



May 1st, 2026

PEACE CONNECTION

Friday May 1st
Pastor Doug's Day Off

Saturday May 2nd

Sunday May 3rd
9:00 am Praise Worship
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
11:00 am Traditional Worship

Monday May 4th
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday May 5th
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Wednesday May 6th
2:00 pm Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Thursday May 7th
Sexton's Day Off
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday May 8th
Pastor Doug's Day Off

Saturday May 9th
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday May 10th
Happy Mother's Day
9:00 am Praise Worship
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
11:00 am Traditional Worship
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday May 11th
10:00 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday May 12th
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Doug

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

A Message from Pastor Doug

PoP Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few people have asked me in recent weeks why we're beginning each worship with a Thanksgiving for Baptism instead of a confession and forgiveness.

Many Lutheran congregations including POP use a worship resource called "Sundays and Seasons" to help shape our worship. This resource gives us direction for prayers, songs, and liturgy.

During the season of Easter, "Sundays and Seasons" recommends beginning each worship with a Thanksgiving for Baptism. After all, the entire season of Easter (and one could argue every Sabbath gathering) is meant to be a celebration of the resurrection: of the moment when Christ insist that love and grace and mercy will forever win out.

So when we take time to during worship to give thanks for our baptism, we give thanks that God had you and I in mind when triumphing over sin and death. We give thanks for the opportunity to experience during our weekly praising of God to remember the moment when God raised us up to new life in the waters of baptism as a tangible reenactment of the resurrection.

The baptismal waters of hope and new life never stop flowing within and around us. During these weekends of Easter, remember, you are God's child, loved by Jesus Christ and empowered with the Holy Spirit now and forever .

Thanks be to God, Pastor Doug

T48 Re-Shuffle

we are going to be reorganizing Tables for Eight around the beginning of May, if you'd like to join or have questions, please reach out to David Saunders at david.w.saundersoh@gmail.com

Comfort Quilters

On Sunday, May 10th, we will be displaying our latest group of beautiful quilts in the sanctuary before they are taken to Community West Foundation to be distributed as needed. Last year (2025) we made 206 quilts which were taken to the Hospice of Western Reserve, Habitat for Humanity, and Community West Foundation!



GWOH

We are looking for some projects for this year's God's Work. Our Hands. on September 13, 2026. Please contact Nick Marple if you have any ideas and would like to lead your project. We will hold our first planning meeting in June. Nick's contact info: nickmarple@gmail.com



Women in Transition

We are looking for a new coordinator for the Women in Transition Program. This is a non-profit organization that assists women re-entering the community who are being trained in culinary arts through Chopping for Change. Jan Filkill has lovingly collected and delivered donations for the past 25 years and is asking for someone to take over this much needed and greatly appreciated ministry. Requested items are collected year-round at Prince of Peace in the upper level and delivered to LMM as needed. One person can handle it, two may make it more fun. Jan has offered to have the new coordinator ride along with her for the next delivery. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Beth Comnick at bcomnick@outlook.com Thank you!



Travel Quest

Travel Quest is planning a day trip to the Warther Museum in Dover Ohio via carpool. The event will be Friday, May 15th we will depart from Prince of Peace at 9:00am. The cost is \$19 Senior admission. Followed by Sammy Sue's BBQ Lunch at your expense. Signup by May 10th in the Narthex!



Member Photo **DIRECTORY**

We are in the process of updating the Prince of Peace member directory and we noticed many photos are several years old. We would love to update your picture in the directory. We will be taking photos in the Fellowship Hall between services from 10:10-11:00 am on the following Sundays:

- May 10
- May 17
- June 14
- June 28

These photos are casual and are taken in front of the black background. Please plan on joining us one of these scheduled days!



Questions? Contact:

gibbons.95@gmail.com

Peace Pavilion Project and Capital Campaign

Progress, Gratitude, and the Final Push

Introduction

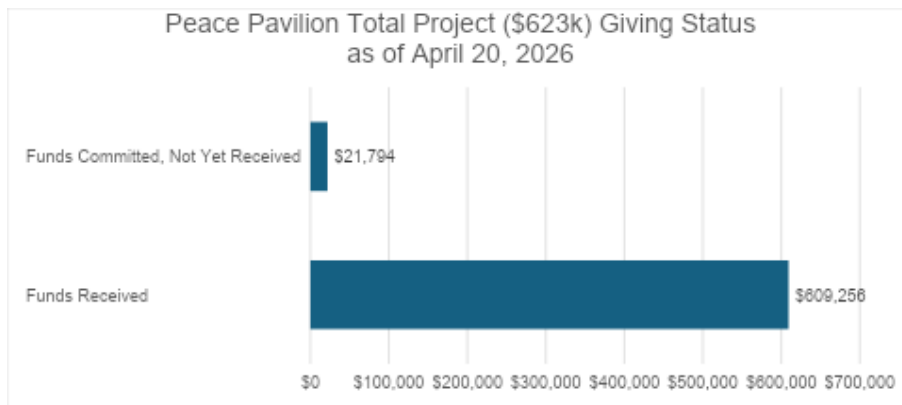
The Peace Pavilion Project that we completed last year stands as a testament to our congregation's vision, generosity, and enduring commitment to creating a space for peace, reflection, and collective spiritual growth. What a wonderful example of abundance and engagement. **THANK YOU!**

