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PASTOR'S NOTE

As we publish this magazine, there is once again unrest in the Holy Land as Palestinians in Gaza protest against the moving of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Most of the significant unrest has been focused in that small part of the region in recent days, but in the past, there have been clashes in other parts of the region as well. The years of 2001 to 2002 were terrifying times for the people of the ancient city of Bethlehem. Israeli security forces conducted multiple raids, culminating in the siege of the Church of the Nativity that lasted for over a month. Numerous Palestinian Christians were caught in the crossfire, and for some, it was the last straw for their continued presence in the region. Others, though, continued their work, convinced that their witness to the Prince of Peace was essential for the prospect of peace in the region.

The stained glass art on the cover is made in remembrance of that violence by local Christian artists in Bethlehem. It is made from broken glass that resulted from the conflict. The card that came with the dove says that it reminds them of the gift of the incarnation. They say that through the incarnation, God “picked what seems worthless and hopeless and transformed into a beautiful and whole creation. It is this incarnation, which took place in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, which give us the strength to continue to look for broken lives and hopes and to transform them through art into angels and different art pieces, messengers of justice, peace, and dignity.”

As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers. We are called to be those that witness to the hope and promise of the Prince of Peace. I pray that you find in this edition of the magazine words of promise and of challenge as you live out this identity as peacemakers in your daily lives.

Your fellow peacemaker,
Pastor Jonathan

A BIBLE STUDY ON PEACE

For individual or group study

BY PASTOR TOM STROEH

On any weekend I invite you to watch for the word “peace” in our worship. You might hear: “In peace, let us pray to the Lord... For the peace of the whole world....The peace of the Lord be with you always.... grant us peace, Lamb of God...The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace...Go in peace and serve the Lord...” We gather as a community of faith named after the “Prince of Peace.” Obviously peace is a big deal for us Christians! It’s a very significant word and truth in the Bible.

Check out this sampling of a wide range of scriptural references to peace: Isaiah 32:17; Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 5:9; John 14:27; Ephesians 2:14-17; Philippians 4:7; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:15; Hebrews 12:14. Studying the biblical understanding of peace, we discover that peace is not the calm of inactivity, being impassive or out of touch with reality (like the result of being drugged). In fact, it’s very much in touch with reality. Perhaps most importantly, peace is not human-made; it’s a gift of God, a gift God wants us to experience.

What are the ingredients of true peace?

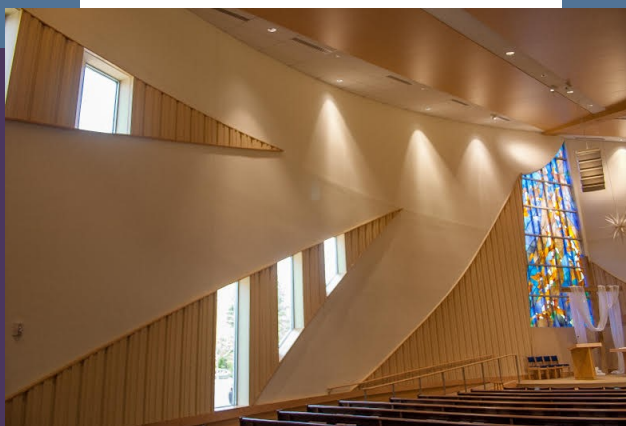
1 A key to peace is grace (God’s unconditional love and forgiveness). It’s been said that “conscience is like a baby. It has to go to sleep before you can....” For conscience to rest, we need to have dealt with our sins – i.e. we need to have experienced grace. How have you experienced grace?

2 Peace is often found in our own brokenness, in our own weakness, in those places of our heart where we feel most insecure, most afraid, most vulnerable. Why there? It’s there that our familiar ways of controlling our world are being stripped away. There we’re called to let go. There we’re more open to the inner reservoir of the Spirit.

3 Therefore, peace is anchored in trust. In Philippians 4 Paul writes: “Do not worry about anything...And the peace of Christ which surpasses understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” You may recall the story of the young man who ran to catch a bus. The bus driver saw him and waited until he climbed aboard. As the bus began leaving, he stood huffing and puffing to catch his breath, still clutching with white knuckles the suitcase he’d been carrying. At last the driver said to him, “Sir, you can put down your suitcase now, the bus will carry it from here.” Peace is entrusting our heavy baggage to God.

4 The person of peace regularly practices gratitude. Again it’s Paul (Colossians 3) who says, “...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body, and be thankful.” Sadly, we’re often preoccupied with our losses and what we don’t have, instead of the blessings we’ve been given.

5 The Hebrew word “Shalom” includes wholeness, harmony with God, others and oneself. An old Hasidic tale tells how a rabbi asked his students, “How can we determine the hour of dawn when the night ends and the day begins?” One student answered, “When from a distance you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?” “No,” said the rabbi. “Is it when you can distinguish between a fig tree and a grape vine?” “No,” the rabbi again replied. “Please tell us the answer, then,” said the students. “It is,” said the wise teacher, “when you can look into the face of human beings and you have enough light to recognize them as your brothers and sisters. Up until then it is night, and darkness is still with us....” Hence, the peace or shalom of Christ is at work when conflicting people get together and truly see and listen to each other and acknowledge that we are part of the same human family. We’ve been given the high calling of being channels of God’s peace (Matt. 5:9). How have you been a peace-maker lately? ■





INESCAPABLE PEACE

BY MAGGIE SCHALLER

I can't seem to get away from the peace.

