



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020





Prince of Peace is an active congregation doing God's Work.  
2020 was a year of learning, care and adaptation. The programs and events are works done, not in our own strength and for our own benefit, but by the grace of God and in obedience to Him - led by the Holy Spirit, to God's glory.

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous  
on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in  
thanksgiving to God.  
Corinthians 9:11*

**Thank you for being a part of our congregation  
Here are some of the highlights of 2020**

**Homeless Jesus**- We displayed Homeless Jesus outside of the church. Sculpted by Artist, Timothy Schmalz. For further information about the artist and the piece of art we were lucky to have, you can look at the book 'Timothy P. Schmalz' or check out the website [www.sculpturebypts.com](http://www.sculpturebypts.com)

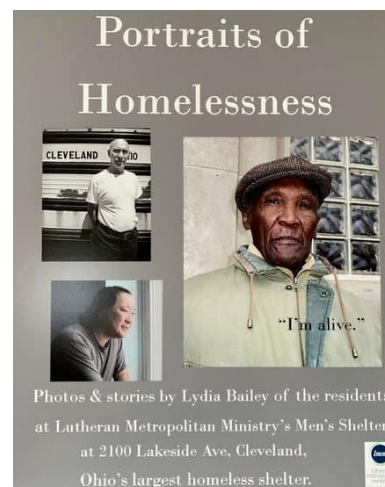


Pictured is the 'Homeless Jesus' decorated for Easter

**Chopping for Change**- Lenten Wednesday Supper was joined with Guest Speaker Malika Kidd, Workforce Development Director, LMM Chopping for Change Program

**Portraits of Homelessness**- 15 photographs and stories of Men's Shelter residents were featured in our lobby. Followed by a forum on homelessness;

<https://www.lutheranmetro.org/portraits-of-homelessness/about-portraits-of-homelessness/>



### **Health and Safety Committee Members**



Cindy Strieter, MD



Lorain County Health Commissioner  
Dave Covell, MPH, RS



Judy Splawski, MD

The Health and Safety Committee has helped navigate POP through the safest decisions for worship, building availability and ministry gatherings. POP is incredibly grateful for these team members and know that they are an important part to our congregation being able to worship together soon. Every decision made has been a collection of their guidance and cooperation of ExComm. Without them we may not have been able to plan and prepare as well as we have. POP thanks you for your work to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and your input that has continued to keep our congregation and community, safe.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
February 7, 2021**

# 2020 Annual Report



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# *Prince of Peace*

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Mission Statement: The mission of Prince of Peace is to inspire followers of Jesus Christ through service, spiritual growth, and hospitality.

Vision Statement: Our vision is to be an engaged congregation that is growing in Christian mission.

Vision Elements:

- An Inviting and Inclusive Environment
- Meaningful Christian Worship and Adult Education Aligned with Daily Living to Gain Spiritual Commitment
- Thriving and Vibrant Environment with a Focus on Youth
- Fulfilled Through Service to Others
- Operating a Solid Foundation Utilizing New Technology
- Delivering a Lasting Legacy Through Stewardship

Values Statement: We are united through the common values of GRACE:

- Giving of ourselves
- Respecting others,
- Appreciating others,
- Celebrating others, and
- Energizing others.

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

## 2020 Annual Report

### Table of Contents

	Page
Minutes of 2020 Congregational Annual Meeting (2-15-2020) . . . . .	1
Minutes of 2020 Congregational Budget Meeting (12-15-2020) . . . . .	4
Senior Pastor's Report . . . . .	5
Official Pastoral Acts . . . . .	10
Council President's Report . . . . .	11
Treasurer's Report Operating Results . . . . .	12
Financial Secretary's Report . . . . .	13
Altar Guild . . . . .	14
Christian Education . . . . .	18
Comfort Quilters . . . . .	21
Congregational Care Coordinator . . . . .	22
Endowment Committee . . . . .	23
Finance Committee . . . . .	25
Habitat for Humanity . . . . .	26
Marketing and Communications . . . . .	27
Memorials . . . . .	29
Men's Fellowship . . . . .	29
OMNI . . . . .	30
Outreach Committee . . . . .	31
Prayer Chain Ministry . . . . .	32
Property Committee . . . . .	33
Social Ministry . . . . .	34
Stewardship . . . . .	37
Strategic Planning . . . . .	38
Technology Committee . . . . .	40
Vacation Bible School . . . . .	41
Worship & Music Committee . . . . .	41
Young at Heart . . . . .	42
Youth Group . . . . .	42

## **MINUTES 2020 CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING – February 16, 2019**

Congregational Meeting of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church was called to order by Dave Saunders, President, at 10:45 AM February 16, 2020.

### **PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **Congregational Meeting Agenda:**

- Opening Prayer
- Approvals
- Elections (Endowment & Council)
- Call Committee Update
- Endowment Committee Update
- Director of Discipleship
- Celebration
- Open Agenda
- Installation of Council
- Lord's Prayer

**OPENING PRAYER** – Pastor Craig opened the meeting with prayer.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA** and DECEMBER 15, 2019 BUDGET MEETING-

Joan Drobnak moved approval of the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion to adopt the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Minutes of December 15, 2019 Budget Meeting were approved by the Council. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2019 Budget Meeting. Motion seconded. Minutes approved by congregation without dissent.

### **ELECTIONS**

Council nominations/election: Church Council nominated Amy Babinski, Dan Shell, Joan Drobnak, Ron Kear, Sally Balch and Dave Covell for 2-year council terms. Motion to close nominations and approve nominated slate by acclamation by Deanna Rose. Seconded by Ron Filkill. Motion unanimously approved.

Endowment Committee nominations/election: Doug Olson and Jim Dickey were nominated for 2-year terms. Dave Covell moved to close the nominations and elect the nominees. Motion seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** – Phil Sprague introduced members of the call committee and provided a summary of work completed and said 4 pastoral candidates have been interviewed by the committee. None of the candidates provided by the Synod have been called. We are waiting for the Synod to suggest additional candidate(s). He also noted we are within the nominal timeframe for churches seeking a pastor. He restated the congregation will ultimately approve the pastor candidate after recommendation by the committee and council endorsement.

### **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Doug Olson provided an update on the Endowment Fund status;  
As of December 31, 2019, Benevolence (Seminary) Fund grew to \$137,731.09 after receipt of \$15,828.97. A grant of \$5,000 was forwarded to Trinity Lutheran Seminary for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. A grant of \$6,000 will be made for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

The General Endowment Fund grew to \$393,071.35 including an estate gift of \$254,308.71. Grant funds available from General Endowment Fund in 2019 was \$3,500: \$483.80 was not utilized. Grant Money available in 2020 is \$7,500. Grants are available for non-operating fund opportunities.

The Legacy Fund is managed by the Endowment Committee but is not an “endowment”. This fund is just getting started and is at \$1,330.

Total funds managed by the Endowment Committee include the two Endowment Funds and the Legacy fund is about \$532,000.

### **DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Dave Saunders summarized the roles and responsibilities of the new Director of Discipleship (DD) position. Judy Kazak has resigned as Congregational Care Coordinator and the new position will include that role as well as engagement of members, and coordination of Christian Education and Youth Ministries. Bev and Hillary roles remain the same and the DD will coordinate with them. The new position will be permanent part-time at 20 hours/week and won't have an impact on the 2020 budget.

### **CELEBRATION**

Dave highlighted progress in the level of engagement at POP and summarized results of the Gallup Survey showing improvement of 12% in Engaged Members and the drop in Actively Disengaged Members of 10%. We continue to make improvements as anticipated by our Strategic Plan.

Pastor Robin highlighted many accomplishments in 2019. She praised our Staff and the energy with which they serve. We also celebrate all the ministry of the members including the following:

#### *Spirit's Gathering Movement*

Visually and Musically Vibrant Worship Every Week

- Thank you, Altar Guild, CrossFire, Choir, Oberlin Choristers and guest musicians
- Innovative Worship Experiences
- Celtic Music, The Elders of Jazz, God's Work our Hands Celebration
- Dedicated Study Groups including New men's Bible Study, & Interacts focus on the hard questions
- Time Capsule Preparation and Celebration
- Social Events including The Storyteller, All-Church Picnic, Sunday School Field Trips
- Focus on Children and Youth – Son-Shine Celebration, Youth Social Events, LYO Gathering

#### *Spirit's Sending Movement*

Eucharistic Ministers, Caring Connections, God's Work Our Hands, Teatime for Peace, Mitten Tree, Sunday School Service Projects, Men's Shelter Meals, Second Harvest Food Bank, Soul Shop Workshop, Quilts and Fidget Maps, Open Mic Growth

### **OPEN AGENDA**

Pr. Robin was thanked for her tireless support of the members and contributions she has made to our ministries.

Women were invited to bring friends to the May 9<sup>th</sup> Women's Health Event.

### **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL**

Council members were installed by Pastor Craig. Newly elected council members are Amy Babinski, Sally Balch, Joan Drobnak, Ron Kear, Dan Shell and Dave Covell. Continuing council members are Dania Beard, James (Jim) Dickey IV, Ron Filkill, Charlie Koch, Tom Splawski and Steve Zinram.

Newly elected Endowment Committee members are Jim Dickey and Doug Olson: members continuing are Dan Fronczak and Jim Heimbuch.



**LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron Kear, Secretary

## **MINUTES 2020 CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING – December 13, 2020**

**Meeting was called to order** at 11:15 AM by Steve Zinram, Congregational President. Meeting was virtual using Zoom.

**Opening Prayer** by Sally Balch

Approval of Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

President's Perspective

- Health & Safety
- Pastoral Call Process

2021 Operating Budget Perspective and Proposal

2021 Operating Budget Vote

Adjourn Meeting

The Lord's Prayer

The Agenda was approved by consent.

President's Perspective

- Health & Safety – Dave Covell highlighted recommendations of the H&S committee to suspend in-person worship and minimize face-to-face meetings. A review of recommendations is planned for early January.
- Vaccinations are starting in December and will be generally available to everyone in the spring. In the meantime, we'll continue to follow guidance from the H&S committee.
- Pastoral Call Process – The Call Committee has recommended a candidate. Information on the pastor will be distributed early in January prior to a "Meet & Greet" scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. A congregational meeting is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> to issue a call. We anticipate the new pastor would start April 1<sup>st</sup>.

