

NOVEMBER 2022

The MESSENGER

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A publication of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

All Saints Sunday

⇒ November 6

Honoring Our Veterans

⇒ November 13

Advent Tea & Program

⇒ November 19

Advent Decorating

⇒ November 20

Thanksgiving Day

⇒ November 24

First Sunday of Advent

⇒ November 27

From Pastor Bob

From the lion's den...

Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers:

Many years ago I made it my practice to use my newsletter column the month before the annual meeting to present my annual report, so that it would be shared both in the newsletter and in the annual report of the congregation. First, thank you for your appreciation during this Pastor Appreciation Month. It is not lost on me that this will be my second and last annual report to Prince of Peace Lutheran. As you know, I will be leaving you on April 30th next spring. I will at that time have completed a 2-year term as your interim pastor. (You are my first interim contract call.)

In my last annual report, I want to review where we have come together and anticipate what is coming. When I began as interim, I knew that I was the second interim pastor during this vacancy. Much of the work to be done during a time of vacancy had already been accomplished by your Transition Team. This included two separate surveys. When I reviewed the survey results I saw two things of note that I took to be important. One question was whether there was the possibility of having more than one style of worship each month. The second was whether there was a way to make your worship more engaging to younger worshippers. These are related. I had been trying rotational worship in every congregation I have served as solo pastor in my career; and Council agreed that it addressed both questions. So we instituted our current rotational worship service schedule as an experiment. I am grateful that Council saw merit in it from the input they received from you, and have continued the experiment throughout my term. As our time together is winding down, I wanted to remind you that it is an experiment. Rotational worship is something to consider with your new pastor, but it is not written in stone. It is much too new to be "This is how we do things." One of the things that you will be doing together is evaluating your worship experience and discussing how you want to present worship moving forward.

Because of my work with young people over the years, I am pretty dogged and relentless when it comes to presenting a praise band in worship. Years ago in my third call I asked my confirmation students if there was one thing we could do in worship that would be most likely to keep them engaged. Unanimously they said: Praise Band. His Subjects had a good run during the last program year, from August 2021 through August 2022.

(continued on page two)

Pastor Bob continued...

Now that Brandon and Darvis have moved back into serving at Life each Sunday, we are currently looking for a new guitar player and a new drummer. If you have contacts, please reach out to that person. I am looking forward to having a full band together before I leave, as we have received positive input from you, including Council, of Fourth Sunday Worship music.

During my time among you, we have tried changes. But it is time to stress that I was not so much instituting change, as I was tilling ground for an atmosphere ready and willing to explore change through experimentation. That will continue with your new pastor. As you move forward together, this will be a profitable time to have leadership gather together to form a new Vision Statement for a new situation moving forward. That Vision Statement will help shape direction and focus for the years to come.

I want to say a word about the gift inventories that you took last fall. During a transitional interim time, new ministries are rarely generated. That is for the congregation to do with the new pastor. You have not been contacted regarding your participation based upon your gift inventory results. But, you will be. As you move forward together there will be continuing opportunities to serve together using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that you have received from God. For many of you, we now know to a large extent what those are. Please prayerfully consider serving according to the gifts that you have been given by saying Yes, when “The Ask” is made. The Ask will be based upon the gifts that we have identified through your inventory results.

So, in closing, I want to share some observations about your new pastor, Pastor Cassandra. You know from her resume how intelligent she is. I have found her to be open and teachable in the areas in which I have something to teach her. As I approach my 25th anniversary of ordination I am wise enough and experienced enough not to teach her in the areas in which she already surpasses me. All pastors have different gift clusters. She is not me and I am not training her to be a copy of me. She is herself and who God is making her to be. Pastor Cassandra is a charismatic Lutheran, as I am. In general what that means is not just seeking God the Holy Spirit for guidance but being in tune with The Holy Spirit in receiving that guidance. Dr. Leonard Sweet from whom I have gratefully received over the years, coined the word “pneumanaut.” As an astronaut navigates space, a pneumanaut navigates The Spirit of God. This is an important and powerful thing for a pastor to be; and Pastor Cassandra is that.

When I began as your interim pastor, I shared with you what I call The Five to Thrive: five traits that marked **every** thriving congregation in The United Methodist Church. The last of the 5 is a long-term trust relationship with the pastor (a minimum of 7 years). My last responsibility as your interim is to help position Pastor Cassandra to be that pastor, and to help position you to be that congregation. Pastor Cassandra will be blessed, as I was upon ordination, with multiple mentors in ministry. I will gladly continue to be friend and mentor. In addition, her internship will be completed by Pastor Martha Nelson, who was your Call Coach. Also, Pastor Cassie has already met Martha’s husband, Pastor John Nelson, Senior Pastor of Hosanna Lutheran in St. Charles and leader of the Illinois Fellowship of the LCMC. Last, but not least, Pastor Cassandra will have the opportunity to meet with one of my many mentors, Pastor Brian Metke of Trinity Lutheran in Pell Lake, who has supplied for me at Prince of Peace twice in my two years here. Pastor Cassandra will have the support that all new pastors need entering her/his first call. Once again, here are The Five to Thrive:

Active small groups and programs

Activities geared toward youth

Active lay leadership

A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services

An inspirational pastor who has served a longer tenure there.