We're staying at a campsite for the Church of the Brethren in Remote, Oregon for our fall retreat. Literally, the closest town is called "Remote, Oregon." There's no cell phone reception, and the grounds look like every movie I've ever seen set in the Pacific Northwest, surrounded by tall evergreens and a distinct lack of sunlight. Not only is the camp peaceful itself, with cool fog rolling in in the mornings only to starve off mid-afternoon, and the lack of access to the news or Twitter, but there are literally peace signs *everywhere*. I take pictures of as many of them as I can, at least 2, tucked away in bathrooms and as fridge magnets and on all sorts of filing cabinets. With THEM are quotes about peace from just about every moral thought leader you can think of; Gandhi, MLK, Thich Nhat Hann, Mother Teresa, it goes on and on. And while I take as many pictures as I can, I can't help but think about how these descriptions of peace seem so different than what I've come to know in Oakland.



Since August 2017, I've been participating in a year of service with Lutheran Volunteer Corps, living in Oakland, California and working in San Francisco. I've been serving at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR) of the San Francisco-Bay Area, where I've been primarily coordinating a free, general, walk-in legal clinic in the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco (or SF, as the locals call it). Those three things, free, general and walk-in, mean that there are no barriers to someone coming in for assistance or questions. Sixty-percent (60%) of our clients are homeless when we see them, and the vast majority are under the federal poverty line, many only living on SSI, SSDI or other social service benefits. That clinic and my work at LCCR is not just a constant learning process, but a job where I'm constantly moving. At the clinic, I'm the air-traffic controller, working to help with intakes, support our volunteer attorneys, assist clients both in being heard and receiving the right legal and economic resources, and making the calls on the ground about how the clinic is running and how it could run better. Peace comes not in the misty morning air, but instead in the quick moments sitting on the bus living in between here and there, or in the three minutes before I bring another client into the room.

This quick city pace adds to the challenges of a year of service. There is the work, but during this year I've also been living in community with six other people. Most of us are coming directly from the East Coast and Midwest, so we are missing our traditional support structures, instead relying on the few family and friends we may have in the area, each other, and the networks we are attempting to build while we are out here. We are also living on a small stipend, what amounts to less than minimum wage. One of these on its own would be challenging, but all together have made the year a multi-tiered learning experience.

When I signed up for a year of service, I had a general idea what it would be. I knew on paper the facts above, and I knew I would be pushing myself both professionally and personally. But it is much different to live the challenges, to be immersed in everything that the year is rather than just understand the

facts. It has forced me to confront a lot of things—my spending habits, my biases, my inexperience, my privilege. But it has also given me the tools and time to examine those things and to grow in the way I react to the world around me. It has allowed me to think critically about how to live my faith out into the world and what kind of work I want to do next. For all of the heartache, challenges, and lack of calm moments, it has made me different, and I think for the better.

The peace near Remote, Oregon, is very different than the peace in Oakland, California. But peace exists not just in stillness. I often find it on the walk home, hearing the chatter of people walking to dinner or the library. I find it when I hear the boy drumming along to popular music every Saturday morning near the farmer's market, or in the rattling of the BART to and across the Bay. But most importantly, peace can be found in the work.

There are days where I don't get everything right, where I get yelled at by non-clients and clients alike, where there is no legal solution and just bad news. I've done that walk from the bus to my house where my shoulders feel like they are carrying every story with me. But all of that is worth it for the rare moments where we're able to help someone or give them the resources or advice that could help them change their lives. It's what Eisenhower says, "Peace and Justice are a part of the same coin." Not everyday, or as a part of fact most days, is there total justice. There is always something more to be done, always more we could do to assist. But knowing we are on the road to justice keeps me moving. No matter how slowly it comes.

Doing a year of service has ultimately allowed me to be thankful for the opportunities that I've been given, for the insight into lived experiences I would never have been able to participate in otherwise, and to get the opportunity to do the work in a totally new place and in a totally new way. And I'm grateful for all of the support I've been given, including the Prince of Peace congregation and my many other families, all the way from across the country.

That's a type of peace I can certainly accept. ■



There is always something more to be done, always more we could do to assist. But knowing we are on the road to justice keeps me moving. No matter how slowly it comes.

CHORALFEST 2018

BY GABBY FRONK, 12-year old POP member

Featuring an interview with Robin Stevenson, Children's Music Director



What is Choralfest?

Choralfest is a time where choirs from all over Cincinnati get together to practice singing, perform, and celebrate after with cookies (that's one of the best parts!).

When and where was Choralfest this year?

Choralfest took place at Sycamore Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 3.

How many people participated?

There were around 130 kids from 4 or 5 choirs who participated in Choralfest this year. In the past, there have been even more!

What songs did you sing this year at Choralfest?

"Joshua"

"Sing! Shout! Alleluia!"

"I Will Clap My Hands"

Why did you participate in Choralfest?

I participated because I knew it would be fun and I liked the songs we were singing, especially Joshua. Overall it was a great experience and it was good to prepare us to do greater things as we get older. I am thinking about acting and participating in performance opportunities at church and they can help build my confidence for acting in movies like *A Wrinkle in Time*.

How does being in Choralfest grow your faith?