2021 Operating Budget Perspective and Proposal

Jim Dickey reviewed key elements of our strategy that includes:

- Pastoral Call – approaching the end
- Engagement and Spiritual Commitment – key to our future
- Church Operations – digital technology improvements have been especially helpful for virtual worship during the pandemic
- Financial Foundation - is strong

**2021 Operating Budget Vote**

- 2021 Budget Proposal
  - Proposed budget is \$407,000 income, \$423,000 expenses and a shortfall of \$16,000. The shortfall is consistent with the investment schedule included in the Strategic Plan and approved by the congregation in 2018.
- 2021 Budget by Ministry
  - Ministry segment costs presented are similar to Pr. Craig's ministry distribution presented

last year

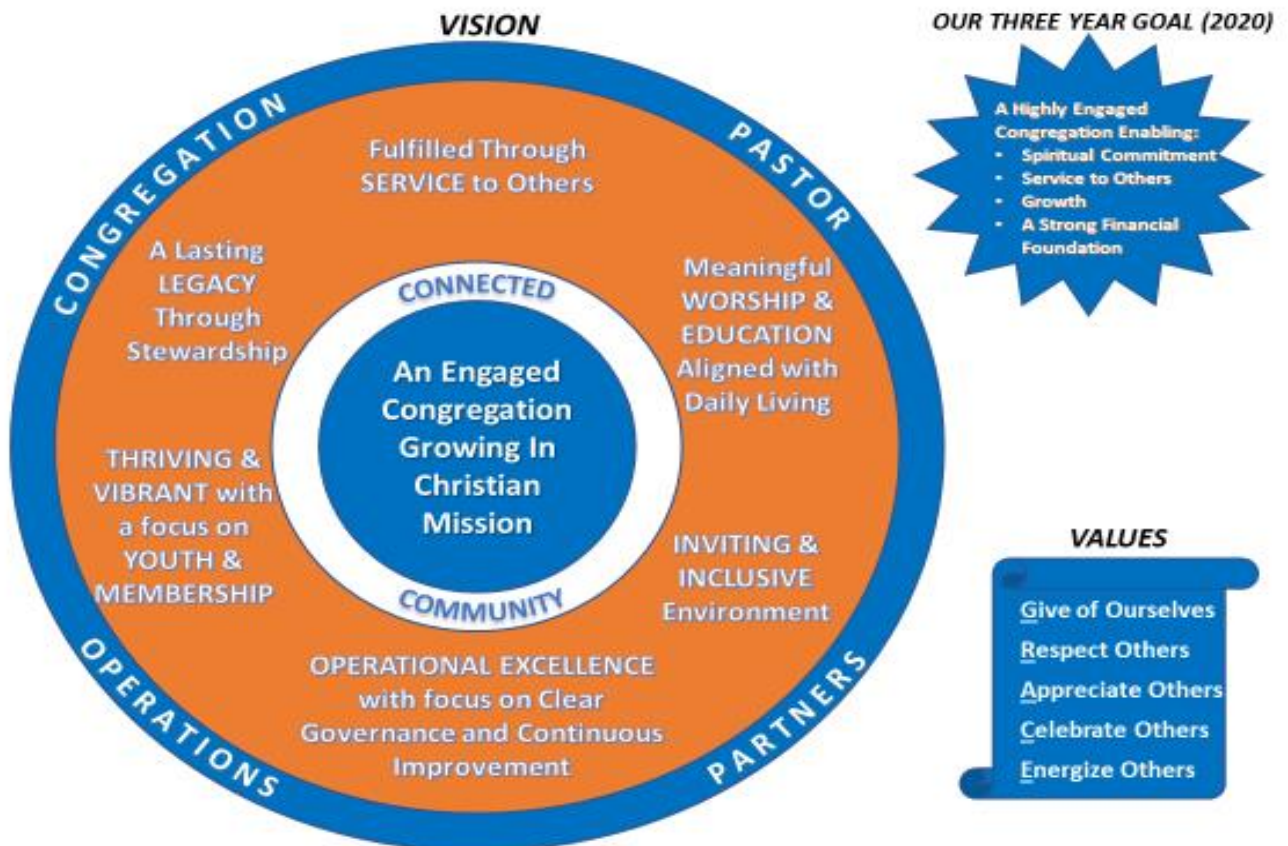
- Discussion and Vote
  - Several elements of the proposed budget were clarified in response to questions.
  - Ron Kear moved adoption of the recommended 2021 Operating Budget with projected expenses of \$423,000 and expected receipts of \$403,000. Second by Dave Covell. Motion passed without descent.

President's comments – Information on the new pastor will be distributed in early January including how you can view some sermons online. Thanks to everyone especially Megan for setting up this first-time digital meeting.

Adjourn: There being no other business; the Budget Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at approximately 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ron Kear

### Prince of Peace Vision: An Engaged Congregation Growing in Christian Mission



## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

2020 blessed us with the leadership from two wonderful interim Pastors, which means there are two parts to this report. One from Pastor Robin, and the other from Pastor Tom.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As your Interim Pastor from October 2018 – May 31, 2020, I write the first portion of the Pastor's contribution to the 2020 Annual Report feeling a mixture of joy at all that we shared, a heavy heart as I look at our struggle to adapt to pandemic realities in mid- March, and excitement as I see online all the creative ways in which the POP community has continued to gather for worship and to fulfill its mission in the community. A true story of resurrection in the making!

We began the year with some solid events in place and/or planned. We hosted the "Talk of a Lifetime," thanks to Busch Funeral Home, which attendees found to generate valuable conversation around end-of-life questions,

A Women's Health Event was planned for May, with several planning meetings taking place during the winter and great commitment by the Committee members, inspired by Julia Castell. By the time we closed the church in March, we had planned for a schedule, speakers, refreshments, registration, marketing, and collaboration with the Westlake Library. I hope that this exciting event becomes a reality in 2021 nor 2022.

Our Annual Meeting on February, planned as a Celebration! – included a slide show, statistics turned into stories, and a lively table discussion around POP signature events, themes, and goals. As a congregation, we concluded that we wanted to focus in particular in 2021 upon getting to know our neighborhood, and on our young adults and young families – strong groups who care deeply about the church but are not included in programming as much as they might be. Of course, we had no idea what was coming . . .

Although Judy Kazak was temporarily out of commission due to an injury suffered at Thanksgiving, Caring Connections continued its monthly luncheons and visits to members and friends at home, with me overseeing communications for cookie-baking and organization of calls and visits, and missing Judy's deft touch.

Judy's injury and absence also prevented us from properly celebrating her official retirement at the end of 2019. However, we were able to celebrate with her a bit later in the winter, before we shut down for Covid. Megan Harber joined us in a new role just as I was leaving, and it has been a great pleasure to get to know her, first as our Nursery Caretaker and then as our Jill-of-All-Trades. I can see from a distance that she brings joy and energy to her role.

I re-started the Pastoral Partners regular meetings in January. The Eucharistic Ministers for 2020 had been expertly organized in advance by Judy Kazak, as had the Blossom Hill services. Barb Fronczak graciously took over Blossom Hill for the time that we had left to us.

I want to take a moment here to thank Judy again for her long and distinguished service to POP as a volunteer and staff member. Many of the connections with and among members would not have happened, nor continued to happen, without her dedication to the congregation and her willingness to make visits, organize events and classes, and share her enthusiasm and Christian walk with others. POP has much to be grateful for in her loving presence.



In January, with Judy Kazak still on the mend, I began to take a more active role in direct pastoral care, mostly via calls, but also visits, to homebound members. As of January 29, there were sixteen people on her list. In late March, after the church closed, Judy and I came up with a list of about fifty. She divided that list of folks up among several volunteers to make regular contact with all of them, and I reached out to each of them by phone at least three times from March-May.

Worship and Music at the beginning of the year was focused on technical questions: Jerry Ackerman's desire to step down from preparing the slides after a long and illustrious career of ensuring that we were assisted in worship by our visuals, issues around sanctuary lighting, questions about a new camera, attempts to deal with the timing of, outreach to visitors at the building doorways, new training for ushers and greeters, narthex beautification, and signage.

We made extensive and exciting plans for Lent around the themes of Homelessness and Poverty. Sue Iceman was able to arrange the Portraits of the Homeless Display, with photographs borrowed from LMM and displayed through the public and sanctuary areas of the building. The Homeless Jesus Bench arrived and was placed by the parking lot entryway, along with a collection box for socks. We planned two Wednesday night events with Soup Suppers and speakers and organized a powerful set of Holy Week worship services. Altar Guild Dineen Terstage and Jan Daniels continued to outdo themselves with meaningful and beautiful sanctuary décor. We were able to fit in one of our Wednesday night events with an LMM speaker on "Chopping for Change" – our last indoor gathering as a congregation.

When we closed the church in mid-March, we, like so many other congregations, imagined a hiccup of a few weeks before we would all be back together again. As the weeks piled up, we did the following:

- Moved all of our services to YouTube
- Discovered that Ben Ubienski, our Technical Wizard, and Ian Faleer, our Choir Director, had secret and amazing skills in recording, mixing, and producing online services
- Updated all of our music copyright licenses so that we could be sure that our online presence is in full compliance with the law
- Recorded daily prayer and reflection services for Holy Week from Pastor's Robin's dining room, complete with feline guest. The bulletins and sermons (but not the cat) were mailed to our 20 or so homebound members and friends without internet access.
- Made an Easter Service recording that included several staff and members
- Rejoiced in several music offerings recorded by Organist Don Jackson, Band Leader Cindy Strieter, and band members and guest musicians

I wrote daily prayers for our Facebook page throughout the pandemic until my retirement, trying to help us pray for all the various groups in and out of the church affected by Covid. I met with the Confirmation Class through mid-March and continued to meet with the students on Zoon through May. Mary and I prepared all the materials for the summer Confirmation work – letters, schedules, art and essay assignments, meeting plans – to be taken on by the next Interim pastor. And I held one last Adult Bible Study evening class in May – on Zoom, of course.

I am so grateful to have had the privilege of serving Prince of Peace, and look forward, as always, to your next steps on the journey!

Blessings,

*Pastor Robin*

And now from Pastor Tom

Dear Friends,

Writing an annual report letter is normally pretty straightforward. A review of the previous year highlighting some strengths and growth areas and how ongoing challenges and opportunities will be addressed. My goal in writing this letter is to capture a picture of the previous, current, and anticipated ministry so that we have a mutual understanding of the direction of the congregation. Typically, new initiatives are a refinement of what the congregation is already doing.

Pastoral transitions are normally also rather predictable and straightforward. There is a process of self-study that allows the congregation to honestly and honorably close one chapter in ministry and prepare to write the next.

This past year has been neither simple nor straightforward. As Yogi Berra might have said, a once in a century pandemic doesn't happen every day. Every aspect of society has been altered in ways we are only beginning to recognize. Many mainline denominations have been in some measure of decline for the past 30 or more years. The past year has accelerated that decline dramatically. Like most small businesses, congregations have been on lockdown and many will not survive. For those congregations that do, it is not a matter of simply picking up the pieces and rebuilding as before; that would be attempting to put new wine in old wineskins.

Friends, we have survived! I appreciate the way the congregation recognized the need to focus attention on helping members stay engaged with one another and with the entire congregation. Maintaining a sense of community was a challenge when our normal means of relating were not available. The congregation paid attention to individuals and needs that might have gotten lost in the shuffle. Visits and cards from members and youth to shut-in members were a priority. There was creative use of warm weather in our outdoor gatherings...drive-in pizza, donuts, pancakes, and even fish. Your devotion to maintaining some sense of normalcy was most apparent in the development of virtual worship. I appreciate the involvement of members for readings, special music, Advent candle lighting devotions and creative use of media were used to keep the family together. We were all working together for a common goal. I thank you for that.