Yours and His, but not in that order,

Pastor Bob

From Pastor Cassandra

Dear Beloved Congregation,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we enter this new fall season, I am reminded of all the changes that prepare us for the coming Advent season. May we look at the changes as preparation for what the Lord wants us to do in the next season.

In this same manner, I navigated the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Annual Gathering. I went not representing myself but representing Prince of Peace Church. In doing so, I walked away with many things, but the five most important were as follows:

1. We are made up of three streams in the LCMC: 1) Evangelical, 2) Charismatic, and 3) Confessional (our Lutheran Theological Foundation).
2. Small churches can do and are doing big things. When thinking of this, think of Gideon and what he was able to accomplish with God's strength and guidance.
3. There is a difference between discipleship and evangelism though there are some similarities. Discipleship is to follow, learn, share the Gospel, and teach others how to be disciples as Christ did. This is specific to both believers and non-believers. Evangelism also shares the Gospel but is specific to the non-believer.
4. Two questions were posed that we as a congregation should ponder. 1) Do we love our neighbors as ourselves? 2) How do we love ourselves?
5. Lastly, do we as a congregation have balance not just as a congregation but also with ourselves? This is spiritually, mentally, and physically.

As we enter this new season, let us give thanks to the Lord our God, seeking Him in all that we do, praying and meditating on His Word, having Him order our steps, and never giving up, knowing it is in His Mighty Hands.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Cassandra

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19, NIV

Service Dog Update:

With great sadness, my receiving a service dog has been put on hold at this time.



The Prince of Peace council members meet monthly. If you have questions or ideas, please contact one of the council deacons or attend a monthly meeting.

President, Pam Novotnak
779-423-8093

Vice President, Dan King
815-494-3919

Secretary, Stacy Diemel
608-290-4073

Treasurer, Amy Lynch
815-624-2433

Discipleship, Sue Ducett
779-475-1907

Facilities, Wayne Schmidt
815-988-6683

Fellowship, Sue Peterson
815-282-2715

Service, Kathy Leahy
815-243-0831

Worship, Nancy Freedlund
815-624-6363

Vision Statement

**Praise His Name & Love Him
Obey His Word & Serve Him
Pray His Promises & Believe Him**



Honoring Our Veterans

Prince of Peace Church will be recognizing the service of our veterans. If you are a U.S. Veteran and will be attending the worship service on Sunday, November 13, please let us know by November 6.

Staff Contact Information:

Interim Pastor Bob Castro
pastorbob@poprockton.com
Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9am-12pm

Intern & Contract Apprentice Pastor
Cassandra Langr
pastorcassandra@poprockton.com
M-Th 9:00 am-12:00pm

Administrative Asst., Kara Wallace
info@poprockton.com
Hours: M-F 8am-12pm

Sharing Joys

“Imagine a church that shared joys, laughter and highs...in worship every week” (Holding Your Family Together by Dr. Rich Melheim, p.44). Prince of Peace wants to offer you the opportunity to share your joys on Sunday mornings. Please let the pastors know of joys that you would like to share.

If you do not feel comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, you can send/call the church office with the news to be read by someone during announcements.

“The Bible calls us repeatedly to share our joy together.” (p.44)

Hanging of the Greens

We will be decorating the church sanctuary for Advent on Sunday, November 20 following the worship service. Please stick around and help us hang the greens. We will be undecorating the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 8, after the worship service. Thank you.



In Our Prayers

Healing, strength, and guidance for: Brian Tracy, Debbie, Andy, Nancy, Bob, Kristan, Judy Hines, Jason K., Teresa, Dorothy, Eric Makos, Nate, Gabe, Eli, Linda Chartrau, Jimmy, Brian S., Dona B., Jim Igo, Mary, Jerry, Sally C., Carter Peterson, Ron Z., Linda C., Bev, Emerson, Jesse, David A., Adrian, Pat, Julia, MaryAnn, and Marcy.

Prayers for our Service Men and Women: Carl Specht, Ella Pearson's grandsons Rob & Samuel Walker, Sherre Faulkner's nephew Rod Flom, Tom & Jean Lenhart's grandson Cody Merrett, Penny Pfile's nephew William Kerr II, Bob & Karen Lowery's grandson Steve Broomfield, Dorothy Bush's nephews Christian and Cody Bush, David & Reita Baird's son-in-law Quentin VanDewoestyne, and Duke & Sue Ducett's nephew Danny Wagner.