The songs are closely connected to God or the Bible (like the song about Joshua comes straight out of the book of Joshua all about the tumbling walls of Jericho). It was nice to make new friends at Choralfest and that helps us connect and catch up. Friendships are important in my life of faith because they are people who I can talk to about things that I don't talk to others about.



Gabby interviewed Robin Stevenson (a.k.a. Miss Robin), Prince of Peace Children's Choir Director, about her involvement in Choralfest:

How long has Choralfest been happening?
Choralfest 2018 was the 32rd annual festival sponsored by the Southwest Ohio Chapter of Choristers Guild.

What songs did we sing at Choralfest this year?

We sang seven musical pieces: "Lift High Every Voice" (J.S. Bach), "Sing! Shout! Alleluia!" (J. Martin), "Joshua" (JP Williams, J. Martin), "God is Never Late" (Nathan Smith), "I Will Clap My Hands" (JM Stevens, J. Martin), "Variations on 'Now the Green Blade Rises'" (R. Stevenson), and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee melody & descant" (Beethoven).

What is your favorite part of Choralfest?

I love seeing all the different choirs, especially the smaller ones, since they probably don't have many opportunities to sing in a big mass group and feel the support of knowing other kids their age enjoy "making a joyful noise to the Lord" through choir. With all the many options kids have for extracurricular activity, the children's church choir is in danger of becoming a dying breed. Choir festivals like this help keep choir vibrant, relative and supported.

What was your favorite part when you were the director of Choralfest?

I served as Chair for the Choralfest event for 16 years before just being a participating director. Oddly, my favorite part as Chair was seeing the other directors as they had to rehearse and perform the Directors' Humorous Moment - a special 10-minute segment when the directors do something silly relating to the theme of the festival, simply for the amusement of the children. We've had some very shy or laid back directors surprise me with their willingness to get out of their comfort zone for the sake of the kids.

What is your all-time favorite song you've taught as a director of Joyful Noise?

Wow - that's a hard one to answer, as I've directed the group for 20 years now. However, looking over a list I've been keeping of Joyful Noise songs, I'm reminded how much I like Mark Patterson's "Will You Be Ready for the Light?" and Mark Miller's simple but heartfelt, "I Choose Love". But then I think of the dramatic pieces Joyful Noise has always done well: Joseph Martin's "Goliath", our song & dance renditions of the stories of Moses & the Red Sea or Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego - they've been great, too. Basically whatever the kids were able to learn and sing from their hearts have become precious to me, for that's when we are doing our part in sharing the Gospel through our music. ■



PEACE IN ISRAEL

BY KIM PETERSON, INTERN PASTOR

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.” -Martin Luther King, Jr.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. -Isaiah 2:4

But the Advocate the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. -John 14:26-27

In an ideal world, the holy city of Jerusalem would be a model of peace. As an important site for three major world religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—it would be a place where people of different backgrounds would come together, celebrating what they have in common and showing tolerance of and even rejoicing in their differences.

Today’s Jerusalem is far from peaceful and contains some of the most hotly contested real estate in the world. The Temple Mount—site of the biblical Temple and Wailing Wall, and traditionally where Abraham bound Isaac—is also known as Haram al-Sarif, site of the al-Azqa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, where Muslims believe that Mohammad ascended to heaven. For both Jews and Muslims, the site has major religious significance. Christians also claim it as part of our heritage. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditionally believed to be built upon the sites of Christ’s death and resurrection, is central to the faith of many and the ultimate Christian pilgrimage site. Seven separate churches have a stake in the region.



Overlooking the Church of the Sepulchre from the tower of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem



The Dome of the Rock in Old Jerusalem

A similar tension pervades Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. Israelis identify the region as their ancestral home, a place where they are safe from persecution and free to practice their religion without fear. Palestinians also identify it as their ancestral home, with many families able to trace their lineage or show property deeds from hundreds of years ago. Many Christians are unaware that the vast majority of our siblings in Christ in the Holy Land are, in fact, Arab Palestinian. The assumption is that all Palestinians are Muslim.

So these two groups—Israelis and Palestinians—lay claim to the same space. Both have religious ties to the area, both view the area as having the utmost significance, and both groups want peace. They want to raise their children in a place where they feel safe, where they are well-provided for, where they have the right to safety and education and religious freedom.

The Palestinians are increasingly oppressed, which fuels desperation, which fuels violence, which threatens Israeli security so that they put further restrictions on the Palestinians, and the cycle continues. The causes for all of this—the actions

and reactions—are much more complex than I have room to explain here, nor do I fully understand it all. Both sides of this conflict have committed acts of injustice. Both sides of the conflict have extremists. The concept of peace at times feels hopeless. With so much conflict for so many generations, how is peace even possible?

If it were up to only us, I suspect it wouldn't be. But we worship a God who bears many epithets...one of which is our congregational namesake. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Sometimes I feel like it may take till the second coming, but we'll get there. And in the meantime, there are strong signs of hope.