In about 6 weeks you will begin writing a new chapter in the story of Prince of Peace with Pastor Charlie. As I shared, most pastoral transitions, while unique, are fairly routine. Yours will be a generational opportunity to redefine, reshape, and refocus your understating of what it means to share the love of Jesus in word and deed. When Hurricane Andrew struck south of Miami in 1992 the devastation was unimaginable. The landscape had been swept clean. I was serving of the local Habitat board at that time and learned that many of the partner homes withstood the worst of the damage. The frame and foundation on which they were built held in the storm. You have withstood the storm this past year because the congregation has a solid foundation and frame; that is what the preceding years of ministry has provided.

You and Pastor Charlie have been given the rare opportunity to build on the past while not looking to the past. You are now writing the closing words of that chapter. When you read a book that draws you into the story, you can't wait to turn the page and see where the author will take things. Sometimes the story takes a plot twist you didn't anticipate. You have only hints as to what may come next.

There aren't any seminars, books or programs on how to reopen a congregation following a pandemic. You, Pastor Charlie, guided by the Holy Spirit get to write your own story. I can't imagine a more

challenging and exciting time to begin a new ministry together.

As you turn the page on this past year and prepare to begin writing, I have a thought and hope to offer. The church is not a beggar trying to survive another day, the church is called to carry and be the light of Christ's presence in the world. To paraphrase 2 Corinthians 2: 15-17: "We are not like so many peddlers of God's word; rather, we are the fragrance and aroma of Christ in the world." May yours be a sweet and inviting story.

Sincerely,

Pastor Henderson

## OFFICIAL PASTORAL ACTS 2020

### New Members-0

### Baptism-0

### First Communion-0

### Deaths/Funerals/Memorials

Joseph, Ken	03-20-2020
Metz, Don	06-18-2020
Siller, Mary	06-28-2020
Horvath, Doris	12-14-2020
Lauterbach, Kermit	12-26-2020

### Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

Alspach, Matthew	10-25-2020
Jagels, AJ	10-25-2020
Worsencroft, Xavier	10-25-2020

### Transfer/ Withdraw/Termination

Boor, Bill; Angela; Elizabeth; Anna; Clayton

### Marriages-0

Jesse and Kelsey Buhrman	9-12-2020
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### Average Sunday Attendance

\*prior to shut down, in-person attendance\*

Contemporary	90
Traditional	60





## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

To say the least, being president of Church Council this year has been quite a ride. It actually is somewhat of a blur. We started early last March with our first Council meeting. It was a pretty routine meeting except that under New Business, Dave Covell asked for a few minutes. He told us of a virus that was gaining ground and that we needed to be aware that this was more serious than just a "flu season." Within two weeks, I was working from home, church services had been moved online and we began having weekly Council meetings. The weekly meetings were necessary because new challenges arose that quickly. But as a congregation we met those challenges head on. And we did so for the entire year. As you read the various reports submitted with this document, keep in mind that as a congregation we pulled together and succeeded in so many ways. There's no way I could call out everyone and everything without inadvertently leaving something off the list.

I do want to take a moment on behalf of the congregation and thank our interim ministers. Pastor Robin and Pastor Tom have shepherded us through this process with their unique styles, insightful comments and Christian love. We have been blessed to have them be a part of our growth and preparation for a new senior pastor.

Many have sent notes of congratulations in concluding the Call process with the announcement of Rev. Charlie Woodward. What a journey we have been on for the last couple of years, but again we persevered, worked together and now are ready to embark on another journey. Martin Luther's words about hope have never meant more. In a few short weeks that hope will become reality. Let the next chapter of Prince of Peace Lutheran church begin.

Blessings,

Steve Zinram

President, Church Council

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	<b><i>Operating Fund Activity</i></b>			
		<b>Actual 2020</b>	<b>Budget 2020</b>	<b>Actual 2019</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
	General Operating Fund Giving	\$ 336,733	\$ 362,000	\$ 347,149
	Other Giving	22,136	28,000	83,317
	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 358,869</b>	<b>\$ 390,000</b>	<b>\$ 430,466</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>Pastor Costs</b>		<b>86,981</b>	<b>103,260</b>	<b>97,830</b>
	Includes housing, pension, health benefits, FICA			
<b>Staff Costs</b>		<b>180,256</b>	<b>191,755</b>	<b>181,510</b>
<b>Property Expenses</b>		<b>49,755</b>	<b>61,635</b>	<b>62,225</b>
<b>Office/Admin/Tech Expenses</b>		<b>26,962</b>	<b>39,800</b>	<b>29,587</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Other Ministry Expenses</b>		<b>17,588</b>	<b>30,550</b>	<b>26,318</b>
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>361,542</b>	<b>427,000</b>	<b>397,470</b>
	Net Results from Operating Activities	<b>\$ (2,673)</b>	<b>\$ (37,000)</b>	<b>\$ 32,997</b>

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

A big thank you goes to Teresa Peter, to Sally Balch, and to Tom Robinholt for all their support and help in this troubling year. In 2020 we started the year with our full complement of counters, but the COVID 19 pandemic forced us to slim down the counting teams and rely only on the head counters, who worked alone. Not the best option, but they were able to, not only count, but to do the entries into the Church Windows computer system as well.

God bless all the folks who volunteer their time to count the offerings on Monday mornings. Everything is based on your efforts. Shown below is this year vs last year.

<b>OPERATING FUND SUMMARY</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Units Pledged	87 For \$248,657	93 For \$257,422
Amount Received on Pledges	\$259,860	\$266,570
	105%	104%
Non-pledged Amount Received	\$58,916	\$60,487
Total Gifts	<b>\$318,776</b>	<b>\$327,007</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND SUMMARY</b>		
Units Pledged	39 For \$27,182	42 For \$30,434
Amount Received on Pledges	\$23,519	\$26,742
	87%	88%
Non-pledged Amount Received	\$2,690	\$4,481
Total Gifts	<b>\$26,209</b>	<b>\$31,223</b>
<b>HS YOUTH FUND</b>		
30 Units Pledged	30 For \$14,476	43 For \$16,962
Amount Received on Pledges	\$14,710	\$14,333
	102%	85%
Non-pledged Amount Received	\$2,955	\$5,539
Total Gifts	<b>\$17,665</b>	<b>\$19,872</b>
Special Matching Donation	0.00	\$45,000
Other Funds Received	\$76,123	\$85,972
Total Dollars Received	<b>\$438,773</b>	<b>\$509,074</b>
Endowment Donations	\$3,690	\$258,420

Dick Hardy  
Acting Financial Secretary

## **ALTAR GUILD**

The Prince of Peace Altar Guild prepares the worship space for all worship services, baptism, confirmation, wedding and funeral with proper liturgical paraments, banners, fine linens, preparation of communion, flower placement, candles and seasonal decorations. After services, our members clean and store all items for use throughout the year.

Traditionally, Altar Guild members work in teams of 2 or 3 people each month and together as one group for special decorating projects, with general meetings as needed. Friends and members of the congregation are invited to assist for Easter and Christmas decorating. In 2020, in person services were suspended during March, April, May and June due to COVID-19 restrictions. Limited in-person worship began in July but again was suspended in late November. Altar Guild members continued their work with limited seasonal decorating and preparations of the altar for recording of our services during COVID-19 restrictions. We are anxious to return to a more normal routine later in 2021. Altar Guild is a flexible group and we fill in for each other as needed.

During COVID-19 restrictions, communion distribution moved to the use of sealed, pre-filled water/juice sets. Members pick them up in the narthex before entering the sanctuary for use during the services. We also held two Communion Sets for home use pick up days just before Christmas.

Due to building capacity restrictions during the summer because of the COVID-19 virus, we were unable to hold our annual rummage sale. We are hoping that members have kept their treasures for donation to our sale in August, 2021.

We have been able to purchase some items used to enhance our worship with the proceeds of previous rummage sales:

- Replace oil sanctuary candle
- 4 Artificial Christmas trees
- Waterfall Lighting set used for water effect (Baptism of our Lord Sunday)

Funds available from the Ilene Hardy gift have given us the opportunity to obtain:

- Pentecost Banner
- 2 additional sets SafeFlame Flickering Handheld LED candles
- Christmas decorating supplies

We invite you to please consider joining this ministry. A great way to serve the Lord and really get to know other members. General meeting announcements can be found in the Peace Connections usually in Fall and early Spring.

Respectfully,

Dineen Terstage and Becky Kear,

(Members: Bev Braun, Judy Cuciak, Jann Daniels, Linda Gareau, Becky Kear, Fran Molnar, Mary Sheridan, Lois Smilor, Sue Stevens, Gloria Starr, Dineen Terstage, Bob Thompson, Cindy Zinram)



**Easter Altar**



**Easter Cross**



**Communion**  
**\*Our COVID-19 friendly communion set-up for in-person worship\***



**All Saints Day**





## Christmas



## Waterfall



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In reflecting about 2020, it is clear that there has never been a year quite like 2020 in our history at Prince of Peace. We began the year with our Christian Education program alive in ways we had not seen the previous few years. Our children were excited to go to class, many of our little ones running down the hallway with donuts in tow excited about attending class, being engaged and hearing and learning a new lesson. Christian Education was once again blessed with dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents to share God's word with our children; their enthusiasm continues to be contagious and present in all they do each Sunday.

The changes we made in 2019 with the structure of Sunday School continued in 2020; our third through sixth grade classes were combined and continue to focus on relationship building, engagement in service projects and bible study. As of January 2020, our Sunday School volunteers were as follows:

Sunday School Assistant	Barb Koch
Pre-Kindergarten-Kindergarten	Daniea Beard
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades	Kathy Kettler, Fran Molnar & Emily Saunders
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Chrissy Frey (service projects), John Bontempo (bible study)
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Matt Wenham
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Hilary Lucas
Substitute Teachers	Laurel Covell, Joan Drobnak, Becky Rowe, Riki Wilhelm

January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hilary Lucas, our Youth Director and I were able to attend the 2020 ELCA Extravaganza. The Extravaganza was held in Anaheim, California. Hilary and I were able to attend various workshops and network with numerous Youth and Christian Education Leaders across our country and beyond. We came back excited and ready to put into action many of the suggestions and ideas that were shared among those we met. Our pancake breakfasts were scheduled to continue and we were able to go tobogganing in February and to Sky Zone in March.

Soon after our event at Sky Zone, all of our plans and classes were halted by the Covid-19 national pandemic. Once school districts closed their doors, we followed suit in an effort to keep all of our children and families safe. The closing was abrupt with very little warning and the effort to keep Sunday School in tact was hampered by not knowing exactly what was happening in our community. We had never experienced such a closing and no back up plans for classes was available. Because families and children were completely overwhelmed our Christian Education program and youth programs merged. Hilary Lucas and I worked as closely as we could, collaborating on as many different events and activities as we could. We wanted to be a source of calm, comfort and caring for our Christian Education families as well as others.