Giving Progress and Loan Payment Progress

Nearing Completion of Financing: Recall that our total capital spending for the Peace Pavilion is \$623,000 including our estimate of financing charges. As of April 20th, our total giving for the Peace Pavilion is just over \$609,000 or about 98% of the total. We have \$22,000 outstanding pledges that if collected would help us exceed our target by \$8,000.

We have two key points to highlight in this update:

1. **If you have an outstanding pledge, we kindly ask that you consider giving prior to June 30th.** The reason for this "ask" is that we have one opportunity each twelve months to reduce our loan principal. Our next opportunity for this payment is in July and we could be in a position to pay off our entire loan balance if a sufficient level of additional giving is realized. Currently, we have loan principal balance of about \$138,000 and cash on hand of just under \$120,000.
2. **If we do exceed our \$623,000 capital goal, we plan to deploy excess funds into the building fund.** This is due to the Peace Pavilion becoming part of our overall campus with ongoing maintenance managed as the responsibility of the broader facility maintenance scope.



The Peace Pavilion now stands as a living monument to what we can achieve together. As we move forward, let us celebrate how far we've come and remain focused on finishing strong.

THANK YOU for your steadfast support, your belief in our vision, and your commitment to leaving a legacy of peace.

In His service,

The Peace Pavilion Committee



PRINCE OF PEACE

FOOD BANK HELP DAY

2 JUNE | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM



PRINCE OF PEACE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO HELP OUT THE SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK AT 5510 BAUMHART ROAD, LORAIN, OHIO 44053 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026. WE WILL MEET AT THE FOODBANK AT 5:00 PM FOR PIZZA AND AT 5:30 PM BEGIN SORTING AND REPACKING DONATED FOOD ITEMS UNTIL 7:00 P.M. IT IS A FUN EXPERIENCE WITH TASKS FOR ALL. VOLUNTEERS MUST BE 16 OR OLDER PER THE FOOD BANK'S POLICY. WE ARE LOOKING FOR UP TO 15 PEOPLE TO HELP OUT THAT EVENING. PLEASE CONTACT CHARLIE KOCH AT (440) 478-9235 OR EMAIL HIM AT CAKOCH13@AOL.COM TO LET HIM KNOW YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE LOWER NARTHEX. A LINK TO SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER ON THE SECOND HARVEST WEB SITE FOR THIS REPACK DAY AT SECONDHARVESTFOODBANK.ORG WILL BE PROVIDED AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE REPACK DAY.

Prince of Peace Helping Transform Houses into Homes

As you may have seen in our last edition of *Seeds*, LMM celebrated the opening of our first solar housing units with a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 18th. While it was a momentous occasion honoring LMM's commitment to providing affordable housing solutions, there was still plenty of work to be done to prepare these units for welcoming their first residents.



Each of the four units needed to be furnished and stocked with other essential household items. In typical LMM fashion, one of our faith partners answered the call and committed to transforming these houses into *homes*. During the month of January, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake organized a fundraiser to support the solar housing project.

LMM board member and (recently retired) Senior Pastor at Prince of Peace, Rev. Charlie Woodward said the project came together after he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the solar homes and he shared the exciting news of the project with the congregation. Members of the congregation were interested in learning more about how they could support the project and inquired about helping to furnish the units. Pastor Woodward then connected with LMM's Associate Director of Housing and Shelter, Claire Billingsley, who put together a list of items like furnishings, kitchen items, bed sheets, and towels.

Pastor Charlie took this list back to Prince of Peace's Engagement Team and they got to work. They took the list of much needed household items and created 70 tags, each with a specific item listed on them, and the tags were displayed in the church for everyone to see. The members and friends of Prince of Peace were encouraged to take a tag, write a check or put money into a marked envelope with the tag and turn it back into the church.

The goal was to raise \$3,500 from the fundraiser and on top of that, a request was made for matching funds up to \$3,500 from Prince of Peace's Endowment Fund. Members of the congregation quickly blew past that goal and, combined with

the endowment match, Prince of Peace donated \$8,633 which helped purchase all the household items requested.

