



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

COVID has caused many things to change, including the Women's Re-Entry program. Group meetings have been suspended, access to buildings is limited and services are less available. However, the need is much greater, including domestic violence and homeless victims. I have chosen a new name to include them all - 'Women In Transition' (WIT).

Thanks for all your support - Keep it coming! Jan Filkill

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.



This Week's Worship Music

If you are joining us this Sunday for the 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service, below are the songs we will be singing. The music can be found on YouTube. See you then!

Revival Prelude/Revival
Refiner's Fire
New Wine
Soon and Very Soon



December 1-12, 2021

Wednesday, December 1
10:00 am Organ Practice
2:00 pm Pr. Charlie's Bible Study/CR

Thursday, December 2
Sexton Day Off

Friday, December 3
Pr. Charlie's Day Off
6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 4
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, December 5
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service
10:10 am Christian Education
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Monday, December 6
10:00 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters/FH
2:00 pm Organ Practice
6:00 pm Council Exec Meeting
7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, December 7
12:00 pm Bridge Group
7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

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

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.

The Season of Advent - Volunteers Needed

In the Scandinavian Lutheran tradition candles are lit every day during the season of Advent, not just on Sundays. We are still looking for 3 volunteers to make a very brief video of someone/themselves in their home lighting a candle and reciting a very short prayer/reading. It does not need to be a candle in an Advent wreath. However, if you don't own an Advent wreath and would like to make your own, we've attached a [LINK](#) to a site with some creative ideas.



You will be provided with the reading for your day but should feel free to substitute your own if you prefer. Just keep it short. If you have children in your home, it would be nice to involve them. We would like to see as many familiar faces as possible. We will be posting the videos daily on our FB page. If you are interested, please [SIGN UP HERE](#)



Hanging of the Greens

Join the Altar Guild to decorate the church for Christmas this **Friday, December 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.** Pizza supper – Then decorate!!



Sign up in the lower narthex so we know how much pizza to order. ?'s, contact Dineen Terstage, 440-455-9558.

Scranton Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up once again this year!

Each year, teachers identify children from Scranton Elementary with significant hardship allowing us to help make their Christmas a little brighter! Each "Mitten Tag" includes information with gift ideas for each student.



The tree with the Mitten Tags is now up! Volunteers will be present for you to sign out tags. Coats, mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks are also welcome! If you choose to participate, we ask that wrapped gifts with the tags attached be returned no later than **Sunday, December 12th** in time to deliver to the school on December 15th.

For questions, contact Diane Merhaut. Thank you!

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 will be able to view a copy of the budget on our website on the "**LOG IN**" **Member's Only Page** by Monday, December 6. 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



All Congregation Christmas Pageant ~ Sunday, December 19th

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).



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!



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

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Prince of Peace Youth

International Dinner Series Part 2

Thursday, December 9th. We'll be enjoying Vietnamese Cuisine at Pho Lee at 5:30 pm. [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

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

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!

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



Patriots Symphonic Band

presents



A Christmas TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 - 7:30PM
LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STOCKER ARTS CENTER HOKE THEATRE

Join renowned conductor Dr. John Knight and the 75-member Patriots Band for an evening of your favorite holiday carols, Christmas songs, and exciting seasonal music! The Band enthusiastically welcomes the return of vocalists Laura Pedersen and Brian Walsh who will add their special style of holiday fun to this wonderful, live musical performance.

Don't miss this holiday family tradition!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE STOCKER BOX OFFICE, (440) 366-4040, OR AT THE DOOR
\$15/ADULTS | \$11/SENIOR CITIZENS | \$8/STUDENTS | CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: FREE



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WWW.PATRIOTSBAND.COM

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: Emma (granddaughter of Gerry and Fran Wilhelm), 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), Jill Johnston (daughter of Jann Daniels), Marion Macko (mother-in-law of Gloria Starr's daughter), Shawn Merhaut, Family of Andrea Princehorn (friend of Mary Sue Claus), Lee Saunders, Annette Waters (friend of Deb Gibbons), Fran Wilhelm.

Also, we pray for chronic, long-term care needs: Charlotte (gr. granddaughter of Jan Schoch), 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), Angela Missig (daughter of Gloria Starr), 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

Date	Online	In Person	Total
11/28/2021	39	128	167
11/21/2021	32	148	180
11/14/2021	73	125	198
11/07/2021	61	129	190

December 5, 2021 Sunday Readings:

First Reading:	Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm Luke 1:68-79
Second Reading:	Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel Reading:	Luke 3:1-6

Happy Birthday

12/01 Jackson Pogachar	12/08 Ron Claus
12/01 Taylor Reisner	12/08 Christie Wiedt
12/01 Ruth Ann Whitback	12/09 Marge Jaracz
12/02 Charlie Koch	12/10 Laurel Covell
12/02 Dolph Rolik	12/10 Monica Dragony
12/05 Landon Beard	12/10 Lora Robinholt
12/06 Franklin Kraps	12/11 Sara Burdette
12/07 Nolan Greenspan	12/11 Jann Daniels
12/07 Craig Juhn	

Happy Anniversary!

12/11 John & Judy Cuciak
12/12 Don & Diane Miller

Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward
pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
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Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator
christianeducation.pop@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Chancel Choir Director
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Mary Humer, Marketing/Communications Manager
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Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
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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.