In addition to the countless individual acts of kindness and understanding there are camps for peace for Muslim and Jewish children. There are non-violent advocates and protestors. There are people reaching out to help their neighbors, and people of different religions living side by side and in peace. For each tale of destruction and tragedy we hear on the news, there are tales of peace and justice and compassion...we just hear these less frequently. Throughout this region of conflict, there are



The “Wailing Wall” or “Western Wall” of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem



Dr. Mitri Raheb is the Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem

thousands of people—Jewish, Muslim, and Christian, Arab, Israeli, and other ethnicities—who are putting in the time and energy to show the world that we cannot give up on peace, that for every story the media shares proclaiming death and destruction, there are many, many more proclaiming peace. They may be quiet. They may be simple. They may be underreported. But they are there. And as Christians we believe this too—because the story of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection shows us that love wins. Life wins. And the Prince of Peace? The Prince of Peace isn’t giving up on Israel and Palestine, and he’s not giving up on us.

So my challenge to you is this: remember that God isn’t giving up on us or on the peace process. As Christians we are called upon to find a way to promote peace in our own lives. Maybe it’s some form of activism. Maybe it’s teaching our children that violence isn’t the answer. Maybe it’s donating to a peacemaking organization, or educating ourselves about the root causes of war or violence. It might be as simple and complex as starting the peaceful journey in our own lives—by taking a step to heal a wound between you and a loved one, or reaching out to someone who needs our help and love.

The best way to learn more about this region is to visit, and we have an opportunity for you to do just that. In 2019, Pastor Jonathan will be leading a Prince of Peace Lutheran pilgrimage to the Holy Land where you’ll be able to walk in the footsteps of Christ—not only through visiting biblical sites, but also through growing in understanding of and relationship with the people that live there today. For more information, please contact Pastor Jonathan Eilert.

And in the meantime, Shalom, Salam, Peace be with you. ■

FINDING PEACE THROUGH POP KIDS SCHOOL

BY DEREK SMITH

A few years ago, I was out to lunch with a business acquaintance when our conversation took a hard left turn. In the middle of a conversation about tricky contract negotiations I suddenly heard, *How do you talk to your kids about Jesus?* It's strange to hear that question in a restaurant. I felt self-conscious. Who talks about this in front of other people?

The truth is we hadn't prioritized Jesus in our daily lives. Our kids were very young, and we talked only casually about finding a congregation to join. It meant a lot to have Caroline and Ian baptized in the same Iowa church where Lauren was baptized as a child, and where we married in 2006, but God only came up at bedtime when Caroline asked us to read from her *Beginner's Bible*.

Things changed when Lauren joined the Mothers of Preschoolers group that meets each month at Prince of Peace. She started hearing from other moms about how much they loved the school right there at the church. We were happy with the preschool that Caroline had attended up the street from us, but we couldn't ignore all the praise for POP Kids. It seemed God was calling us to this special place.

Our mission at Prince of Peace is to live and love like Jesus. POP Kids School embodies this mission in its emphasis on spiritual awareness. Teachers and staff teach about Jesus, model Christian values, engage the children in programs and projects, and pray with students.

For some students this may be their first or only encounter with the Bible or the story of Jesus. Pastor Lorne, Pastor Kim, and Mary Ellen Helms guide the children through songs and stories at Chapel Time, helping the children form an early relationship with God.

More than stories though, students learn about Jesus's love by witnessing it in action. Amy Top, a POP Kids teacher, knows that children observe everything. She teaches Christian values by modeling loving behavior, particularly in the way she interacts with students and staff. The children notice and emulate this behavior. One morning, Amy was comforting a child who missed her mother when several of her classmates spontaneously approached and gave the girl hugs and encouragement.

Another way the school teaches about Jesus is by engaging students in projects and programs such as the Lenten Walk. During the Lenten Walk, POP's hallways are lined with illustrations and collages depicting key moments in the life

of Jesus. POP Kids joined in one project, engaging directly in a creative and meaningful way with God's Word. In addition to being a great way for the children to

participate directly in telling the story, it was an opportunity for students and staff to share with families and the wider church the work that they do together.

Students also pray together. They pray during Chapel Time, before eating a snack, or to end circle time. Pastor Lorne cites a verse from Isaiah Chapter 11 that says "a child shall lead them," because some children bring new faith practices home. Angie Seiller, the director of POP Kids, heard from a family whose son gathered his stuffed animals into a circle for Chapel Time. Children guide their families in prayer, or call them to come to worship. Some parents say that their faith has deepened because of their children.

A world restored with grace and peace. POP Kids works to realize this vision by offering scholarships to children who couldn't otherwise attend preschool. Pastor Lorne believes "it is making an impact in those families' lives and certainly in those kids' lives to be able to have a place to go to school and learn all the important social skills before entering kindergarten." As Angie notes: "Access to quality preschool can be the difference in a child's success in school for years to come ... Statistics show that early childhood education can mean profoundly better lives for children, their families, and our society as a whole."

When you place a child – especially a young one – into the care of another, it is an act of trust. Paul says in Second Corinthians, "We walk by faith, not by sight." This is how it is with our children. It's like a piece of your heart sprouts legs and is out exploring the world, and there's only so much you can do to protect it. Growing up is also growing away, which means that as parents we are present with our children less and less. When we're not there, we need to know they are in good hands. This is the peace that Lauren and I have found at POP Kids.

God is now a part of our family's daily conversation and lives. The kids ask questions that I sometimes have trouble answering, but it's wonderful that they ask them. We are grateful for this community, for POP Kids, and for their role in helping our family along this faith journey. ■





PEACE

BY PASTOR LORNE HLAD

There is no denying that we live in a world marked by conflict.

