

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Our Center is God whom we Worship, and we extend Christ's presence into the community through Fellowship, Learning and Service to Others, with the Holy Spirit as our Catalyst.

Reflections from Pastor Audra

"There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom."
-From the poem "Blossoms" by Li-Young Lee



A blog I follow marks the coming of each new season by creating a hopeful bucket list full of intentions for her family. She's done this in each stage of life, including now with two young children. It's inspired me to be intentional about the moment I'm in. Each new season comes with its hardships and challenges (back to school, less sunlight, cooler weather, busier schedules, to name a few...) but also its own joys and delights. I've tasked myself with embracing all of it. Yes, autumn means earlier sunsets, but that can also mean cozy nights curled up with a book! Cooler weather, sure, but now I get to wear my favorite sweaters! I'm also looking forward to embracing seasonal activities like going to the apple orchard with my nieces and nephews.

The poem above paints a picture of the high points of life, days we live "as if death were nowhere to be found" with joy all around. The days we get to wear our favorite sweaters, sip our favorite fall drink, and be with family and friends (Now you know what my fall bucket list looks like!). But we know that not every day is like this. Some days, death seems to be right at our door, its shadow cloaking us and darkening our glimmers of hope. As Christians, we confess the reality that our world includes shadows that veil us from the light. Autumn and winter can bring shorter, darker days that are heavy with reminders of those we've lost and the mires of going through life. But we as Christians *even more boldly* confess that this darkness does not last forever. We are Resurrection people, able to name and bear one another's suffering, but boldly proclaim that death will not have the final say. Ultimately, we are called to a life where "death is nowhere to be found." The glimmers of hope and moments of joy we find in each new season are continuous reminders of the abundant joy we find in Christ.

What are you hoping for as autumn begins? What moments do you hope to create? What joys and delights will anchor you through the challenges you may face? Where do you see Christ's light shining in your life?

Church News



Treasury Information

Hello all,

I hope you have been having a nice summer! Personally, I am not ready for summer to end. Here is an update on our income and expenses through July 31.

Gifts and Tithes	\$54,892.03
Interest income	<u>1,999.46</u>
Total Income	\$56,891.49
Total Expenses	<u>66,765.02</u>

Expenses exceed Income
\$ 9,873.53

We have now taken \$12,000 YTD from the money market account to cover expenses, part of which would have been interest income.

As always, your contributions, whether it be monetary or volunteering your time, are very much appreciated. If you have any questions about finances, please feel free to see me at church, or give me a call at 330-550-3445.

Best Regards,
Deb Dancker

Use the QR code for online giving.



Joys and Concerns Barb Joyce, Patsy Hutcheson, Lisa Ann, Sue Oyler, Charlotte Jackson, Peg Rommel, Susan Wilding, Melissa, Megan, Mallory, Alex, Joe Ritzler, Sam Motsko, Sonya, Liz, Kim, Paul, John, Sandy, Frank, Rose Phelps, Ron Pekkanen, Katlyn Jackson, Pete Berns, Paulette Love, Valentina Wills, Janet Hill, Madison, Michelle Motsko, Bruce DeRhodes, Nicolas Young, Margie Berns, Vivien Clayton, Judy White, Phil Kramer, Coral Musquire, John Frank, Terry Heath, Gretchen Towson. Please confirm with anyone you submit that they are willing to be prayed for publicly. Please email the office, using sec3280@sbcglobal.net or call 330-757-3272.

Sunday School Sunday School for both children and adults starts on Rally Day, September 13th.

Beginning the week of September 13th, adult Sunday School will explore the miraculous words of the Prophet Isaiah through biblical study and conversation. This fall we will meet Sundays at 9:15 a.m. AND Tuesdays at 11:00 (same session offered weekly Sunday & Tuesday). All are welcome! Come when you can. No extra materials or knowledge required.

SAVE THE DATE - Blessing of the Animals Service: Join us Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. in our pavilion for a special Blessing of the Animals service! Animals are welcome! Bring your pets themselves or pictures of pets for a blessing during a special prayer service honoring ALL God's creatures. We will collect an offering for New Lease on Life and have info on adopting through their organization.

Church News continued

Hello Church Family!

Are you a client with Thrivent? If so, you are eligible to participate in the 'Choice Dollars' program with them. It is easy to use online, just log in to your Thrivent account, view your available choice dollars amount, and search for an organization to participate in donating with. We hope it is with Prince of Peace! Also, if you prefer to hear a real voice (life me), just call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice' at the prompt. Then a representative with help to walk you through the process. This is a bonus given to members of Thrivent and makes for an easy way to support our lovely church family. Every dollar is important toward our budget, so thank you in advance for supporting the church weekly over so many years!

'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'.

2 Corinthians 9:7

With heartfelt love,
Dianne Barns, stewardship

Our Facebook Page

We try to keep all information about the church up to date on our Facebook posts. If you are on Facebook and you haven't already, please FOLLOW our page. Also, like and share our posts. The more interaction with our page that we get the more it shows up on other people's feeds and suggestions. Not to mention if you share it, all your friends will know what wonderful things are going on at Prince of Peace!



