

October 2nd, 2026

PEACE CONNECTION

Fellowship By The Fire

Sometimes the best conversations happen around a fire.

Beginning Thursday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m., the men of Buds N' Suds will host a weekly gathering at the fire ring next to the Peace Pavilion. This isn't a class, and there's nothing to prepare ahead of time. Each week, someone will share a short devotional, story or reading to get the conversation started. From there, we'll talk about life - faith, marriage, fatherhood, work, friendships, community, challenges, successes and the lessons we've learned along the way. The goal is simple: bring men of different generations together, get to know one another better and learn from the experiences and perspectives each person brings. All men are welcome - Prince of Peace members, Buds N Suds participants, friends, neighbors, coworkers and guests from the community. No book to buy. No homework. No experience required. Just bring a camp chair, your beverage of choice and yourself.

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Beginning October 8th at the tire ring next to the Peace Pavilion. We'll meet weekly, weather permitting, until Northeast Ohio tells us it's time to head inside. Pull up a chair. Join the conversation.



LMM 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter Update

We are actively working on a date for our next Prepare and Serve event and also will once again engage in our annual Boots and Socks for Christmas ministry starting in November. Stay tuned for both! In the meantime, the men's shelter has specifically identified a number of specific requests from those they serve and some urgent needs for hygiene products:

- Specific Requests: New or gently used bibles, men's wallets, and men's belts.
- Urgent Hygiene Requests: Soap, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Lotion, Socks, Wash Cloths, and Mouthwash

If you feel called to donate any of these supplies, please feel free to bring in and leave by the donation station in the admin wing. Any questions, please reach out to Shawn Merhaut at smm375@yahoo.com Thank you!

Friday, October 2nd
Pastor Doug's Day Off
9:00 am Herb Guild

Saturday, October 3rd
1:00 pm SIS Pumpkin Paint & Pinots
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, October 4th
9:00 am Praise Worship
10:00 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
11:00 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm Confirmation Class Picnic
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday, October 5th
9:00 am Herb Guild
10:00 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday, October 6th
9:00 am Herb Guild
6:45 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 7th
2:00 pm Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Thursday, October 8th
Sexton's Day Off
9:00 am FLOW
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday, October 9th
Pastor Doug's Day Off

Saturday, October 10th
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, October 11th
9:00 am Praise Service
10:00 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Sunday Gospel Study
11:00 am Traditional Service

Monday, October 12th
9:00 am Herb Guild
10:00 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday, October 13th
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with mel
6:45 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Pastor Doug's Bible Study

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



“Moving Forward by Faith” Week 1

The theme of this year’s fall campaign is “Moving Forward by Faith.” Today and during the next three weeks, we will examine the matter of faith as it relates to our living and to our giving. We will consider what faith requires and how we develop faith, especially as it relates to how we use the resources God has entrusted to us.

Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith, it is impossible to please God. It stands to reason, therefore, that if we are to please God, we must have faith. But what is faith? The first verse of that same chapter gives us an answer: Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. In other words, faith is having a confidence that what we hope for will come to pass and that what we do not see actually exists. Faith is simply taking God at His Word. It is believing that God exists and that God will keep His promises. It is realizing that God will do what He has committed to do.

But that kind of confidence cannot be manufactured by human effort. Faith starts and ends with Jesus Christ. In fact, the Apostle Paul describes Christ as giving “saving faith” as part of all that we need in the Christian life. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. He is the beginning and ending of faith. Christ is both the source of our faith and the one in whom we place our faith.

As the hymn writer expressed it, “My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed; it is enough that Jesus died, and He died for me.” All that pertains to our faith ultimately finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. But what does that have to do with giving our time and talents to the Lord? Or with money, material possessions and giving? And what could that possibly have to do with an annual stewardship emphasis? Make no mistake about it: God owns everything. We are just managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our attitude should be what one author described as “vagrant faith,” that is, a spirit of having everything in Christ but of owning nothing. Owners, you see, have rights; managers and stewards have responsibilities. As managers and stewards, we are responsible to manage what God has entrusted to us. That same author went on to say this:

...the American perspective is to acquire wealth, or at least comfort, which is one reason America is in such sad shape today. We do not regard ourselves as vagrants, but as property owners. Being a vagrant contradicts the notion of acquiring things for personal comfort or ownership of those things intrinsic to the successful American lifestyle. Paul emphasized that having little or much money isn’t what makes one rich or poor. Rather, it’s the degree to which we conform to Jesus and understand that God will honor those who recognize that all they own is God’s to use for His purposes. If faith is taking God at His Word, and if God has described us, His children, as “strangers” who are just passing through this world on our way to our eternal home, then we will accept God’s rightful ownership of our money and material possessions. We will give up our right to use these things how we please. Instead, as part of our walk of faith, we will want to use all that we have to please God and to further God’s kingdom. We will exhibit “vagrant faith” by demonstrating a spirit of having everything in Christ but of owning nothing. We will share the sentiment of C.S. Lewis who said, “Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”

Next week, we will examine what it means to live by faith. Until then, will you ask God to increase your understanding of faith, particularly as it relates to the ownership and use of the resources God has given to you? And until then, please remember this: “... without faith it is impossible to please God.”

I'm a Lutheran

Gwen Walz

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn.

First lady of Minnesota, former public school administrator

Growing up, the Lutheran church was the central part of my life. My parents were very committed to church. A lot of the structure of our life was around helping at church and being involved in church, and we saw our parents do that.

My dad taught Sunday school. My mom is 87, but she was a church organist until last summer. She had a brain tumor and has had surgeries and is in hospice care now. But she was a church organist up until that point and did Sunday school music.

For me, there was not an option other than to go to an ELCA college. I have three sisters. Two of us went to Gustavus [Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.], and two went to Augustana [University in Sioux Falls, S.D.]. My dad's a Gustavus graduate, and my mom's an Augsburg [University in Minneapolis] graduate. Gustavus was a great fit for me, and I became very involved.

I'm not in the pews every Sunday. I look forward to a time when that can happen again. I Zoom in to services at Pilgrim, and I have studied and done some things independent of the congregation. One thing that this part of my life has done for me is to expand my view of where I see or how I worship God. Prior to this, I would say, I was very focused on being *in* church. And I still love those spaces. But I've also experienced worship or church outside of that physical place in a different way. Because I've had to. I prayed for that.

Serving on the Bishop's Advisory Council, first with Bishop [Elizabeth] Eaton, was a really great experience. We were right in the center of information

on some of the larger policy [developments], and that was very interesting to me. And now I'll be on the council again, with Bishop [Yehiel] Curry. I'm so excited to do that, and I've met wonderful, engaged people. So I'm going to try to do my best again.

In the Lutheran church, we serve. And it's important for us to find ways to serve. My parents would say, "Gwen, do the work that's in front of you." Growing up, I thought that meant the dishes or my homework. But as I matured, I realized what a profound idea that was and how important that was to how I saw the world. It requires you to be aware, to listen, to engage in really complex and hard things.

When you're focused on service, that is hopeful, because there's always much to do, and there are always others to do that work with. Our daughter is named Hope. We named her that because we feel like that's the most powerful word in the universe. But it's also not an action plan. It is the beginning. Very little can happen without hope. So we must nurture that in one another. There are more signs of hope and more reasons to be hopeful than there are not. I've had the chance to experience that throughout this entire country.

I'm a Lutheran because I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. It formed and still informs my thinking. Lutheranism, for me, is so action-orientated. It is such a call. And that has been modeled for me by so many people, that's been nurtured and encouraged. And it's sort of [my] North Star in that way. I never contemplated not being Lutheran. It is a faith that has allowed me to grow as I've grown, and it's always instructed my worldview. †

Save the date - Fall Altar Guild Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 10:30 am, Charter Room. New members (women and men) are always welcome! We invite you to please consider joining this ministry or join us for special decorating events. No specific skills required. Our work is a great way to serve the Lord and get to know other members of our church family. Lots of hands make our work much easier! At our Fall Meeting, we discuss Worship set up plans for fall and winter, as well as sign up for monthly teams for the month(s) that work best for you in 2026. See you there!

Need more info? Call Dineen, [440-263-6759](tel:440-263-6759).

Young at Heart Lunch

Please join us on Friday, October 23, 2026 at 12:30pm.
We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, located at [25779 Brookpark Road](#) in North Olmsted.

Please add your name to the signup sheet in the lower lobby. Questions, contact Kathy Kettler at [\(440\)825-2674](tel:440-825-2674).



Endowment Committee Grant

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce its approval of a one-time grant to assist with the educational expenses of a student pursuing a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The student is preparing for a vocation as a congregational pastor, serving in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Through this grant, the Endowment Committee and Prince of Peace is honored to support theological education and the preparation of future leaders who will serve the Church and its congregations.