The expectation was that the ending of our Sunday School classes would be temporary; two, three, maybe four weeks – we were sure at the time that we would be back after Easter on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Daniea Beard graciously began teaching the PreK-K Sunday School class virtually, and opened the idea of delivering Sunday virtually if needed.

At the beginning of April, reality was sinking in that we would not be returning prior to what would have been our last day of Sunday School in May. Keeping in touch with our Christian Education families was not only important – it became our main focus. We were struggling with the lack of what was 'normal', routines in our daily lives were gone for most and life was difficult for many people in our community – especially for those families with children who were no longer attending school and trying to adapt to

what life was at the moment and no one knew how long it would take for 'normal' to come back. Hilary and I created activity bags for Easter and personally delivered them to all of our Christian Education families with children in grades Pre-Kindergarten thru sixth. The bags were a hit and it was wonderful to see (from a distance) some of our children and families. While reflecting on how well this went, we decided to encourage a May/June service project by delivering a family activity and service project bag in May. Hilary and I began to brainstorm as to how we can engage our families and shared our thoughts about an "April Showers brings May Flowers" activity with the Christian Education committee. With their blessing, 29 such bags were delivered to our Christian Education and Youth families. Included in this project were coloring pictures to color and send to random members of Prince of Peace. 65 addressed and stamped envelopes were randomly placed in the bags so children could send their completed pieces of art to members of the church to brighten their spirits and let them know we were thinking of them. The bag also included seeds, dirt and a pot with a lesson on growth for families to do together. Additionally, 36 flowers were delivered to randomly selected members as gifts from POP Christian Education and Youth. Our members were more than grateful for the gesture of bringing flowers to them. Hilary and I were energized by the smiles and conversations we were able to have with those we saw. We continued to deliver flowers every chance we had and delivered graduation gifts to our high school seniors.

Toward the beginning of the school year, we sent Thinking of you cards to all of our children and Youth as they began the 2020-2021 school year. In the card was also a postcard to a Sunday School classmate (addressed and stamped) so each child/youth could send an encouraging word as the school year began. Hilary and I sent postcards to all members to personally invite them to attend Rally Day and later in August, we teamed up to host a Sundays at Seven Rootbeer/Crush float evening with treats for all who attended – including our four-legged friends.

Rally day was an uplifting day of happiness. More than one hundred people not only celebrated the beginning of our Christian Education year, but for the first time in a while we were able to see each other in person. Safe activities were planned with stations that allowed for social distancing. Chalk the Church and completing 125 care kits (bar soap, lotion, emery board, small lip balm, granola bar, chocolate/candy and a bottle of water) for essential workers at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities – those facilities with whom POP has relationships with to say thank you for all they were doing. The snack bar provided treats for everyone to enjoy.

At this point Sunday School was planned to be delivered virtually through December as COVID was a threat to everyone's safety. We began the year with an all grades gathering to ensure anyone who had questions or had problems connecting we could help. The schedule fell into place and our teachers were as follows:

Week #1	Pre-K, K, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades	Kathy Kettler, Fran Molnar & Emily Saunders
Week #2	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Chrissy Frey
Week #3	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Matt Wenham
Week #4	9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Hilary Lucas
	Substitute Teacher	Beverly Braun

Each week, Hilary and I attend Sunday School and are there in case teachers need assistance in any way. Megan Harbor has been coordinating Confirmation Class and working with Matt Wenham as he is teaching the historical part of Confirmation Class and Pastor is teaching the theoretical portion. Chrissy Frey is continuing her talks with our children about social issues and linking them to the bible as well as

encouraging and planning service projects children can do from home. Kathy Kettler and Fran Molnar have been coming to POP on the Sundays they teach to deliver virtual class. Classes are well attended; it is nice to see children in classes and engaged in the lessons.

During one Sunday School class Hilary asked the children what they miss most about coming to Sunday School and it should not have been a surprise when they answered “Donuts!” She also asked what everyone would like to see more of if we have to stay virtual and the answer was “service projects”. We took both answers to heart and decided to get creative...A “Donut Drive Thru”. On Reformation Sunday the Donut Drive Thru became reality. Those who attended the service (that included confirmation) and those who chose to drive thru were able to select the donut(s) of their choice along with a hot cup of coffee, cider or Cocoa and enjoy them at their leisure. As we were enjoying our morning distributing the donuts and hot beverages the idea of “The Pancake Project” came to be.

In an effort to continue service projects it was asked of POP members to drop off unwanted t-shirts and as usual, our members dropped them off by the bags full. By November we had plenty of t-shirts to upcycle and create dog toys. The Youth sponsored event had families at POP and at home making the toys that were donated to Friendship APL in Elyria. This was the month that “The Pancake Project” also became reality. We were approved for a Thrivent Action Card for supplies and food, POP and community members were able to pre-order a pancake breakfast and pick it up via drive thru at the church. Youth and member volunteers coordinated a morning of fun for all. A free will offering was collected and proceeds will be used to purchase needed supplies for future Christian Education/Youth service projects.

In December we had our culminating event, one tradition we made sure we did not miss this year! Our “Happy Birthday Jesus” Party has been an annual event for years; Kathy Kettler, Fran Molnar and Emily Saunders have hosted this event for quite a while. Party hats, plates, napkins, noise makers, candy and other treats were delivered to each family in Pre-K thru second grade. We had 11 families participate which included 21 children. We had numerous adults - our teachers, parents, Hilary and myself. One of the most heartwarming things I have seen this year was when some of our older children requested a party bag so they could also be part of the festivities. It is a sentiment to how much this party means to our children and how the memory is held close to them over the years.

Overall, 2020 was a year of learning, sacrifice, in many ways’ loss, reflection, appreciation, love and a reset in ways we are not even aware of yet. I am proud of our Prince of Peace family, and I am reminded daily of how blessed we are. Many of you received a packet in the mail detailing our Christian Education/Youth plans after 2020. Thank you for your continued support as we create and develop our program and events. We hope to see you in person soon and in the meantime, may God continue to bless us with health, love, comfort and compassion for others. May He also continue to bestow his blessings upon us as we grow in his Word, serve others as he has taught us and continue to thrive as the faith community God created us to be. It is a true privilege to serve as the Christian Education Coordinator for Prince of Peace.

In Faith and Service,

Beverly Braun



## **COMFORT QUILTERS**

The Comfort Quilters are in the fifteenth year of assembling quilts. We use donated and personally purchased fabric and sheets, as well as purchased quilt batting to construct the quilts. We make quilts ranging from standard bed size to lap size. There are a core group of six women and another five who come as they are able to assemble the quilts. In a normal year we are able to complete between 120 and 150 quilts. This year, due to Covid19, we were only able to meet for a few months. In that time we made 27 quilts. We suspended in March.

This year the quilts were donated to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Center in Hough which serves homeless and families in crisis. They were extremely grateful.

Again, in a normal year, we would have displayed the quilts in church and had them blessed. This year, that was not possible.

When life returns to normal, meetings will be held the first and third Monday of the month at 1p.m., until 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome anyone who is willing to help cut, pin, assemble and knot the quilts. Sewing skills are not necessary.

This is truly a rewarding ministry! We use donated fabric, get to spend a few hours together and help comfort those in need. Please come join us!

We are grateful to Sharon Olson who began this ministry.  
Becky Wagoner

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COORDINATOR**

During the months of January and February, 2020, the various ministries of Congregational Care continued to meet or conduct services at Westlake Village, Arden Court and Bickford of Rocky River. I had retired effective December 31, 2019, so Pastor Robin served as chairperson for Pastoral Partners and Caring Connections. Barb Fronczak led the worship services at Blossom Hill.

In March, I approached Pastor Robin to see if there was anything, I could do to assist her in staying in touch with the members of the congregation. I set up a calling committee made up of 5 people to contact members of the congregation to see if there was anything the church could do for them. I worked with Pastor Robin to identify people to call. We wanted to find out how they were doing, if they were able to watch the services on line, their thoughts on returning to in-person worship and if they wanted to receive the Peace Connections. I send the Peace Connections to 15 people and will continue to do so as long as needed. We have continued to call people and now have 8 callers.

In May, Pastor Robin asked if I would do some Congregational Care on a contract basis. Some of the things I have done are (1) generated a list of people in the congregation or relatives of members who are educators, medical people, first responders and essential workers. These people were recognized in the Peace Connections. (2) generated a list of people who have not returned to worship and sent them a "Thinking of You" card. (3) uploaded the Time and Talent lists to Google Drive so that the various ministry chairs could access it and see who is part of their ministry. (4) delivered the goodie bags made by the Sunday School students at Rally Day to the North Olmsted Police and Fire departments, the Westlake Police and Fire Departments and the North Ridgeville Fire Department. (5) delivered a poinsettia donated by Barb and Dan Fronczak to Dolph and Judy Rolik.

**Pastoral Partners** meet once a month on the fourth Thursday. The members are Mary Meadows, Gail Pogue, Barb Fronczak, Marge and Jim Jaracz and Tom and Lora Robinholt. The pastoral partners relationship is a one-on-one meeting with a member of the congregation as needed. Meetings this year have been limited because of the lock down situations at the various residences.

**Caring Connections** -We resumed Caring Connection cookie deliveries in July. We were able to deliver cookies to the various residences but had to leave them at the front desk. We have a few care receivers who live in their homes but we leave the cookies at their front door. In December, we delivered poinsettias to them. I have a list of people who are willing to bake the cookies for us...

**Congregational Visits** - Because of COVID 19 regulations, the pastor(s) visited members as needed, either in their homes or in the hospital if possible.

**Greeting Card Ministry** - Sandy Herren is responsible for sending out cards to members or their families. I contact her with the information and she sends the cards. We send get well, thinking of you and sympathy cards as well as birthday cards to the Caring Connection care receivers and members of the committee.

**Blossom Hill Ministry** - Blossom Hill is a home for approximately 15 severely mentally and physically challenged adults, located in Westlake. There are five POP members who provide this service on the third Sunday of each month. We have not had a service since February but each month I make a card for each resident for their rooms. We also give each resident a card for their birthday.

Judy Kazak  
Interim Congregational Care Coordinator

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee members for 2020 were Jim Dickey, Dan Fronczak, Jim Heimbuch, Doug Olson, and Sally Balch (Council Representative). Jesse Buhrman (Finance Committee Representative) and the Senior Pastor are non-voting members. The committee is required to meet at least twice per year. The committee met seven times plus one email vote on a grant application.