9/4 Lindsey Dancker
9/7 Bill Plant
9/9 Norene Yerapoli

9/12 Chance Rach
9/13 Charlie Ritzler
9/13 Charlotte Jackson
9/14 Daniel Kramer
9/15 Phil Kramer
9/17 Adrienne Neff
9/20 Dolly Frank
9/20 Jean McComb
9/22 Brian White
9/22 Coral Maquire
9/27 Judy White

Readers for the month of August

Sep 6 Robin Scanlon
Sep 13 Deb Dancker
Sep 20 Caryl Price
Sep 27

Altar Flowers for the Month of August

2026 flowers will cost \$35.00

Sep 6
Sep 13 Deb Dancker in Memory of her Mother
Sep 20 In honor of Dolly Frank's Birthday from the Price & Frank Families
Sep 27

Altar Care for September

Adrienna Neff

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee is busy checking in on our shut-ins and members who have been absent from church for extended time periods. They offer support to those they reach out to and can help to arrange pastoral visits. If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill or unable to attend church for any reason, please talk to Reenie Frank or Judy White.



Operation Christmas Child

This year we will be collecting and packing for 2–4-year-old boys. We will have suggested items each month, but you can always donate any items at any time. If you would like to pack your own shoeboxes, please let Nora know and she will get you boxes.

We have an Amazon wish list this year. If you would like to purchase from the wish list or have a friend that would like to, the link has been posted on our Facebook page. Nora can also share it with you. **Please** share the post when you see it, so others will know about the wish list.

Suggested Donations by Month:

Jan-Feb: Wow Items (games, puzzles, balls, cars, stuffed animals)

Mar: small flashlights & extra batteries (AAA needed)

Apr-May: Hygiene items (wash clothes, fingernail clippers, band aids, chap stick, combs, small toothbrushes)

June: water bottles with large openings, children's silverware, sunglasses

July: clothing, flip flops, shoes, socks underwear shirts and shorts (sizes 3T, 4T, extra small or small youth sizes)

Aug/Sep: school supplies (pencils, sharpeners, safety scissors, pens, notebooks, zippered pencil bags)

Oct: to be determined based on what we need

Nov: \$10 donation to ship shoe boxes

Dec: Prayer

Coins for a Cause

Coins for a Cause collected September through November will be sent to the Salvation Army.

Every donated dollar stays in our community to help neighbors when they need it most. Salvation Army supports food pantries & hunger relief, homeless shelters, counseling, worship & spiritual programs, utility assistance and holiday giving.

Place your donation in the orange bucket by the sanctuary door.



Poland Pantry The first Sunday of every month is "Cereal Sunday" for the Food Pantry. We can all participate by bringing in non-perishables on a regular basis and collecting paper bags for their program. (If you need anything please call the office, 330-757-3272).



Mahoning County Lutheran Cluster

Bethel Lutheran Church: <https://www.bethelboardman.org/>

- Grief Recovery Group will begin again in September on Mondays at 7 pm.

Christ Lutheran Church: [Facebook page Christ Lutheran Church, Struthers](#)

- Fall Mum Sale Fundraiser. 8" pots for \$7.75, 13" pots \$18.25 and 10" hanging baskets \$17.25. Payment needs to be in the church office by Sept 6th.

Grace Lutheran Church: [Facebook page Grace Lutheran Church – Austintown, OH](#)

- Pumpkin Patch Party Sunday, Oct 18 at 12:30pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church: <https://lolcanfield.com/>

- Evening Prayer will begin again on Wed, Sept 16th at 7pm. This simple service of prayer, readings & song will be broadcast live on their Facebook page each week.
- Morning Prayer will begin again on Fri, Sept 18th at 10am. This service will also be broadcast live on their Facebook page.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church: <https://mlcyoungstown.org/>

- MLLC is always looking for help weeding in the Hope Community Garden, 10:00 AM and after. Contact the church at (330) 788-8707.
- Tapestries of Ohio concert December 12 at 2pm

Zion Lutheran Church: <https://www.zionohio.org/>

- Zion is purchasing the former Discount Family Drugs store across from the church to convert to a Hunger Center. Their Food Distribution Saturdays are getting too large to continue at the church.
- 1st Annual Cruise-In & Craft Fair, Saturday, Sept 26, 2026, from 10 am – 3 pm. All proceeds from the 50/50 and basket raffle will go towards Zion's debt reduction.
- Carnival Sunday, Sept 27th from 1-3pm. \$5 admission. Games, prizes, food & fun!

Cluster News

- 33rd Annual Camp Frederick Golf Outing, Sat, Sept 26th at 9am at Knoll Run Golf Course. Registration is \$75 per golfer. Deadline to register is Sept 18th. Camp Office 330-227-3633
- The St. Luke Healing Service is scheduled for October 18th. Since it is a Sunday, it will be recognized at each individual Cluster church during the regular Sunday services



SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Council Meeting	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8	9	10 9:30 am Comfort N Hope	11	12
13 Rally Day 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 Picnic	14 7:00 pm MCLC Cluster meeting @Zion	15 11:00 am Bible Study Isaiah	16 5:45 pm Girl Scouts	17	18	19
20 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21	22 11:00 am Bible Study the Prophet Isaiah	23	24	25	26
27 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28	29 8:45 am Comfort N Hope 11:00 am Bible Study the Prophet Isaiah	30			