Bereavement Notice

Prince of Peace member, Uwe Susemihl, passed away on July 2nd. If you wish to send condolences to his wife, Helga, her address is:

27373 Pineview Drive
Westlake, Ohio 44145

<https://www.buschcares.com/obituaries/Uwe-Martin-Susemihl?obId=48940663>



Foodbank Help Day

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 Monday, October 19, 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.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT

2026-2027 PLANS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD FROM 1-4 PM. PAINT A PUMPKIN AND SAMPLE PINOT IN THE PEACE PAVILION. BRING YOUR LUNCH, A PUMPKIN AND A PINOT... PAINTS PROVIDED. WATCH FOR DETAILS. ORGANIZED BY MONICA DRAGONY AND RUTH MORTENSEN



ADVENT TEA, SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH FROM 2-4 PM. ORGANIZED BY JUDY KAZAK

CHRISTMAS TOAST WITH BUDS & SUDS, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED. ORGANIZED BY LAUREL COVELL.



MOVIE NIGHT AT PRINCE OF PEACE, SATURDAY JANUARY 23RD AT 5:30 PM. BRING YOUR DINNER AND A DONATION FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK (ITEMS NEEDED TBA)... ORGANIZED BY JOAN DROBNAK AND BETH COMNICK.



WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO PARTY AT PRINCE OF PEACE, SATURDAY APRIL 10TH FROM 2-4 PM. BRING A WRAPPED WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT AND A SNACK TO SHARE. WE WILL COLLECT DONATIONS FOR FRIENDSHIP APL, ITEMS TBA. ORGANIZED BY LINDA THOMPSON AND BETH COMNICK



HUNTINGTON BEACH, WEDNESDAY JULY 21ST AT 5 PM, BRING YOUR OWN DINNER & DRINK, MEET RAIN OR SHINE. BE READY TO SIT FOR A BIT AND THEN SWITCH SEATS! CAR POOLING IS SUGGESTED AS THERE WILL BE LIVE MUSIC. YOU MAY WANT TO BRING A LAWN CHAIR TO ENJOY THE MUSIC AFTER DINNER. ORGANIZED BY LAUREL COVELL

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN ADDITIONAL EVENT PLEASE DO!
CONTACT ANY OF US WITH QUESTIONS... JOAN DROBNAK JDROBN@GMAIL.COM, MONICA DRAGONY MKMONICA66@GMAIL.COM, LINDA THOMPSON LTHOMPSON416@GMAIL.COM, LAUREL COVELL THECOVELLS@GMAIL.COM, BETH COMNICK BCOMNICK@OUTLOOK.COM



Women of the **ELCA**

Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization
Cleveland West Cluster

Fall Gathering Saturday, October 10, 2026

"Reunification, Foster Parenting, Adoption"

Program Speaker: Sharon D. Holmes



Registration, Breakfast, & Fellowship 8:30am
Meeting & Program 9:30am; Lunch 12:00 noon

Registration: \$5 – includes breakfast & lunch
R.S.V.P. deadline Sunday, Sept. 27th: newhlch@yahoo.com or
phone Eloise Rice 330-948-2590 (Need church name & city with
number/name of persons attending)

Offerings: 50% for NEOSWO (Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization)
50% to Medina County Job and Family Services, Foster Care Program

Donations: MCJFS, Foster Care Program
First Aid Kits; Lock Boxes for Medications; Fire Extinguishers; Smoke Alarms

In Kind Gifts: JBF Senior Estates, Spencer, OH
Paper Products (toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex); Cleaning Products (laundry
detergent, dish soap); Personal Hygiene Products (deodorant, toothpaste,
shampoo, hand soap)

New Horizons Lutheran Church

8439 RiverCorners Road, Homerville, OH 44235

Email: newhlch@yahoo.com Website: newhorizonshomerville.com
(Handicap Accessible)



OMNI is devoted to sustained improvements in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia, Africa through medical care, education, and community development in an atmosphere of Christian faith and hope that is respectful to indigenous cultures.

OMNI's serves those children with the greatest financial need whose families cannot afford the expenses of public schools. Nearly all of our students live in the George Compound – a small village located near the eastern edge of OMNI's property. With the help of our loyal sponsors, our children receive a quality education, school supplies, a daily hot meal, uniforms and shoes, clean drinking water both at home and at school, chemically-treated anti-malaria nets for sleeping, medical care, and Christian guidance from our dedicated staff. OMNI School is currently serving over 300 students.