The Prince of Peace General Endowment Fund and the Prince of Peace Benevolence Endowment Fund were established to strengthen and extend God's mission through the Lutheran Church, reaching out in response to human need by making grants to promote and support Christian religion, Christian charity, Christian service including small group ministry, Christian worship, and Christian education for everyone. Annual grants are allocated to these purposes as the Endowment Committee determines. No grants made from the General Endowment Fund can be used for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church normal operating expenses. The congregation may request and the Endowment Committee may choose to make grants for special projects of the congregation, capital improvements of the congregation, and for other purposes. Grants from the Prince of Peace Benevolence Endowment Fund cannot be made to the congregation for any purpose and are made to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to reach out to others.

The endowment funds grow in size from gifts throughout the year of cash, stock, bonds, and investment returns. Additional gifts to the church from wills or memorials designated for an endowment fund enable significant growth. We have seen the impact these can make in the past few years. If an individual would like the funds to be used for a specific purpose, the individual should provide that direction in writing. For more information, please contact a member of the committee for guidance. We would be happy to work with you to help you meet your intentions.

The Prince of Peace General Endowment Gifts are invested at Fidelity. At 12/31/19, the valuation of the portfolio was \$393,071.35 (65.49% in cash). During 2020, \$3,690 was gifted for General Endowment with \$3,640 direct from 9 members and \$50 as a memorial from 1 member. We also closed out the account at Thrivent and moved that money to Fidelity. We also began investing some of the cash into equities.

Grant money available for 2020 was set at \$7,500. Projects submitted were: (1) Women's Wellness Workshop by Beth Cornick for \$800 which was withdrawn because of Covid19, (2) Three cameras and a tripod to record services during Covid19 by Dan Shell for \$727.97=approved, (3) Chardon Polka Band performance during unity service on 5/24/20 by Cindy Strieter for \$900 which was reduced to \$400 because video was used instead of live presentation=approved, (4) Second Harvest Food Bank by the Endowment Committee to match \$3,000 provided by congregation members who supported this project=approved, (5) LMM for \$1,000 by Shawn Merhaut to match first \$1,000 given by congregation as a parting gift requested by Pastor Robin in lieu of a personal gift to her=approved. (6) Advancing UPCA by Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger and David Lamar to partially provide funds for a video and professional posters to connect with incoming students at Cleveland's three major universities for \$1,000=approved, (7) LMM by Endowment Committee to fill a need for \$450=approved, (8) Second Harvest Food Bank by Endowment Committee to fill a need for \$450=approved, and (9) Gift Cards to selected families in need in the Scranton School District by Endowment Committee for \$450=approved. Thus, we utilized \$7,477.97 of the \$7,500 available! We owe the church general fund \$827.97 for grants paid out before we received our check book from Fidelity.

Dividends of \$4,530.45, Long Term Capital Gains of \$4,280.50, and Short-Term Capital Gains of \$165.82 were declared by the funds and reinvested in the Money Market Fund. Total valuation as of 12/31/20 was \$449,926.11 (16.23% in cash).

The Prince of Peace Benevolence Endowment Fund consists of 40% of the proceeds from the sale of St. Andrew's building that were to be invested at Thrivent with the interest to be used for tuition support of Lutheran seminary students. Initial proceeds from the down payment were received in 2013 and quarterly principal receipts continue over a fifteen-year period. Total valuation as of 12/31/19 was \$137,731.09. During 2020 \$5,638.11 was received for the first three quarters as principal payments. The Endowment Committee forwarded \$6,000 to Trinity Lutheran Seminary as a scholarship for the 2020/2021 academic year. The recipient was Miss Morgan Walker. Also \$3,966.88 in Long Term Capital Gains and \$1,956.68 in Dividends were reinvested in their respective funds. Total valuation as of 12/31/20 was \$154,224.35.

Each year, our procedures and guidelines allow us to grant between 4% and 6% of the average value of the fund(s) over the previous twelve quarters. Grant amounts are subject to market performance and are determined at our first meeting of the year and announced at the annual meeting.

The Legacy Fund was established late in 2019 and is administered by the Endowment Committee. It is included in the concept of a "Time Capsule" as a gift to the congregation in 2039 which would be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prince of Peace. The Legacy Fund oversight purpose, guidelines and procedure were formalized by the Endowment Committee, five members were selected to form an initial Advisory Committee to aid the Endowment Committee in selecting and evaluating various investments. One meeting was held in 2020. \$1,330 member gifts were transferred to an account at Fidelity late in December 2019 with \$0.05 interest added to bring the valuation at year end 2019 to \$1,330.05. Contributions from 53 members during the year totaled \$8,794 of which \$8,691 was transferred to Fidelity. \$30.71 in Dividends and \$12.22 in Long Term Capital Gains were reinvested in their respective equities. \$1.62 in a Dividend was reinvested in the Money Market Fund. Valuation at 12/31/20 was \$10,693.75.

As of 12/31/20 the total value of the two Endowment Funds and the Legacy Fund is \$614,844.21 and are summarized in the following table.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Beginning Value (1/1/20)</b>	<b>Funds In</b>	<b>Funds Out / Grants Paid</b>	<b>Investment Return</b>	<b>Ending Value (12/31/20)</b>
General Endowment	\$393,071	\$3,690	(\$7,478)	\$60,643	\$449,926
Benevolence (Seminary) Endowment	\$137,731	\$5,638	(\$6,000)	\$16,855	\$154,224
Legacy Fund	\$1,330	\$8,691	\$0	\$673	\$10,694
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$532,132</b>	<b>\$18,019</b>	<b>(\$13,478)</b>	<b>\$78,171</b>	<b>\$614,844</b>

Portfolios for each of the three funds as of 12/31/20 are shown on the church website under "Resources" and then "Endowment" We are grateful to the members of Prince of Peace for their tremendous generosity and support.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee in 2020 consisted of Sally Balch, Dick Hardy, Jesse Buhrman, Bill Beard and Charlie Koch. The Committee was primarily concerned with the giving and expense levels in 2020 as a result of the impact of the pandemic, including the cancelation of in person services. It was also involved in the preparation of the compensation and benefit package for the Pastor candidate. This package was also a key element of the 2021 budget the Committee presented to the Church Council for review.

The Committee approved the disbursement of Thrivent Choice Funds designated to POP by members to support the congregation's fund raisers for the Second Harvest Food Bank (\$1,500) and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries (\$1,500). It was great that those funds were available to assist these wonderful ministries during these very trying times. Thanks to all who contribute via Thrivent Choice to POP!

Charlie Koch serves as the Treasurer and Dick Hardy serves as the Financial Secretary for the church. Mary Humer performs the church's bookkeeper and payroll duties. We were saddened to have Sue Icemen leave us in April as she supported Dick for the various functions related to the Financial Secretary role. However, several people including Teresa Peter, Tom Robinholt and Sally Balch helped fill in as we went through an unprecedented year in 2020.

Thank you, Mary, Dick, Teresa, Sally, Tom and all the counters for your diligent work and dedication to maintaining the integrity of the financial systems at POP. Your attention to detail gives us confidence in the Church's financial accountability. Thanks to Dick Hardy for leading our Stewardship Campaign this year along with Ron Filkill. The Committee thanks John Cuciak for his continued oversight of the facility and other expense areas.

Thank you for your financial support of Prince of Peace in 2020 – a year like none other.

Charlie Koch

Treasurer

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

POP members Sue Hesse, Jann Daniels, Ron Kear, Tom Robinholt, Dick Hardy, Roger Hauser and Julia Castel worked with Lutherans throughout Cleveland and completed NEW houses for 3 families in the Buckeye/Shaker neighborhood who are now homeowners excited to have permanent homes for the first time.

Three additional homes in the same street are under way and will be completed this spring.

Other Habitat teams are working side by side with the Lutheran team and together, a total of 10 new Habitat built homes will completely change Grandview Avenue. In 2021, three and maybe four homes will be built by the Lutheran Team to provide safe, affordable homes for additional families.

POP members also help raise money to buy construction materials at the annual Habitat walk that is open to anyone. It was a great year sharing our blessing to make a big difference with families that have a safe home for the first time.



*If you would like to help build a new home for a family in need, join us on any Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday between 8:30 and 3:00. Call Ron Kear (899-0928) if you have questions or need directions. Everyone is welcome regardless of your building skill*

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The marketing and communication manager provides leadership to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church's marketing and communications efforts both with members of our congregation as well as with the community around us. Also, engages with the Prince of Peace committees to identify existing programs and activities to engage members and new visitors, and to support these events through targeted promotion and publicity.

### **In 2020 we continued to grow our digital reach via social media, YouTube and website:**

- In 2020, Prince of Peace was searched via Google over 53,000 times.
- At the end of 2020 there were 313 Facebook "Page Followers". In 2020, had over 43,000 'Daily Reach Posts' (which is the number of people who had any of our Page's posts enter their screen. Posts include statuses, photos, links, videos and more (Unique Users)).
- At the end of 2020, we had 77 YouTube subscribers and had 8,589 total views on our YouTube channel.

### **This year's initiatives included:**

- Designed Lenten brochures and newsletters as well as promoted our Lenten programming (Ash Wednesday, LMM's Portraits of Homelessness, Homeless Jesus Bench, Lenten Suppers and Holy Week).
- Portraits of Homelessness and Homeless Jesus Bench were both promoted in local newspaper/online media.
- Created an online worship website page, online bulletins, and promoted online worship services on social media.
- Online worship is promoted weekly on social media and Westlake Patch.
- Promote online donations using social media, worship bulletins and Peace Connections.
- LMM Donations for Pr. Robin – Promoted donations for LMM on behalf of Pr. Robin's retirement.
- Sunday's at 7:00 pm! – Promote biweekly Sunday gathering and service.
- WWTF Podcast – Worked with Evan Saunders and Ben Ubienski to help promote the launch of a biweekly "Wrestle With the Faith" Podcast.
- Profile Communications – Began publishing *Profile Communication*, an article written and submitted by members. Another way for members/friends of POP to connect and share what's been happening in their lives
- 
- GWOH – Worked with Shawn Merhaut to promote this year's GWOH month using website, social media, Peace Connections, Westlake Patch, submitted press releases to various news outlets.



- Rally Day – Promoted Rally Day, Loaves and Fishes Dinner, GWOH collections that took place on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Prince of Peace Blessing Box – Promoted on our website, social media, Peace Connections. Article published in *The Villager Newspaper*, September 17, 2020 issue
- Stewardship Fall Festival – Began promoting the October 17<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Fall Festival. Submitted to various local news outlets, Westlake Patch.
- Promoted various Christian Education and Youth activities:
  - October Donut Drive Thru
  - October Youth Bonfire
  - Virtual BINGO held in November
  - Service Project – Shelter Pups
  - November Pancake Project (published announcement in *The Villager Newspaper*, November 12, 2020 issue)
  - Silent Night where members and friends of POP stepped outside their homes on Christmas Eve evening to sing Silent Night together
  - “Happy Birthday Jesus” Celebration.
- Promoted ‘Commitment Sunday’ which was held on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Season of Advent Daily Videos. Collected videos from Prince of Peace members who volunteered to record a daily Advent prayer and candle lighting. The daily videos were posted on the POP website and various social media platforms from November 30, 2020 through Christmas Day.
- Promoted and helped coordinate the “Carlson Boots and Socks for Christmas”, using the website, social media, Peace Connections, Westlake Patch, published an announcement in *The Village Newspaper* on November 23, 2020.
- Promoted and helped coordinate this year’s version of “Scranton Mitten Tree. The donations were able to provide \$220 gift cards for 22 families including 31 children.
- Promoted Christmas Eve Online Worship Service in Peace Connections, Westlake Patch, social media and website. Total of 268 YouTube views.

