Soup & Study

Wednesday Mid-Day Soup and Study – Fellowship Hall (11:45 am to 1 pm)
From February 25 to March 25, we will gather for a Soup Lunch and Study. Lunch will begin at 11:45 am, followed by a time of study called The Easter Experience – a video and discussion program. We will take turns making soup and for the group, and all participants are invited to bring a salad or side dish or bread to share. For more information contact Mark Givens.

Women's Discipleship Group

The Women's Discipleship Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our next meeting is March 17th.



All are welcome and encouraged. Please contact Debra Stewart at debistewart777@gmail.com with questions!

Easter Garden Plant Sale--March 1-22

Altar Guild is planning our traditional spring garden for Easter. We are asking for your assistance by providing the plants! Easter lilies, tulips, hyacinths and hydrangea plants will be ordered through 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 small table in the narthex. Order forms are available at the order table. Questions? See Dineen Terstage.



Pastor Doug Gunkelman

WELCOME STORY

Pastor Doug Gunkelman has accepted a call to serve as Prince of Peace Interim Pastor! He will begin March 1 and has graciously met with me to learn more about him and his family. His pick-up truck was filled with files and other items this morning to prepare his office as he “hits the ground running.” Doug said he loves preaching and teaching! His first service will be March 8, and we will have a lot to look forward to.

Pastor Doug was born in Medina, Ohio on March 1, 1959. He grew up in Valley City, Ohio with a younger brother, Donny. Their great, great, great grandfather had immigrated from Germany and started a family farm in 1832. Donny still continues to farm there. Doug attended Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City during this time. He attended Buckeye high school and competed in sports including football, baseball and basketball. He furthered his education by attending Centre College of Kentucky in Danville, KY. His majors were Political Science and Education.

Later, his grandfather offered to pay tuition so Doug could attend Trinity Seminary. However, his future would change in a big way when he moved to Colorado's Sky Ranch . The beauty of the Rocky Mountains surrounds a Lutheran Youth Camp. This is where Pastor Doug met his future wife, Danette, and they were married Dec. 28, 1982 at her father's church in Grinnell, Iowa.

Danette was born in the mission field of New Guinea, an island area on the northern tip of Australia. The Christian message has been embraced by its people. Later, Danette was raised in Iowa, earning her degree at Wartburg College. Her career focus has been as an Activities Director and Teacher of Special Needs Children. Doug did an Internship in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He was ordained in 1985 at the age of 26 and recently retired after 40 years. His first call was to North Dakota for 9 years. All 3 of Doug and Danette's children were born here. They have showered their love on Rachel, Nathan and Micah throughout life! Grandchildren provide more opportunities to connect as well. Rachel and her husband Andy are raising two boys, and live close to Nathan. Both attended Capital University in Columbus. Micah and his wife Jasmine live in Middleburg Heights and are raising daughter Emilia.

Pastor Doug received his second call at a church in Nebraska and remained there 9 years. The large church had 3 Pastors on the staff, a huge building and a radio station to spread The Good News. In 2003, Doug and Danette moved back to Ohio and continued at his last church that he recently retired from, Divinity Lutheran, in Parma Heights. He has been serving as a Supply Pastor until now when he was offered to accept an Interim Pastor position. He loves churches with large and active ministries and a high level of energy. Prince of Peace fits the bill!

Danette plans to use her singing talent and join the Contemporary Praise Band. Doug says that he is a dedicated sports fan of all Cleveland teams, Cavs, Guardians, and Browns. They reside in Strongsville. Please offer them a warm welcome, and a sincere “Peace be with You”!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter



Dear members and friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

God has called Pastor Charlie into a new mission, including increased opportunity for travel time, Lisa time, grandpa time, and hobby time. God has blessed us with five years of Pastor Charlie and Lisa.