Did you know that there are currently four major conflicts/wars that have resulted in 10,000 or more deaths per year for the last two years? Consider that in 2017 the conflict in Syria resulted in over 39,000 deaths, the Mexican drug conflict resulted in nearly 15,000, the war in Afghanistan 14,000, and the war in Iraq over 13,000.

Then consider the rest of the world and places like Myanmar, the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Somalia plus 10 other countries where armed conflicts have resulted in casualties between 1,000 and 10,000 people in the last two years alone.

Let this fact sink in for a moment...there were 15,590 people killed by guns in the United States last year, not including gun deaths by suicide.

What does all of this death lead to?

Thousands upon thousands of funerals, mothers and fathers who weep uncontrollably, lives cut far too short, communities torn apart, neighbors turned into enemies, hearts hardened and lives imprisoned by fear.

Let's face it: it is really hard at times to not get caught up into the narrative of fear. It can be difficult for us to resist the world's story that sows mistrust in others and encourages us to circle the wagons and live in a posture of defensiveness. At times, we might even try to shut the rest of the world out and live in a pseudo-safe cocoon-like environment where we are surrounded by comfort and quarantined off from the problems of the "world".

THE JOURNEY OF PEACE

Even though it was 11 years ago, there are many days when it feels like just yesterday: when getting dressed in the morning included putting on a full set of body armor strapped with loaded magazines and picking up my rifle for another day in the life of a soldier serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There are many aspects from my life as a soldier that I miss everyday. The camaraderie with the men and women I served alongside. The shared sense of struggle and unique bonding that occurs when people face adversity together, and the feeling of exhaustion after a long day of work.

However, there are other aspects of my life as a soldier that I do not miss.

I do not miss carrying around a weapon of war to the bathroom and dining hall.

I do not miss living in a perpetual state of fear, wondering if the worst is about to happen to someone I love.

I do not miss looking at others with constant suspicion of their motives.

I do not miss the look on people's faces after they have suffered unthinkable tragedies.

I do not miss the toxic culture surrounding combat that entices anger, bitterness, and hatred within the human heart.

I do not miss the feeling of my trigger finger stiff with pain from being in a state of constant alert.



I do not miss war.

I do not understand a culture that glorifies the brutality of war. Bravery, selfless service and sacrifice...these are worthy of our honor and respect. But the ugliness of war should never be glorified. I do not understand the culture of fascination that surrounds weapons of war and treats them like accessories to one's life, for I know these are nothing more than tools of destruction that reflect the ugliest part of our humanity.

I refuse to worship war and all of its tools and instruments. I refuse because I have been called to follow the Prince of Peace.

It is for times such as these that we have been called.

As Christians, we need to be careful not to confuse the "absence of conflict" with peace. True peace for the Christian is not understood as being found in perfect harmony or serenity, but rather, peace is to be understood in a twofold manner. 1) As the very presence and being of God. 2) Peacemaking as a ministry of reconciliation.

PEACE FOUND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The biblical words for peace, shalom (Hebrew) and eirene (Greek), both convey the understanding that God is the very source of peace. It is God's presence with us in the valley of the shadow of death that brings peace, not the green pastures or still waters.

Consider the words from the Apostle Paul:
"Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:11-13

And the blessing of Aaron:
"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Galatians reminds us that peace is a fruit of God's very Spirit:
"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things." Galatians 5:22-23

God's abiding hope and presence in our lives is the ultimate source of real peace.

PEACEMAKING AS A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

The Christian life is one that is always being made new. The Holy Spirit is continually pursuing us and inviting us to live into God's narrative of healing, forgiveness, and sense of wholeness (shalom). The letter of Paul to the Galatians reminds us that we have not only received a calling to "live like Jesus" or to "love like Jesus", but that **Jesus lives inside of us**.

"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."
 Galatians 2:20

The Christian life is not a matter of behaving like Christ, but of allowing Christ himself to live in and through us, and here's the thing about Jesus: he is always inviting us to join him in the ministry of reconciliation and peacemaking.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

The church embodies the very peace of God when we embrace our foundational purpose of bearing witness to the resurrection of Christ that leads us to seek peace in all areas of our society and around the world.

Living in the 21st century world we will certainly still hear the voices of fear, discord, and division that are ever present in our lives, but they cannot motivate us, because we are followers of Jesus.

As citizens of the global world, we will be tempted to choose "sides", fan the flames of tribalism, and circle the wagons, but we must resist because we are agents of reconciliation.

As individuals, we will be tempted to build our own kingdoms and serve our own interests, but we must seek first the kingdom of God because we are servants of all. ■

Pastor Lorne served as a Sergeant in the United States Army from 2004-2010, and served a combat tour in Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division from August 2006 to November 2007.

FINDING COMMUNITY IN THE JOURNEY: A Perspective on the UNdivided Journey

BY ANNIE CLEVIDENCE

Maybe it's the teacher in me, but has anyone else been listening to a sermon and wanted to raise their hand and ask a question? Not to question the message, but to gain more clarity or perspective into how the message connects to your personal life. There have been so many times that I'm listening to the words being said and I want the sermon to become a discussion. I want to focus in on a small point and inject myself into the conversation.