**Follow us on social media:**

- [www.facebook.com/princeofpeacewestlake](https://www.facebook.com/princeofpeacewestlake)
- [twitter.com/popwestlake](https://twitter.com/popwestlake)
- [www.instagram.com/princeofpeacewestlake/](https://www.instagram.com/princeofpeacewestlake/)
- YouTube.com princeofpeacewestlake

**Visit our website:** [www.princeofpeacewestlake.org](http://www.princeofpeacewestlake.org)

## **MEMORIALS**

In 2020 memorial gifts were received in memory of Ken Joseph, Jack Uber and Reverend Kert Lauterbach. Memorial gifts in 2020 totaled \$315 with another \$50 designated to the Endowment Fund, and \$20 to the Anita Frantz Memorial Account. The Memorial account had a starting balance of \$6,746 and an ending balance of \$7,041 for 2020. Sally Poirer continues to serve as the memorial chairperson sending thank you notes to the donors.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP - POP BUDS AND SUDS**

### **POP MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

The Prince of Peace Men's Fellowship Group has been around for several years. Monthly meetings were held for many years but currently it is inactive.

Several evening fellowship programs were held in the past. Evening programs included a Captain's baseball game, several "Cup and Conversation" meetings, a book study/discussion and a health department review of relief efforts in the hurricane areas. We had a fishing and fellowship outing and plan the second annual in 2021 if possible.

The Group had been involved in helping sponsor the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner which includes the dinner and some fun and games for the whole family.

Efforts to include all ages of men along with some family and friends' events are being made. Also, thoughts of various programming themes and days and times to help include as many men as possible of all ages and interests. This Group is currently inactive awaiting some new leadership and interest in having events. We hope with the engagement of Pastor Charlie that some things can be explored in the future.

### **POP BUDS AND SUDS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Another group of POP men from the church have created a group called "Buds and Suds". The group started in 2013 and meets every other month or so at Arturo's in North Olmsted or other locations. The goals of the group are a combination of fellowship, fundraising for the youth and outreach. Buds and Suds also sponsors special events for individuals, couples and families. These include the annual golf outing (not held in 2019 and 2020) to support the youth, picnics at the Cleveland Yacht Club and Brown's tailgate parties. We will send blasts through email and text messages, mention it in the Peace Connection and use other publicity. We post information on the bulletin board/mirror in the education wing hallway and have sign-up sheets in the narthex when events are planned. The preferred way it is spread is through good old fashioned "word of mouth". If you are interested, talk to any member and come join us.

We received some exciting news for 2021 that may include boating events, fishing, visits to the islands in Lake Erie and other interesting ideas.

Any ideas, suggestions and participation are welcome. The contacts for the groups are John Cuciak at (216) 906-3219 or [johncuc99@gmail.com](mailto:johncuc99@gmail.com) and others members such as Dave Covell, Dan Fronczak, Evan Saunders, Jesse Buhrman and T.J. Worsencroft.

## ***John M. Cuciak***

John M. Cuciak

## **ORPHAN MEDICAL NETWORK INTERNATIONAL – OMNI**

United in faith and love, OMNI is privileged to continue in partnership with Prince of Peace, bringing help, hope, health, and the promise of a brighter future to the children of Zambia. OMNI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to sustained improvements in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia, Africa. OMNI works together with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to provide medical care, education, and community support to some of the world's most vulnerable and impoverished children.

The OMNI Child Sponsorship Program is a lifeline that provides the life-changing necessities of a nutritious daily meal, clean water, a quality education, books, school supplies, and medical care. For many of the children, the meal at the OMNI School is the only one they receive each day. Many Prince of Peace members have joined in the sponsorship program to provide these fundamental needs. Only half of the OMNI School students have a sponsor, and more sponsors are still urgently needed. Child sponsorship remains only \$1 per day.

The OMNI George School continues to flourish despite a temporary shutdown for the pandemic. Over 330 students, grades 1-9, now attend the OMNI School. Although the pandemic affected everything from daily classes to the national examination test, the students are healthy and safe.

OMNI's major fundraising event continues to be the Bluz Over Africa Benefit, but this year we held the event on Zoom. We kept with many of our favorite traditions, such as the Wine Grab and the closing song 'Amazing Grace' by Colin Dussault's band. This year's benefit generated a net profit of over \$28,000 for the OMNI mission in Zambia.

Work continues on a new project for the Gender-Based Domestic Abuse Shelter. The first of its kind in the country, the center will provide a refuge for abused and battered families seeking to escape from the violence and start a new life through education and counseling.

Thank you, one and all, for the continued support and enthusiasm for this life-sustaining mission.  
Jon Wilhelm

## OUTREACH

Needless to say, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March resulted in a disruption in our outreach activities. Our outreach goal has always been to have contact with people outside of our Prince of Peace family and communicate Christ's gospel.



Our Coffee House & Open Mic has been our continuing outreach monthly event but was put on hold. Our Coffee House was started in 2013 so we were just about to start our 8th year! Since the start, over 100 musicians have performed and many have become "regular performers" and friends. Here is the first event flyer. We hope to resume this event sometime in 2021!

Another 2020 outreach initiative was aimed at increasing contact with the people living near the church. This was to include nearby assisted living facilities and the development with many homes located directly behind the church property. The first opportunity was to provide an invitation to attend Easter service. The plan included distributing an invitation to each home or facility and the placement of an invitation banner on church property near the street access to the development. The materials were

ordered and obtained but not used since the service was cancelled. The invitation materials had the 2020 Easter date but will be somehow revised and used at the next Easter service opportunity in 2021 or 2022.

Hopefully 2021 will bring a return to more normal worship togetherness and provide new opportunities to reach out to others in Christian love and fellowship!

Phil Sprague

## **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

The Prayer Chain consists of 33 prayer partners who pray for specific requests that generally originate from the church office or directly from PoP members and prayer chain partners. They are then passed along to each partner in the chain via email. In 2020, the prayer chain received approximately 155 prayer requests for members of our congregation, along with their family and friends. We rejoice in God's grace, mercy, comfort, and healing powers.

If you are interested in becoming a prayer partner, please contact Sue Hosler at: [suehosler@yahoo.com](mailto:suehosler@yahoo.com) (440-382-4777) or Gail Pogue at: [poguega@aol.com](mailto:poguega@aol.com) (440-835-3871) for further information or to add your name to the chain. This is a very easy and rewarding way to volunteer some of your time, since you are able to do it at your convenience in your own home. Whenever you are requesting prayers for yourself or others, please call the church office or either chairwoman.

Sue Hosler (Chairwoman)

Gail Pogue (Co-chairwoman)

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee is responsible for maintenance and improvements of the congregation's property. Our Sextant, James Arrigo and his wife Lisa, perform routine cleaning, maintenance and the set-up preparation for events and activities. The Property Committee members and other volunteers assist with special projects as well as the routine duties.

Some of the accomplishments this past year include:

- Regular cleaning, trash removal, mowing and snow removal.
- Covid-19 requirements concerning restricting building use and cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Changes were implemented in accordance with state and federal guidelines and it will continue into 2021 as the vaccines help along with the reduction of infections and deaths.
- Pollinator garden in three traffic islands and by building with James, Lisa, Amy and Marie.
- Landscaping maintenance and improvements by James & Lisa instead of outside contracting.
- Snow removal and salting services were continued with Yard Smart, Inc.
- Improvements to the outside lighting. LED lighting is being implemented as much as possible.
- Three sections of roof replacement, repairs, gutter cleaning, caulking and sealing and other services.
- Fire alarm system inspections of the system and the system for the kitchen vent hood.
- Continuing contract with an IT company to drastically improve computers, information systems, wiring and equipment as needed. They are in charge of support and documentation. New VoIP phone system was installed. WOW is still our internet provide along with one phone line. Fire alarm system dialing was switched to VoIP line and a backup cellular line.
- Planning and documentation for a capital budget reserves study is being accumulated. Funding and stewardship will be developed as a result of the planning. It is currently being tied into the time capsule developments.
- A clean up of the woods and picnic areas continues to be performed as well as maintaining the Barb Raynoha memorial swing and plaque.
- We are still in the process of repairing the balcony and stairs at the rear of the sanctuary. It may be redesigned for better use. It is a part of the emergency access for ingress and egress.
- Assistance with the maintenance and use of the church bus and service wagon trailer and registrations.
- Planning and maintenance of the western end of the property including the field and woods.
- Changes and improvements to the building and garage as needed.
- Working with the Operations Manager in improving and documenting our work.

James coordinates with the City of Westlake for fire alarm, hood suppression system and code inspections the fire and smoke alarm maintenance with our contractors and elevator inspections and maintenance.

Landscaping planning and work are progressing in different phases with volunteer help as well as using outside contractors. The pollinator garden was done with help from a regional college program.

Grounds maintenance includes spring and fall clean up, the upkeep of our rustic woods area and chapel, the outside event and concert areas, leaf pickup, tree and branch disposal and many other efforts.

Thanks to all who help with setup and cleanup for our various events. Your help makes all of our activities and events better.

Please let us know of any ideas, suggestions, compliments or criticisms. Please email John Cuciak at [johncuc99@gmail.com](mailto:johncuc99@gmail.com) or leave us a note. John's cell phone number is (216)906-3219.

John Cuciak-Property Chair, Ronald Kear and Leonard Skulina and others-Members

## SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

### Prince of Peace Social Ministry Report 3/2020-2/2021

**Committee Members: Laurie Green, Dick Hardy, Judy Kazak, Shawn Merhaut, Diane Merhaut, Tom Splawski, Bob Thompson, Megan Harber, Sue Iceman**

With an unexpected turn of events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 brought many challenges and changes for Social Ministry at Prince of Peace. While it seems like so long ago, we were fortunate to start our year with the LMM Portraits of the Homelessness on our campus from February 26<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> and the Homeless Jesus bench from March 9<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>. With the church closing for the pandemic, the portraits were highlighted via social media and the Homeless Jesus bench all provided us an opportunity to take a drive during quarantine. Rather than letting the pandemic halt our opportunities to serve, as expected our Congregation refused to let it be a barrier to helping others and doing God's work! While we may not have been able to volunteer in person or gather together as usual, we were able to help so many people in need through your generosity and dedication to others! In addition to all of you, none of this work could've been accomplished without the support of the POP staff (Sue, Mary, Megan, Lisa, James, Judy, Pastor Robin, and Pastor Tom)! While hopeful for the coming year we will continue to evaluate opportunities to serve as things come forward so stay tuned to the Peace Connection and other church communications!