As you are aware, Pastor Charlie Woodward concluded their ministry with us on February 28, 2026. The congregation council and Pastor Charlie have discussed the importance of terminating a pastor's relationship with a congregation upon that pastor's departure. In recognition of this, we have signed a "Covenant for Departing Pastors" as provided by the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Such a covenant is necessary to emphasize the termination of the pastoral relationship with the congregation so that an appropriate pastoral relationship may develop with the next pastor. To help the congregation understand the expectations of this covenant, we want to share that Pastor Charlie has pledged:

- to not be involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in this congregation and to refrain from behaviors that seek in any way to influence or control the transition process, including any attempt to influence the call of a successor;
- to refrain from language or behavior that could undermine the development of the relationship between the congregation and their new pastor, regardless of whether it is an interim or called successor;
to not support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement;
- to promptly refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation (including but not limited to baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, and visiting the sick and homebound), except as invited by the current pastor;
to consult with the current pastor regarding his attendance at worship and any events of the congregation,
- to return for an additional retirement recognition on May 23, 2026 associated with the Chardon Polka Band event;
- to encourage his family members to support him in maintaining this covenant and to support the ministry of the congregation's new pastor.

It is important that we as members of Prince of Peace honor this covenant by not asking Pastor Charlie to do anything that would be in violation of this covenant. We recognize that this will be difficult for all of us, but if we were to approach Pastor Charlie or his successor with such a request, it would put them in a very awkward position.

Since the covenant does not preclude personal friendships. Pastor Charlie and his family may remain friends and travel companions with members of the congregation. The covenant simply recognizes and emphasizes that Pastor Charlie will no longer be our pastor and will not engage in any pastoral acts or exert any influence in the congregation.

May God bless Pastor Charlie and Lisa, keeping them safe, and able to experience many loving relationships with friends and family, and as they explore new places and cultures. May God continue to bless Prince of Peace Lutheran Church with faithful pastors who preach the Gospel with Grace and encourage our good ministries.

Your Congregation Council,

Congregation Council

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





GET FLAMINGOED!

BY WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL
TEAM HOPE - BLOOD CANCER UNITED



**FOR \$30, SURPRISE A FRIEND
WITH A FLOCK OF FLAMINGOS ON
THEIR LAWN!**

WANNA FLAMINGO A FRIEND?

FILL OUT OUR FORM THROUGH THIS LINK:

[GET FLAMINGOED](#)

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ONE BEFORE THEY RUN OUT!!**

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Re-energize &
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Dale & Ruth Mortensen
d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net • 440-734-6312

Legacy Fund

Dear Fellow Prince of Peace Members,

This fund was started in 2019 with the hope that by 2039 (twenty years later) we would have contributed \$1,000,000 as a gift to the members of our church in 2039. The Legacy Fund was to be a reserve/rainy day fund so that our church of the future would not have to worry about major projects or major repairs (such as boilers, elevators, windows, roofs, parking lots, etc.).

To fund it we challenged one hundred members to contribute above and beyond their regular church offering \$2.50 per week for five years; then to double it every five years. This would have given us approximately \$1,000,000 by 2039. Presently we need to jump start our contributions because we have fallen behind on this plan.

My proposal to get us back on track is to start in 2026 with one hundred people that would pledge \$7.50 every week above and beyond their regular church pledge for three years, and then pledge \$10.00 every week for the next three years, and after that \$15.00 every week for the next three years and then \$20.00 every week for the next four years, this would then give us (including the \$70,000 in the Fund today) almost \$1,000,000.

Church council could also view the Legacy Fund as a backstop for the Building Fund to use for any emergency funding for significant property expenses. Presently we only have about \$65,000 available in the Building Fund as a reserve. So, even as we continue to donate to the Building Fund, the Legacy Fund could be there if we ever need it.

As the chairperson of our property committee, having a reserve fund for our facilities is essential. I am constantly concerned that we will have a major expense that will use up everything we currently have in our Building Fund.

Please consider participating in this fundraiser for the Legacy Fund as it would allow me to sleep easier at night.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Fronczak

ART class

We are starting an Art Club for the children of Prince of Peace! The third Saturday of the months January to May from 1pm to 3pm in the double classroom.

The first two weeks will be doing pottery with low fire clay and glazes. Please sign up so we know how many we will have on any given Saturday.