I'm tasked to teach *The Scarlet Letter*, a novel written 170 years ago, and my students find it as irrelevant as you probably did in high school. But the message of that book is one of equality, feminism, God, guilt, love, hate, and revenge. It actually has just about everything a book needs, but the language is challenging, so the good stuff is hard to find. The discussions my students and I have are what illuminate the relevance. Our pastors are tasked with teaching a passage in just 20-30 minutes from a book that's not hundreds but thousands of years old, and they're supposed to make it relevant to an entire group of uniquely different individuals. I want my students to understand *The Scarlet Letter* which I have four weeks to teach, and I maybe reach 60% of them. Our pastors have 20-30 minutes to get across a message that is foundational to our everyday lives. To me, that sounds nearly impossible.

At church I look around and see everyone looking forward—smiling, nodding, laughing, or sometimes serious. We're blessed with incredible pastors who make the lessons entertaining, but I know I'm not the only one with questions.

I heard the sermon on Luke 12:33 which says, "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven!" I hear this and immediately my brain is spinning. *But I just bought a house...because I thought that's what I'm supposed to do as a 26-year-old who wants to eventually start a family. But that means that's money I didn't give to the poor. Am I selfish? Am I greedy? How do I plan for a future while still being a follower of God?* I needed time and permission to explore these questions with others, not just in my own head.

Two weeks later, the tragedy at Parkland occurred. As a teacher, and as Americans, we're living in a time of mass shootings. I now have regular conversations about what happens if there is an intruder in my building. On Ash Wednesday, I remember going to church after I saw the news of Parkland. I remember tearing up in service during the sermon, and desperately needing to know how it all connects. *What do I do tomorrow when I look at my students and want to cry because I can't imagine one of my 160 kids not being there? What do I do if someone wants to hurt them?* Again, I had questions that I couldn't answer on my own.

At this point, I'm personally starting a new chapter in my life, or as a colleague said, "Annie, it's not a new chapter. You're starting four new books." In the past four months, I've gotten engaged and bought a house.





Yet, as many of you know and have experienced, and I'm just now learning, those two massive decisions have turned into weekly conversations with my fiancé about faith and children and future and money. Healthy, important, wonderful, yet difficult conversations. Those two decisions have spiraled into other major decisions and plans. And as the personal conversations come up more and more, I've found I have more and more questions.

That's where the Journey Group came into play for me. We started the group the week after Ash Wednesday. We read the passages from the Bible and answered the guided questions. What ensued were deep thoughtful conversations from people both similar and vastly different from myself. We discussed what community looks like in our suburbs compared to apartment complexes. We discussed protesting and how the idea makes some of us uncomfortable and makes some of us feel powerful and that both are okay. We discussed what changes need to be made in the world and how we feel powerless to make them. We discussed what changes we can affect in our own lives and how powerful that makes us. We discussed all those things that you're not supposed to discuss in polite company: religion, politics, and money - and the conversation was healthy and good. The journey group for those five weeks became a haven for me.

Maybe when I'm older and I've lived in the house and paid the mortgage and become a wife and mother I'll have less questions and less thoughts. But I think most people will grin reading this and tell me that kids bring more questions, as do relationships, as does our relationship with God as we grow. The questions don't end, but they don't have to.

Church is not simply a service on Sunday. Church is the community of people that you surround yourself with so you can discuss that service. Sunday sermons are a 20-minute lesson that our pastors want us to consider and hold onto through the week. Yet, it's just the beginning of the week. It's just the start of a greater conversation.

I am so blessed to have been apart of a Journey Group. To sit down with people I didn't know all that well and share thoughts, be heard, and to listen. During that group we all had a lot happening personally. I bought a house, some changed jobs, some considered leaving the city and moving, some experienced break-ups and losses. Through the Journey Group, I found people to experience life with. I had the opportunity I always looked for in service: to read the gospel and then discuss how it connected to each one of us, at each critical venture we went through. To me that is indispensable. ■



FINDING PEACE WHILE KEEPING THE PEACE

BY KAREN VANCE

Editor's Note: This piece is part of a series about how members of Prince of Peace are living their faith in their lives. Mike Dressell is the Assistant Chief of Police at Indian Hill Rangers Police Department.

Enforcing the law. Catching the bad guy. That's what many of us think that police officers do. Mike Dressell, a member of Prince of Peace, has been a police officer for over 28 years. He sees it as a vocation to serve people who need help.

"Sometimes, I get frustrated that I can't help everyone I come in contact with. There are people who don't want help and some who are stuck in a bad place and just can't be helped at that moment," Mike said. "I see just that one episode in their lives and I might not know the end result. I try to focus on doing what I can at the time."

It can be hard to make peace with that frustration and hard not to let the negative things impact you personally.

"Being a police officer, you often see the worst in people," Mike said. "It can make you cynical. But my faith helps me through the difficult times so that I can keep trying to help people, to make a difference."

Mike started as a police dispatcher in 1989, attended the Great Oaks Police Academy in 1990, and became a part-time police officer in the Village of Golf Manor. In 1992 he was hired as a full-time professional firefighter with the City of Norwood. The fire department sent him to the University of Cincinnati's training program to become a paramedic. For the next seven years, he worked as a full-time firefighter/paramedic and a part-time police officer.

Since 1999, he's been a full-time police officer for Indian Hill. Today, he's Captain Mike Dressell, the assistant chief of police for the Indian Hill Rangers. He also maintains his paramedic certification and works for TriHealth Event Medicine, which provides emergency medical service to the Cincinnati Reds & Bengals, Xavier University sports teams, the Duke Energy Convention Center, and many other venues in town.