“OMNI school home feeding support program is helping to change people's lives and aids in managing the absolute poverty levels faced by the people of George compound and the whole country. Before the home feeding support program was introduced we received reports from teachers that learners collapsed in class during lessons due to hunger as they could go for days without eating anything at their homes. Most children depend on the hot meal provided at school every day during school hours, but most could face challenges over the weekends.

At present Zambia is the 6th poorest country in the world, according to the World Bank. This is being driven by high levels of food insecurity, high cost of living, and significant hours of no power supplies just to mention a few items impacting our community and country.

Clean drinking water is one of the serious concerns for our community as there is no running water from the taps in the village. People get their drinking water from make shift wells which contributes to an increase of water borne diseases as pit latrine toilets are so close to the water sources. OMNI school helps to manage this very difficult water situation by providing clean water to the community of George from the water source at our two boreholes. (one electrical and one solar water pumping system).”

Teddy Kasonga – OMNI School Manager



Excited children from the community of George beginning their education at OMNI School

Orphan Medical Network International

501c3 non-profit organization ● www.omnmissions.com

Your support of OMNI via child sponsorships and the Bluz Over Africa benefit on October 11, 2026 are critical to these children and their families and community.

Thank you for helping us . . . save one child at a time.



Sunday, October 4th, 2026

Prayer requests may be sent to Sue Hosler, chairwoman of the Prayer

Chain Ministry at: suehosler@yahoo.com or to the church office at:

princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

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

Prayer Request - Long Term

Emily Saunders (PoP Member)
Pam Rotella (PoP Member)
Al Tielke (PoP Member)
Angela Missig (Daughter of Gloria Starr)
Laura K (Friend of Deb Gibbons)
Paula Collister (Sister-in-law of Liz Grider)
Daniel Reisner (Friend of James and Lisa Arrigo)
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)
Toni Kulma and Pastor Jim Kulma (Supply Pastor for PoP)
Shane Overcash (Relative of Deb Gibbons)
Cindy Kreis (PoP Member)
Angelica Brophy (Daughter-in-law of Jann Daniel's Friend)

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

September 20

Jerry Karp (PoP Member)

September 27

Chloe (Granddaughter of Jane Dillon's friend)
Family and friends of Bob Mittag (PoP Member)
Cathy Curry (Friend of PoP member, Joanne Burns)

October 2

Emily Saunders (PoP Member)
Family and friends of Uwe Susemihl (PoP Member)
Gary Allie (Husband of frequent PoP visitor, Janet (Newman) Allie)
Cheryl Morrison (Sister of PoP Member, Mike Weber)
Avery Pawlak (Granddaughter of PoP Member, Fran Molnar's Friend)
Rachel Zinram (PoP Member)

Happy Birthday

Attendance at Prince of Peace

Jan Juhn 10/01
 Allie Hallowell 10/02
 Aubriella Judy 10/02
 Lydia Griffin 10/03
 Chrissy Frey 10/03
 Mark Blakeslee 10/05
 Julia Biller 10/07
 Allison Hrouda 10/10
 Kathleen Johnston 10/11
 Arthur Hartung 10/13
 Al Tielke 10/14
 Sharon Lappin 10/14
 Riki Wilhelm 10/15

Jerry Kreis 10/15
 Ellie Marple 10/16
 Mike Weber 10/18
 Aidan Katrincsak 10/18
 Adam Thompson 10/18
 Carson Reisner 10/20
 Nicholas Franz 10/22
 Linda Colcord 10/22

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
09/27/2026	97	150	247
09/20/2026	134	137	271
09/13/2026	62	123	185
09/06/2026	123	115	238



Charlie & Barb Koch 10/05
 Dale & Ruth Mortensen 10/05
 Thomas & Shoko Morton 10/11
 Pamela & Joseph Ventimiglia 10/25

Second Harvest

The requested items for October are:
 Cereal, Juices, Applesauce & Canned Soups

Giving Data

<u>Operating Giving Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>AVG/Week</u>
Total Giving as of August 31st 2026:	\$357,418	\$10,211
% of Annual 2026 Budget Received to Date:	69%	
Remaining Giving to Meet 2026 Budget	\$161,582	\$9,504
Total Expenses Incurred through 8/31/26	\$333,577	\$9,530



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 9-2

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.