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

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi:
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

The commemoration day for St. Francis of Assisi falls on the first Sunday of October this year. In the Lutheran world, we have a unique relationship to those known as saints. While we do not venerate saints or view them in the same way as the Catholic tradition, uplifting models of faith and honoring those who have now completed their earthly journey is no less important in our own Lutheran faith. In fact, Martin Luther saw each and every Christian as simultaneously saint and sinner. These monikers are less about what we "do" and "don't do," and more about our relationship with God. As Kathryn Kleinhans, former dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, puts it: "We are called saints not because we change into something different but because our relationship with God changes as a result of God's grace." Through grace, we are made one with God. We don't *earn* the title "saint;" rather, we enter into baptismal life with God and are called to "saintly" lives that reflect our unity with Christ.

God has given all of us gifts for service and as saints together in the journey, we can celebrate the gifts of those like Francis of Assisi. He dedicated his life to serving the poor and encouraging gratitude and care for all of God's creation. Many churches commemorate Francis by hosting a Blessing of the Animals service, like we will this year! Francis emphasized the gifts that God has given us in nature and animals. His legacy reminds us that we are called, according to Genesis 1, to be creation's caretakers. His was a life lived in service towards creation and his fellow human beings. As the famous prayer attributed to him begins: "Lord make us instruments of your peace" who "sow love, pardon, unity, faith, hope, light, and joy." His prayer asks God for the strength and gifts to be in service to one another. To be, as Luther also writes, as Christ to one another.

Lord, make us instruments of peace this season. Let us offer a kind word when we can. Let us advocate for the needs of our world and our neighbors. Let us be comforted that we dwell in community and creation together. Let us recognize and embrace our baptismal gifts. Equip us to recognize, too, the gifts of those around us. Let us all be empowered through your grace to use these gifts as saints who participate in your work in our world. Your will be done. Your kingdom come. Amen.

Church News



Treasury Information

Hello!

Here is an update of our income and expenses through August 31.

Gifts and Tithes	$63,007.91
Interest income	2,561.71
Total Income	$65,569.62
Total Expenses	75,836.09

Expenses exceed Income $ 10,266.47

We have taken $12,000 YTD from the money market account to cover expenses, part of which would have been interest income. I am happy to report our expenses are under the YTD budget by nearly $6,000 and we continue to work to reduce expenses wherever possible.

As always, your regular contributions 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.

Reformation Day & Confirmation: Don't forget to wear **Red** on Sunday, October 25 for Reformation Day and to support our three new confirmands, Bruce Smith, Charlee Ritzler and Kirra Geidner who will be confirmed during the service!



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.



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.

Trunk or Treat: We look forward to having you at Trunk or Treat this year! Our Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25th from 4-6pm. Invite all the little ones you know! Bring some treats and join us for some fun! Share our Facebook event with your friends



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!



10/25 Reenie Frank
10/30 Kathy Ritzler

Readers for the month of October

Oct 4 Kathy Swoboda
Oct 11
Oct 18 Caryl Price
Oct 25 Robin Scanlon

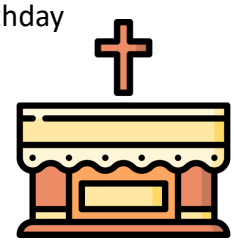
Altar Flowers for the Month of October

2026 flowers will cost $35.00

Oct 4 Ron Pekkanen in remembrance of his brother Bill's birthday
Oct 11
Oct 18 Kim & Jeff Deichert in remembrance of their parents' anniversary
Oct 25 The Frank Family in celebration of Reenie Frank's Birthday

Altar Care for October

Deb and Kendal Dancker



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 (check with Nora for more information)
Nov: $10 donation to ship shoe boxes
Dec: Prayer

Coins for a Cause

Coins for a Cause collected October 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/

- Bethel Lutheran Church Emotional Support Group - Tuesdays September 15 - December 15th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Boardman, OH. A safe, compassionate space for healing. For more information, see their website above.
- Trunk or Treat, October 25, 5-7 pm

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.
- Beginning Monday, October 19th, Pastor Zielke at Lord of Life in Canfield is leading a discussion group on the ELCA Faith and Civic Life social statement. The discussion group will be five weeks and meet at LOL (550 North Broad Street, Canfield) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Martin Luther Lutheran Church: https://mllcyoungstown.org/

- 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

Cluster News

- 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

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am 11:30 am Council 2:00 pm Blessing of Animals	5 7:00 pm MCLC Cluster meeting @Martin	6 11:00 am Bible Study Isaiah	7	8	9	10
11 9:15 am Sunday School No Adult Sunday 10:00 am Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Rehearsal after Worship	19	20 9:00 am Comfort and Hope 11:00 am Bible Study Isaiah	21 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	22	23	24
25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Confirmation 4-6 pm Trunk or Treat	26	27 8:45 am Comfort and Hope 11:00 am Bible Study Isaiah	28	29	30	31 Halloween 