<http://www.princeofpeacewestlake.org/social-ministries>

### Projects/Accomplishments 2020

- **LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY HOMELESS MEN'S SHELTER, 2100 E. LAKESIDE, CLEVELAND (Shawn Merhaut/Tom Splawski):** While normally we would participate in at least two Prepare and Serve events down at the shelter unfortunately COVID prevented us from serving in person. Rather than cancel our March 2020 event we used both Souper Bowl and Social Ministry funds donated by all of you to purchase food to fulfill our commitment to the men (see picture below). Yearlong donations of clothing and supplies were delivered to 2100 Lakeside. We continued our "Socks and Boots for Christmas" initiative which was renamed in honor of the Carlsons who started this ministry years ago. We provided **47 pairs of boots, 144 pairs of socks, 5 pairs of underwear, 1 pair of gloves, many articles of clothing.** We also included LMM in our GWOH event this year (see below).
  - **As a special ministry and parting gift in honor**

Thank You to All Our Prince of Peace Social Ministry Volunteers!



#### Weekly News from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry

##### Community Steps Up in Time of Need

As Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry continues to make necessary adjustments to keep our clients, staff, volunteers, service partners and others safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, our community is coming forward to help. Some of our treasured volunteers are bringing sunshine during a time of challenge.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake was scheduled to provide and serve a meal next week at our Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside. LMM has made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend volunteering and external visitors at agency sites out of an abundance of caution, but Prince of Peace wasn't letting that stand in the way of providing meals to our residents.



The regular group of volunteers from Prince of Peace asked how they can still be of help, despite restrictions that are in place. While they love making homemade meals for residents, they will be providing pre-packaged food from a local grocer to feed the men a nutritious meal. It will be sent with just as much love as the congregation always gives. The shelter residents are an important part of the church's community outreach, and they care very much about continued support in this time of challenge.

For more information or to coordinate a donation for the Men's Shelter, please contact Lydia Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator, at [lbaily@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:lbaily@lutheranmetro.org).



of Pastor Robin, we also initiated a Donation Drive for LMM culminating in July with a grand total of \$11,246.94 raised (including matching gifts from Endowment, Social Ministry, and Thrivent Choice Dollars).



- GODS WORK OUR HANDS (Judy Kazak, Shawn Merhaut, Megan Harber):**

Again, due to the COVID Pandemic we took a different approach with GWOH this year evolving from a day of service to a month of giving with a focus of

“Where can we serve? Close to

home...near...far...and anywhere!” We focused efforts for the month of September on ministries

near and dear to all of us: Second Harvest Food Bank, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries (Women’s Re-Entry and 2100 Lakeside Men’s Shelter), and OMNI. Final donations included:

- Second Harvest Food Bank: **401 lbs of food**
- Women’s Re-Entry: **410 pairs of women’s socks, 10 umbrellas, 46 health/beauty products, 49 toiletry kits (donated by Christian Education)**
- 2100 Lakeside Men’s Shelter: **165 pairs of men’s socks, 153 pairs of men’s underwear**
- OMNI Shoes for Students: **\$7015.00** (\$4015 received and \$3000 matching from Zambia Mission Fund)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Wherever God is calling...our hands are ready to do God's Work!**  
**Let's work together for God's Work Our Hands Sunday...Month 2020!**

COVID-19 has impacted us all and our capacity to come together to serve is limited. While GWOH Sunday is September 13<sup>th</sup>, let's dedicate the month of September to GWOH service! See below for all the opportunities to serve and watch the Peace Connection for the "focus of the week." Will be collecting donations for all ministries throughout the month and plan to celebrate on October 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Where can we serve??**  
**Close to home?? Near?? Far?? Anywhere?? Let's see how far our hands can reach!**

**Close to home...Second Harvest Food Bank**  
**Goal: 500 lbs which will feed 400 families!**  
• Food donations can be left in the usual location, by the donation station, or outside by the west entrance.

**Near...Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Women's Re-Entry (WREN)**  
**Goal: 100 pairs of socks**  
• Additional needs include toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and umbrellas.

**Men's Shelter**  
**Goal: 100 pairs of new underwear (all sizes/styles)**  
• The shelter is also collecting gently used men's clothing for donation.

**Far...OMNI**  
**Goal: \$6000 towards shoes for 240 students!**  
• \$3000 goal with \$3000 matching from our Zambia Mission Fund  
**Please make checks out to OMNI and send into Prince of Peace!**  
• Donations above \$6000 will be used for other needs: school supplies-uniforms, treated mosquito nets, PPE for COVID  
• **Save the date "virtual" Bluz Over Africa event October 24<sup>th</sup> (details forthcoming)**

**Anywhere...wherever called to serve!**  
Do you know of someone in your neighborhood that needs a hand? A favorite outdoor trail or space that needs cleaned up? A letter to share a kind word or blessing for those in need such as our first responders or those living in our local nursing homes? Or an opportunity to share your voice to ELCA advocacy causes such as funding for food supports, fair housing initiatives, climate change or other advocacy initiatives? The answer is YES to all! Serve however you feel called and serve often! Let us know if you are planning something with other groups!

**So many ways to serve! Choose one event or choose many over the month! Please participate however you feel called! Please share a picture or quick video if able and we can all share each other's efforts! If possible, wear your God's Work Our Hands shirts!!**

**Donations for all events will be collected throughout the month. Please bring during worship, Sunday evening events, or can leave in the dedicated bin outside the West Entrance.**

- **CHRISTMAS MITTEN TREE (Diane Merhaut):** As Scranton School was virtual for Christmas, COVID again drove us to “think outside of the box” this year. In partnering with Scranton teachers and staff, students and families most desperately in need were identified and we launched a Donation Drive with the intent to provide gift cards to families to help make Christmas a little brighter. We raised **\$5040.00** total which was used to provide \$220 gift cards a piece for **22 families including 31 children**—additional coats were received and overflow funds will be used to purchase coats once children return to in-person learning.



- **ELCA WORLD HUNGER:** Every third Sunday this effort. Despite limited in-person worship due to COVID-19, **\$140** was collected in 2020 for this ministry.
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (Ron & Becky Kear):** Build homes in Cleveland; provide lunches for workers. **See separate report**
- **LORAIN COUNTY “SECOND HARVEST” FOODBANK (Charlie Koch, Interact Class):** Food collection; volunteers to pack food bags. For 2020, POP donated food to support over **331 meals**.
- **LOVE INC (In the Name of Christ):** Network of Cuyahoga County Churches serve those who come to our church for assistance; POP member’s signed up to sponsor \$125 a month towards membership for at total of **\$1500 donated**. We also received a handful of coats for the Coats for Kids Drive. <http://loveinccuyahoga.org>.
- **SOUP-ER BOWL (Youth Group, Hilary Lucas):** Cash donations collected on Super Bowl Sunday (national youth effort to tackle hunger). Funds used for LMM Men’s Shelter and other hunger initiatives. **2020--\$1662.00**.
- **LMM WOMEN’S RE-ENTRY (WREN) (Jan Filkill):** Donation of items for women returning to the community after serving time in jail or prison. Special thanks to Mrs. Filkill for her tireless efforts in supporting this cause! <http://www.lutheranmetro.org/womens-re-entry.html>
- **COMFORT QUILTERS (Judy Cuciak):** Donated fabrics, sheets, gently used blankets/mattress pads, quilt batting are all turned into handcrafted quilts by POP volunteers; quilts are donated to local agencies. **See separate report if applicable.**
- **CHAPLAIN PARTNERSHIP (Linda Baumbach/Diane Fortuna):** Auxiliary members craft such items as prayer shawls, lap blankets, and premie caps for the chaplains to distribute <http://chaplainpartnership.org/>
- **LMM NEXT STEP (START) (vacant):** Supporting Teens-at-Risk with donations of clothing and new/gently used items for Westhaven Youth Shelter. <http://www.lutheranmetro.org/Support-To-At-Risk-Teens/>
- **ORPHAN MEDICAL NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (OMNI) (Cindy Strieter, Jon Wilhelm, Judy Kazak):** Collect cash donations to send volunteers to Zambia; sponsor program for orphans. **See separate report**

- **PROVIDENCE HOUSE (Jan Filkill):** Emergency Nursery in Cleveland; new items donated for babies and young children. <http://www.provhouse.org>
- **WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER (Linda Baumbach):** Used cell phone collection and donated new items.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Program and Committee goals were again to increase awareness and understanding of Stewardship in our lives as Christians. We contracted a hard fall Stewardship program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fall program, ***A Year in the Arms of the Lord***, culminated with Commitment Sunday, the day when we brought our commitments for 2020 to the altar. However due to the restrictions with COVID-19 many commitments were mailed in. We still had fewer commitments than in the past. We are hopeful that those in the congregation who did not pledge for 2021 but have normally made commitments in the past will continue their commitments in the coming year.

We again made some changes to the giving envelopes for 2021, after listening to input from the counters and the Congregation. Again, there are more special envelopes included in the packets as well as special envelopes for those wishing to give to the Endowment Fund. We also tied the Time Capsule Legacy Fund into our Commitments for 2021 by including the Legacy Fund on the Commitment Card.

Well, what was the result of the stewardship commitments for 2020 as of Dec, 31, 2019?

	2021 COMMITMENTS	2020 COMMITMENTS	2019 COMMITMENTS
OPERATING	\$ 196,526 60 Units Pledged	\$ 248,657 87 Units Pledged	\$ 257,422 93 Units Pledged
BUILDING	\$ 21,992 30 Units Pledged	\$ 27,182 39 Units Pledged	\$ 30,434 42 Units Pledged
YOUTH	\$ 13,164 24 Units Pledged	\$ 14,476 30 Units Pledged	\$ 16,962 34 Units Pledged
LEGACY FUND	\$ 7,392 34 Units Pledged	\$ 8,520 44 Units Pledged	NA
TOTAL	<b>\$ 239,074</b>	<b>\$ 298,816</b>	<b>\$ 304,818</b>

Remember Stewardship is a year-round effort.

Dick Hardy  
Stewardship Committee Chair

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In March 2017, at the direction of Church Council, Prince of Peace launched a project to update our Strategic Plan as part of an overall change initiative anticipating our pastoral transition. The vision developed by the 2018 - 2020 Strategic Plan was for Prince of Peace to be “an engaged congregation growing in Christian mission” with a mission to “inspire followers of Jesus Christ through service, spiritual growth, and hospitality.” Goals and initiatives were established around key areas:

- Engagement & Service
- Spiritual Commitment
- Youth & Christian Education
- Environment & Technology
- Operations
- Legacy & Time Capsule
- Pastoral Call

As we reflect upon the progress of the Strategic Plan and the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, we are thankful for the achievements delivered by our staff and you as engaged members. You can see many of the details of these efforts throughout this Annual Report.