"In those jobs, you see a lot of things that most people don't see," Mike said. "There have been a lot of times that my faith has gotten me through those days. Because of my faith, I've been able to have what I need, when I need it."

After a particularly hard day – when he'd responded to a fatal car accident involving a 16-year-old boy – he had a conversation with his own teen son, who was less than enthusiastic about going to a confirmation class that night.

"I told him, 'Everything you're learning in these classes is important. One day, you'll need it to get you through something rough in your life,'" Mike remembers.

It's been that way for him.

But he didn't always want to be a police officer. From the age of 10, he wanted to be a doctor. He was inspired by his pediatrician, who helped him through some medical issues in his childhood, including a cleft palate.

But his college plans were derailed when his mom was diagnosed with cancer when he was 18.

"She was able to see me graduate high school, but died shortly after," Mike said. "From that time, I worked at the police department and on to the fire department. It always felt like I was being guided and pushed in a direction in my life. Like someone was watching out for me and steering me toward helping people."

Through it all, he had his faith. "It was comforting," he said. "And something the Lutheran Church taught me was that faith didn't have to be formal, that it is part of everyday life."

He feels like he's been in situations where God was a part of what he was able to do – whether to catch an important piece of evidence that breaks a case open during an investigation, or to respond quickly in an emergency situation.

"That's when I just take a moment and look up and know it wasn't me – it was God. I give just a quick little acknowledgement, a nod or a brief prayer of thanks."

Mike's faith in God helps him to find that moment of peace in his day. ■



"Because of my faith,
I've been able to
have what I need,
when I need it."

Mike with his wife, Jill,
and his children, Nick and Grace

FOOD, FAMILY, FAITH

BY JANE STUFFT

I think I would watch *Blue Bloods* on Friday night if only to eavesdrop on the multi-generational meal included in each episode. Four generations share food, conversation, and opinions. They support one another, but they challenge each other as well. Sometimes tempers flare. At other times, silence rules. Occasionally someone volunteers to say grace, but most often someone in the family "nominates" someone else, or they say a memorized blessing together. Perhaps I am fond of the show because I connect their experience to one that repeated itself weekly in my own family.

Mom, Aunt Esther, and Grandma rotated turns cooking a Sunday meal each week. There were regularly fourteen people around the table -- more when one or both of my single uncles or my Uncle Walt's family of five came for a weekend visit. That weekly meal together with my dad's family symbolized the solid support system that surrounded me. I loved listening to the adult conversation that buzzed around me, always more lively during an election year. After dinner the cousins paired up and raced around my grandparents' house, hoping to be the first to return to the starting point and be declared the winner by one of the adults sitting on the front porch. . . We played games. . . Roller skated in the basement. . . Wrote and performed plays for the adults.

My grandparents and Aunt Gladys lived next door; my Aunt Esther within a couple of miles. Many of us don't have such close proximity to our families today. My siblings and I are separated by miles and hours: Cincinnati, Atlanta, two different towns in Pennsylvania. I think that's why our church family has become so important over the years.

In the biblical tradition of breaking bread together, in the fall of 2017, Prince of Peace began offering a weekly community meal on Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm (A free will offering helps cover the cost). The meal is followed by "Good Stuff" like

Bible study, special speakers, youth activities, Journey groups, and time to play board games or chat with one another.

The evening meal and activities offer much of what I value about those Sunday meals I shared with extended family. The seating patterns reflect the many possibilities in the room. Sometimes people sit with strangers and forge new relationships. They connect with old friends and swap stories. There are same-age groups and multi-generational tables (Vance boys, I have a particular affinity for this grouping and enjoy the "teen fix" I miss from my teaching days!). There are same-gender groupings. . . couples. . . singles. . . families.

Tara Ousley works quietly and efficiently in the kitchen -- sometimes with Orville on her hip -- to prepare a meal that has something for everyone, including vegetarian and gluten-free choices. Toddlers delight in the walk around the Parish Life Center and

sometimes need to be rescued before they dash down the hall and out the exit. "Surrogate grandparents" or teens often take turns holding or following those little ones. One night, Noah Hlad stood quietly watching an older, taller child, finally opting to throw his arms around her legs in a hug -- a great expression of the connection you can experience on Wednesday nights.

Although this particular version of our communal meals wrapped up in May, we look forward to more opportunities to share food, faith and church family in the coming year. We will have potlucks, soup suppers, and community events like our annual Chili Cook-Off and Trunk or Treat. Hopefully, with your help we can create even more! So keep an eye out for the next time an event includes a meal and use that time to nourish yourself, feed your faith, and foster deeper relationships with your church family. ■

Bring Peace to Earth Again

*Where armies scourge the countryside,
and people flee in fear,
where sirens scream through flaming nights,
and death is ever near:
O God of mercy, hear our prayer:
bring peace to earth again!*

*Where anger festers in the heart,
and strikes with cruel hand;
where violence stalks the troubled streets,
and terror haunts the land:
O God of mercy, hear our prayer:
bring peace to earth again!*

*Where homes are torn by bitter strife,
and love dissolves in blame;
where walls you meant for shelt'ring care
hide deeds of hurt and shame:
O God of mercy, hear our prayer:
bring peace to earth again!*

*O God, whose heart compassionate
bears ev'ry human pain,
redeem this violent wounding world
till gentleness shall reign.
O God of mercy, hear our prayer:
bring peace to earth again!*

- Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., Hymn 700

When Our Song Says Peace

*When our song says peace
and the world says war,
we will sing despite the world.
We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
who breaks the spear and sword
and stills the storm of war.*

*When our song says free
and the world says bound,
we will sing despite the world.
We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
who opens prison doors
and sets the captives free.*

*When our song says home
and the world says lost,
we will sing despite the world.
We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
who brings us home at last,
and gives a song to all.*

- Richard Leach, Hymn 709

All hymns are from the hymnal,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

HYMNS of PEACE

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and feed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, fill your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

- Albert F. Bayly, Hymn 712

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

- Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, Hymn 561

Now It Is Evening

Now it is evening: lights of the city bid us remember Christ is our light.
Many are lonely, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our light.