Please pray for those suffering loss: The family and friends of LeRoy Peters and Mike Roth. Denette upon loss of husband Ronnie. Mary Jane upon loss of brother Jack. Sue Peterson and family upon loss of aunt Laurie Zeh. Debbie Tracy and family upon loss of husband Brian.



November 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	4	5 Men's Group 7am 
6 All Saints Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:30 Adult Study "Faith5"	7 Prayer Group 9:30am	8 Election Polling— Nicholas Hall	9 Altar Guild 6:30pm	10 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	11 	12
13 Honoring Our Veterans 9:00am Worship Shoeboxes due	14 Prayer Group 9:30am Church Council 6:30pm	15 Naomi Circle 1pm Mary Rachel Circle 1pm 4-H Club 6:15-8:30pm Book Club 6:30p	16	17 Annunciation Co-op 8am-3:30pm	18	19 Men's Group 7am Advent Tea & Program 1-3pm 
20 Christ the King 9:00am Worship 10:30am Advent Decorating 	21 Prayer Group 9:30am The Messenger deadline 12pm	22	23	24 THANKS Giving Day  Office closed	25 Office closed	26
27 First of Advent 9:00am Worship	28 Prayer Group 9:30am	29	30	<p>The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to sow FAITH IN CHRIST, strengthen FAMILIES, serve our COMMUNITIES.</p>		

November Serving Schedule

If you are not able to make your allotted time slot, please find a substitute and notify the church office.

November 6

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Ava Lynch
Ushers: Greg Bartz & Kathy Leahy
Reader: Darran Landenberger
Communion Assistants: Richard Mackenthun & Penny Pfile
Counters: Greg Bartz & Steve Shrider

November 13

AV: Stacy Diemel
Acolyte: Dan King
Ushers: Lora Conrad & Jerry Yarolimek
Reader: Connor Diemel
Communion Assistants: Sherre Faulkner & Steve Shrider
Counters: Pam Novotnak & Kara Wallace

November 20

AV: Kara Wallace
Acolyte: Damon Lynch
Ushers: Dorothy Bush & Penny Pfile
Reader: Steve Shrider
Communion Assistants: Darran Landenberger & Amy Lynch
Counters: David Baird & Dorothy Bush

November 27

AV: Stacy Diemel
Acolyte: Elliott Diemel
Ushers: Sherre Faulkner & Jim Freedlund
Reader: Wendy Goldsworthy
Communion Assistants: Lora Conrad & Nancy Freedlund
Counters: Sandy Buske & Kathy Leahy

Stock Pew Racks for November: Kara Wallace



Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

11 Carol Schmidt
13 Cheri Saarinen
14 Lynn Denham
25 Jenell White
26 Joe Martin
Patrick Schelm

November Anniversaries

15 Art and Ellen Goldsworthy
23 Everett and Penny Pfile



Preparing our Hearts for the Season

Prince of Peace will be hosting a multi-generational Advent Tea (Coffee/Hot Chocolate) on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm. The theme is "Jesus, Name Above All Names". There will be food and beverages of course, a devotion, singing, and activities for all to participate in. We will be assembling gift bags for Highview in the Woodlands. If you have blank Christmas cards left

over from previous years, please bring them to the church office. They will be used in the gift bags for the residents. Please RSVP for this event by November 10.



Mary Rachel Circle has decided to do an all-church collection for the eleven military family members listed in The Messenger. This is a holiday thank you gift for their serving and keeping us out of harm's way. A basket is in the back of the church for you to place your free will offering. Thanking you in advance for your generosity. Please give an updated address to Mary Mackenthun. Mary Jo Olson, President

Operation Christmas Child

We are participating in the shoe-box project for Samaritan's Purse. There are plastic boxes available in the narthex. Gifts are due on Sunday, November 13. Please include \$10 for shipping. Details on

how to pack a shoebox are available at the church or online at www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/



Helping Our Neighbors

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Weekend Backpack program for Old Stone Church Pantry in Rockton. We continue year-round collecting food items.

The pantry is requesting:

- Fruit cups (especially apple sauce)
- Small juice bottles
- Granola bars
- Treats (individually wrapped)



Comforting Our Friends

Prince of Peace has prayer blankets available to share with those who are ill, grieving, or facing other challenges in life. If you would like to give a blanket to someone, please use the green "PoP Prayer Shawl Records" notebook located in the Sunday School office. Contact the Sue Ducett or the church office with any questions.

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2336 Freeport Road
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E-mail: info@poprockton.com
Web page: www.poprockton.com
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00am
LCMC Website: www.lcmc.net



Coming Up...



- 6 All Saints
- 13 Honoring Our Veterans
- 20 Christ the King
- 27 First Sunday of Advent

Book Club

Join the Prince of Peace book club as they read The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections by Eva Jurczyk. The group will meet for discussion and fellowship on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30pm at the church.