We highlight our progress in three key areas, how it helped support us during the pandemic, and our perspective on how we are positioned for 2021 as we welcome our new Senior Pastor:

**Engagement & Service, Spiritual Commitment:** As a congregation our service to the community and to ourselves continues to be a strength. Despite the pandemic, Prince of Peace continues to demonstrate our commitment to the theme of addressing Hunger & Poverty. There are many examples in this Annual Report of actions taken by the congregation including additional support in 2020 for the Lorain County Foodbank and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries during the early challenging months of the pandemic. We have built on an increasing level of member engagement as measured by our Gallup surveys as we moved from 27% of our members “engaged” in 2017 to 39% in 2019. We also decrease our number of members “actively disengaged” from 18% in 2017 to 8% in 2019. We believe our improved engagement and commitment to service supports our ability to increase our Spiritual Commitment and our connectedness as a congregation to serve as we enter 2021 and return to a more normal set of activities in the community.

**Environment & Technology:** One of our key themes in the Strategic Plan was to extend Prince of Peace’s digital technology and social media capabilities. We also quickly realized a need to improve our technology infrastructure to support our capability aspirations. As the pandemic became a key part of our daily lives early in 2020, we were fortunate to be able to leverage this digital infrastructure as we quickly pivoted to online worship and meetings. As demonstrated with our Worship for Ascension service in May or our Christmas service last month, Prince of Peace has become a fully digitally capable congregation! We now expect in 2021 that we will further utilize these capabilities to not only support our worship services and our interactions, but that we will extend our reach both internally and externally. This extended reach will help support our future growth by being able to engage members outside of our physical area, interact with the external community, and open new avenues to share the Good News outside of our traditional physical channels.

**Operations:** In 2017, we identified a need to address Church Operations and develop more consistent processes, procedures, and structure. Megan Harber currently serves as our Operations Administrator and has been invaluable during the pandemic to help coordinate and keep activities focused. Mary Humer has moved Prince of Peace to a new digital space as well as to provide critical communications to members during this volatile year. Focus on staff performance management and communications has improved during the Interim ministries of Pastor Robin and Pastor Tom, but we believe as we return to more normal operations, we expect to further address this area in 2021 under new pastoral leadership.

We believe the 2018 Strategic Plan was a valuable anchor to help maintain our focus and while not in the initial design, proved important to navigate interim ministries during a pandemic. We believe our improved member engagement, growth in digital technology, continued strong financial foundation, and successful completion of the Pastoral Call were key successes. We now welcome Pastor Charlie as our new Senior Pastor in March 2021, and we look forward to developing the next set of strategic priorities in the post pandemic world.

Steve Zinram, Church Council President

Jim Dickey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Sally Balch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

POP relied heavily on technology to stay connected with each other during the 2020 year.

### WORSHIP

A new streaming conference camera and equipment was purchased to elevate the video quality while we have been recording and some live streaming services. A big thanks to Ben Ubienski and Ian Faleer for using their technological talents to put together worship services that allow us all to enjoy worship together.

We have also relied on the use of technology to involve members in volunteering both for worship and social media devotionals.

### MEETINGS

POP purchased their own [Zoom](#) account to host Council Meetings, Health and Safety Meetings, Sunday School, and even recording our very own Podcast.

Wrestling with The Faith (WWTF) is hosted by Evan Saunders, Jesse Buhrman, Ben Ubienski, and Dave and Laurel Covell. You can find these podcasts on our YouTube page, Spotify, Google and Apple Podcasts.

### PHONES

POP has changed our main phone providers to FlexIP Solutions. These phones are placed throughout the church in common areas and offices. In our upgrade of phones, we included the purchase of a conference phone that has been connected in the Charter Room.

One of the great things about the new phones is that it allows Megan Harber and Mary Humer, to login to the office phone through their personal phones. This allows them to listen to voicemails and make/return calls while being at home. This feature is a key component to our office team's efficiency while we have been closed.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Unfortunately, due to the status of COVID-19, Vacation Bible School was not held during the 2020. Riki Wilhelm has been the POP VBS Committee Representative, but will be stepping down from this position. We would like to thank Riki for her time and dedication to this youth ministry.

If you are interested in becoming the POP VBS Committee Representative, we encourage you to contact Office Administrator, Megan Harber. Bible School is one of the best times of the year for youth in the community to come together and celebrate their faith together. The VBS Rep. should have a passion for developing youth faith, energy, and availability for planning and preparation during the summer.

\*Please note that during the next rotation of Vacation Bible School, Prince of Peace will be hosting; at this time VBS 2021 cannot be confirmed\*

## **WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Over the past 12 months the Worship and Music team has played a vital role in Prince of Peace going virtual during the pandemic. We could not be more grateful for the talent they bring to our congregation. The following are from two of the members of the Worship and Music Team.

“The worship restrictions placed on me by the COVID pandemic have required some creative approaches to music planning. The recording process has limited the variety of music offered because of challenges placing the microphones. Our organ has a large number of speakers, each of which produces just a few stops or tonal colors. The speakers are meant to be heard from a distance so the various sounds blend together. Finding a place for the microphones to create a recording that sounds the same as the live session is a challenge, especially when also balancing with singers. It is not unusual for some pieces to be recorded a week or two early, reviewed, stop choices changed, and then recorded again. We are still learning what sounds good recorded in a room that was not designed for recording and will continue to seek better options. I look forward to a day when the pandemic is under control and we can return to in person worship.” - Don Jackson; organist

“COVID created a great challenge for the Contemporary Service. During the initial lockdown, I was relying on Contemporary Christian music videos to provide songs. Over time, as things opened up, I was able to begin recording our music with a very limited number of musicians, socially distanced and keeping to set pods. With the help of Ian and Ben, our simplified renderings were augmented with strings, bass and occasionally a back-up choir, LOL! Alternating worship weeks, has allowed me to record enough “live music” for each service, while still limiting the time we spent in the sanctuary. We will continue this format until things return to “normal”. Musically talented members of the congregation have also stepped up, recording mostly remotely and submitting solos, duets, songs and instrumentals. The response for participation in the Christmas Eve service was particularly robust and appreciated by all!” - Cindy Strieter; Worship Leader

Committee members: Pastor Craig, Cindy Strieter, Don Jackson, Ian Faleer, Grant Cornick, Ron Kear, Dineen Terstage, Teresa Peter, Dave Covell, Dan Shell



## **YOUNG AT HEART**

Young at Heart was only able to meet twice, before COVID-19 began impacting our community, ending the monthly meetings for safety reasons. On the third Wednesday of every month at 12:15 p.m. there are a number of “young at heart” adults who meet for lunch at one of the many restaurants on the west side. We meet for good food, fun and fellowship. Our monthly meetings are such a joy! Where do we meet and eat? Our committee selects a favorite eating establishment and arranges for the luncheon. Notices are posted on the sign-up center in the lower lobby of the church and also in the weekly Peace Connection newsletter. Please join us. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Kathy Kettler at 440-734-6511.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

It is with great pleasure that I provide the report for the Prince of Peace Youth Group 2020. The following report will reflect January - December 2020.

January 3th - 5th, five youth attended the LYO Northeast Ohio gathering at the Holiday Inn in Independence. During this weekend, senior Katie Weaver, became the “Definitely Abled” representative on the LYO Youth Leadership Board. January 30th - February 3rd, POP sent myself and Beverly to a national conference called “ELCA Extravaganza”, where Youth and Christian Education leaders from all ELCA churches gathered to learn from academic speakers, seasoned industry professionals, and pastors. The event reinvigorated the Youth and Christian Education programs and many new ideas were put into place. February, the youth had a lock in at the church, a soup and grilled cheese lunch fundraiser, a presentation with the Interact Class from The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, and a trip, open to the congregation, to the Islamic Center and Mosque in Parma.

The 2020 year however, took an interesting turn as the COVID-19 pandemic reached our community. In March, the country came to a close, including worship and activities. This is where we had to get creative. To replace meeting in person, Youth had “Happy Hour” Friday’s where we would spend an hour chatting, playing games, and checking in with each other via Zoom. Special weekly email campaigns were sent out to youth and parents from March - May that included articles on coping with quarantine, virtual activities, and church event updates.

May and June, Youth and Christian Education decided that we needed to take a new approach to engaging with our church family and the best way to do this was together. “April showers bring May flowers” activity bags were hand delivered to all students K-12. Myself and Beverly also went the extra mile(s) to personally (social distanced and with masks) deliver flowers to many POP members and graduation gifts to high school seniors. In July, it was announced by the ELCA that the National Youth Gathering will be postponed and moved from 2021 to 2022 due to COVID-19. In August, Youth and CE sent out “Thinking of You” postcards to all youth, children, and many members of the church. All students were encouraged to send out a pre-stamped and addressed postcard to a church member to help everyone stay connected, personally invite the congregation to Rally Day, and receive “happy mail”. Later in August, Youth and CE teamed up again to host a “Sundays at 7pm” Soda Float evening with treats for all, even our 4-legged friends.

Rounding the corner into September, we made good use of our nice days outdoors by having Rally Day takeover the parking lot and provided safe activities for all! Youth and CE hosted a snack bar with hot

chocolate, tea, hot apple cider, cupcakes, and soda floats. There was also a raffle for kid and teen themed prizes and a door prize for any aged attendee. Chalk the Church and Essential Workers Care Packages were a CE service project where all families could chalk their own parking spot and color a thank you note for essential workers. Over 100 people safely attended Rally Day 2020. COVID continued to jeopardize safety, so from here on out Sunday School was done remotely via Zoom/Google Meets to keep everyone safe. In October, Youth and CE got even more creative by hosting a “Donut Drive Thru” so that those attending limited in-person worship or worshipping from home could still get their tasty treats and a hot cup of coffee, cider, or coca. Youth finished off that same day with a small, socially distanced bonfire at the Babinski’s.

As we brought the year to a close, we asked the K-12 classes what they would like to see more of in 2021. The resounding answer was service projects. Youth and CE participants really want to help in the areas that they are most passionate about. With this energy, Youth hosted a “Dog Toy Service Project” in November that was open to all ages. Here participants met at the church for a movie day while making dog toys out of upcycled t-shirts donated by members. The toys were then donated to Friendship APL in Elyria. Additionally, in November, CE with the help of Youth hosted the first “Pancake Project” where members could pre-order a pancake breakfast and pick it up via drive thru. In December, we had several youths, participate in recording readings for the holiday services and CE had a “Happy Birthday Jesus” celebration to remember the reason for the season.

2020 was not the year that anyone anticipated. I am overjoyed that we were able to stay connected and stay healthy above all else. This was the year that pushed our creativity and made me even more confident that as a church, we can survive whatever comes our way. I am eager to start 2021 with even more virtual and safely planned in-person events that target community service work. Many of you should have received a packet in the mail of what Youth and CE are planning through May of 2021 and we want you to know that we are excited to have you be a part of it all, in any capacity you are able.

Thank you to the church and all who come through its doors, real or virtually, for your continued support of our youth!

Respectfully,  
Hilary Lucas - Youth Director