On February 22nd, LMM President and CEO Maria Foschia was invited out to Prince of Peace for a presentation of the donation check and to celebrate Pastor Charlie's final service before his retirement. The day was an amazing celebration of both the completion of the project and Pastor Woodward's thirty-six years of dedicated service.


Reflecting on the fundraising project, Pastor Woodward said, *"In the grand scheme of things, \$8,600 is not a large amount of money when compared to the overall LMM budget. But what IS important is to get the congregation members engaged in being a part of the ministry. It's more than an annual gift or check in the mail, it is about being the body of Christ in the world – God's Work with Our Hands."*

LMM's Board of Directors and staff would like to congratulate Pastor Woodward on his retirement and sincerely thank Prince of Peace for their generous donation supporting our neighbors in need as they move into their new homes.

In his final note on the project, Pastor Charlie invoked the words of Martin Luther, saying *"God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does. Our new neighbors on Luther Street are exactly what he was talking about!"* We could not agree with him more!

If you are feeling inspired by that message and your organization or congregation is interested in learning more about how you can host a fundraiser or volunteer to support LMM, please contact Brian Sturgeon, Director of Individual Giving, at bsturgeon@lutheranmetro.org.





LARGE INTERIOR SPACE FOR RENT!

- 3,500 to 3,700 square feet available
- Potential child care facility or other multi-purpose use for rent
- Located at 28455 Center Ridge Road, Westlake
- Space is a secure area which includes six furnished classrooms, private entrance, ample parking, room enough for 50 plus children
- Five days a week usage from 6 am to 6 pm
- Private kitchen and large meeting room also available

MORE INFORMATION



Dan at 440-221-6411 or
Jerry at 440-653-3196

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





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, May 3rd, 2025

Prayer Request - Long Term

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

EEmlly 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 and Michelle Glashauckus (Friends of Jann Daniels)
Matt Darcangelo (Friend of Matt Wenham)
Max Jensen (Cousin of Jann Daniels)
Toni Kulma and Pastor Jim Kulma

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

April 19th

Bob Owsiak (Friend of Jan Juhn)
Tina Parfitt and family (Cousin of Beverly Braun)
Katie and Logan (Friends of Diane Merhaut)

April 26th

Emily Saunders
Sarah Mitchell (Friend of Joan Drobnak)
Cindy Kreis
Doug and Barb (Friends of Mary Meadows)
Debbie (Relative of Mary Meadows)
John Cuciak

May 3rd

Shane Overcash (Husband of Deb Gibbon's Cousin)
Megan Schlick (Friend of Fran Wilhelm)
Sandy Herren

05/01 Dineen Terstage
 05/01 Jim Lappin
 05/02 Lillian Franz
 05/03 Brian Drobnak
 05/03 Grant Comnick
 05/05 Ellen Oster
 05/06 Lois Smilor
 05/07 Lillian Fortuna
 05/07 Ben Blakeslee
 05/08 Dave Saunders
 05/09 Josh Dragony
 05/12 Margaret Bailey
 05/12 Diane Karp
 05/14 Gloria McClellan

05/14 Cassandra Frey
 05/14 Jason Franz
 05/15 Brianna Lehman
 05/16 Hailey Vitko
 05/18 Stephanie Pogachar
 05/19 Blake Beard
 05/25anelle Marple
 05/27Robert Mayer
 05/29 Jerry Karp
 05/31 Jeff Babinski
 05/31 Logan Vitko

Date	Online	In Person	Total
04/26/2026	180	157	337
04/19/2016	152	160	312
04/12/2016	159	160	319
04/05/2026	169	261	430



Alden & Connie McGee 05/01
 Dennis & Terry MacKenzie 05/10
 Jeff & Chrissy Frey 05/13
 Dale & Monica Dragony 05/16
 Diane & Pat Fortuna 05/18
 Keith & Jane Wyant 05/20
 Kristi & Bob Draper 05/25
 Tracy & Tom Biller 05/29

Second Harvest

The requested items for May are:
 Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Olive Oil & Canned Fish

Giving Data

Operating Giving Report	YTD	AVG/Week
Total Giving as of March 31st, 2026:	\$154,585	\$11,891
% of Annual 2026 Budget Received to Date:	32%	
Remaining Giving to Meet 2026 Budget	\$364,415	\$9,343
Total Expenses Incurred through 3/31/26	\$129,266	\$9,943



Follow Us!

Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Doug Gunkelman, Interim Pastor
 pdpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
 jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician
 brandonbpop@gmail.com

Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator
 christianeducation.pop@gmail.com

Hailey Desmond, Marketing/Communications
 princeofpeacecommunication@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director
 & Chancel Choir Director
 ifaleer@gmail.com

Adrienne Patenaude, Office Administrator
 princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
 poplutheranyouth@gmail.com



Ruth Williams, Organist
 mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

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.