HELP US STOCK THE PANTRY

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS FED AND WARM

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Ensure/Boost Nutritional Drinks
- Instant Oatmeal Packets
- Tuna & Chicken Pouches
- Hot Coco Packets
- Instant Coffee Packets
- Jerky
- Dried Fruit

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your donations will be stocked in the outdoor pantry at Prince of Peace and **winter items will be personally delivered by POP Youth to unhoused encampments in Cleveland**

MOST NEEDED WINTER ITEMS

- Adult Weatherproof Gloves
- Adult Ski Hats
- Adult Scarves
- Adult Socks
- Hand Warmers
- Boot Warmers



DROP OFF LOCATION:

Prince of Peace Narthex in the labeled bin



Overview of the Phases of Transition

Key People Engaging

Phase 1: Saying Farewell Council/President, Synod, Celebration and Worship Teams

- Pastor announces resignation or retirement
- Bishop meets with Congregation Council
- Plan for transitional leadership
- Conclusion of Pastor's ministry

Phase 2: Congregational Health & Identity Transition Team, Synod, Council

- Discern Congregational Health, Sustainability, and Vitality
- Discern Mission & Vision: "Who are we - and what is God calling us to?"
- Identify staffing needed to engage the Mission & Vision

Phase 3: Entering the Call Process Call Committee, Synod, Council

- Form Call Committee (and pass along findings from Phase 2)
- Assistant to the Bishop meets with Congregation Council and Call Committee
- Preparation of Ministry Site Profile
- Interview preparation
- Receive & Interview candidates

Phase 4: Primary Candidate Pastor Candidate, Call Committee, Synod, Council

- Call Committee recommends candidate to the Congregation Council
- Congregation Council engages with recommended candidate & negotiates compensation
- Meet & Greet for candidate and congregation
- Congregation meeting with call vote

Phase 5: Welcoming & Celebrating

- Determine timeline for rostered minister's move and start date
- Facilitate rostered minister's move
- Schedule installation service with Conference Dean



Sunday, March 8th, 2025

Prayer Request - Long Term

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

Emily Saunders
Pam Rotella
Al Tielke
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 & Michelle Glashauckus (Friends of Jann Daniels)
Matt Darcangelo (Friend of Matt Wenham)

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

February 22

Emily Saunders
John Owens (Friend of Jan Juhn)
Paula Collister (Sister-in-law of Liz Grider)

March 1

Jacob and Rachel Hoffman (Friends of Jesse Buhrman)
Delaney and family (Friend of Michelle Lehman)
Julie Marquard and family (Friend of Marge and Jim Jaracz)
Liz Jones (Daughter of Dan and Barb Fronczak)

March 8

Megan Schlick (Friend of Fran Wilhelm)
Chris Rafferty and Family (Former PoP member)
Kay Sheldon (Friend of Sue Stevens)

03/01 Judy Cuciak
 03/01 Mary Olah
 03/01 Sandra Zanders
 03/01 Rusty Blakeslee
 03/07 Isaac Worsencroft
 03/07 Shawn Merhaut
 03/08 Mark Drobnak
 03/10 Jim Jaracz
 03/11 Linda Gareau
 03/12 Lisa Arrigo
 03/13 Brooke Kovach
 03/13 Judy Kazak
 03/14 Karen Givens
 03/15 John Bontempo
 03/16 Jon Wilhelm
 03/19 Carter Bruneau
 03/20 Emma Goggin
 03/21 Sandy Connell
 03/21 Richard Balch
 03/22 Lisa Woodward

03/23 Dale Mortensen
 03/24 Xavier Worsencroft
 03/27 Fran Wilhelm
 03/27 Judy Heimbuch
 03/27 Kyle Hallowell
 03/27 Pamela Ventimiglia
 03/28 Joseph Fortuna
 03/28 Zack Dragony
 03/29 Dominic Carimi
 03/29 Kathryn Schworm
 03/29 William Franz
 03/31 Doug Leavens
 03/31 Linda Baumbach

Date	Online	In Person	Total
03/01/2026	357		
02/22/2026	257	232	489
02/15/2026	264	186	450
02/08/2026	232	145	377



Second Harvest

The requested items for February are:
 Canned Beef Stew, Beans, Fruits & Vegetables

Giving Data

Operating Giving Report	YTD	AVG/Week
Total Giving as of Dec. 31st, 2025:	\$526,410	\$10,123
% of Annual 2025 Budget Received to Date:		105%
Total Ministry Expenses Incurred in 2025	\$519,472	\$9,990
Projected Surplus for 2026	\$6,938	



Follow Us!

Prince of Peace Staff

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Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director
 & Chancel Choir Director
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Adrienne Patenaude, Office Administrator
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Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
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Ruth Williams, Organist
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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.