Now it is evening: food on the table bids us remember Christ is our life.
Many are hungry, who will be neighbor? Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.

Now it is evening: little ones sleeping bid us remember Christ is our peace.
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.

Now it is evening: here in our meeting may we remember Christ is our friend.
Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor? Where there's a welcome, Christ is our friend.

- Fred Pratt Green, Hymn 572

FINDING PEACE IN HAITI

BY SARAH MOORE

This past January, I was lucky enough to go on the Haiti Immersion Trip with others from Prince of Peace. I had just finished my undergraduate degree in December and was left feeling a bit lost without the familiar routine of school. Going into the trip, I felt completely unprepared and a bit overwhelmed by the amount of unknown. I barely knew anyone I would be traveling with, had very little idea as to what we would be doing, and this would be my first trip out of the country as an adult. I knew that this would be an amazing experience, but I just wasn't sure that I was ready for it. Thankfully, the only thing that can really prepare you for Haiti is Haiti.

One of our first stops was Wings of Hope, which is a home for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

When we got there, we received an incredible welcome and the residents immediately invited us in to play. After spending some time coloring and building towers with people, I was still feeling a bit overwhelmed. I decided to take a seat on a bench a bit removed from most of the action, which is when I met Junior. Junior had been at Wings of Hope since the year I was born, but you would never know by his size. Junior snuggled up next to me, and we spent some time just watching or napping, in Junior's case. He was nonverbal and wore a football helmet to protect him from destructive behaviors. I find it can sometimes be difficult to communicate with someone who is nonverbal, but in a country where you don't know the language, it is the only way you know to communicate.

With one gesture, Junior managed to relieve all of the pressure I was feeling. In that moment, Junior needed someone to just be with him and that was something I knew how to do. We watched people build towers, sort blocks, run around, and laugh. That may have been the first time I breathed when I was in Haiti, and I will always be thankful to Junior for that. Recently, Junior passed away, but I will always be grateful for our moment of quiet on that busy day. ■



NEW MEMBERS: THE LAYTON FAMILY



The Laytons, who joined Prince of Peace in March, say that they have recently been on a faith journey together. The family includes Andy and Wendy (who both work for Microsoft), Heidi (a third-grader at Loveland), and Brady (a kindergartener). How did their journey of faith begin? Wendy and Andy give credit to the kids.

Brady is a POP Kids School alum. During God's Time at preschool last year, Brady learned a new way to pray and shared it with his family. He taught everyone to hold their hands out wide and bring them together saying "Let us pray!" Later, the kids attended the Spring Fling Carnival and Vacation Bible School. These were pivotal experiences for the family. Wendy says, "When we started to see how our kids' faith was being formed by POP, we wanted to be a part of it ourselves."

The family began attending worship here last fall. Andy and Wendy were immediately drawn to the combination of Lutheran traditions and messages pertinent to life today. They also appreciate the church's ties to the community. "We like how POP provides a really good means of involvement through partnerships with the L.I.F.E. Food Pantry and N.E.S.T.," said

Andy. Wendy added, "I love the music. I recognize a lot of the hymn texts from growing up in a Lutheran church. But the music here is upbeat and exciting."

Both Wendy and Andy value the faith formation they had as kids participating in youth groups and church camps. In college, Wendy spent time as a counselor at Camp Sequanota, a Lutheran camp and retreat center in south-central Pennsylvania. She has fond memories of friendships and the outdoor chapel time. She recalls one morning of significance when she woke before dawn and hiked to the mountaintop chapel to see the sun rise.



Today, the whole family has a love of the outdoors and being active. They may often be found at local parks and playgrounds or hiking at the Cincinnati Nature Center. They cheer for the Reds as a family but are a split Bengals/Steelers household. Through the week they divide their time between work, school, and youth basketball, soccer and baseball.

How does this busy family stay focused on what matters? Even though life can be hectic, the Laytons make family dinners a priority and share their "highs and lows" around the table. Additionally, Wendy says "On Sundays we take a couple of hours as a family to pause around worship. Often we'll talk about the sermon over lunch afterwards."



The family has already gotten engaged at POP outside of worship. For example, Heidi sings with the Joyful Noise children's choir. Director Robin Stevenson commented, "It didn't take long for Heidi to become an integral part of Joyful Noise. When she and her family officially joined POP as members, other JN singers gave up a big cheer when her name was announced. That was just our way of claiming Heidi as our own and showing that we appreciate her."

Additionally, Brady has earned a family nickname of "Peace Machine" for his determination to share the peace with as many people as possible as he goes back to his family after Children's Worship. Wendy was part of the 5-week UNdivided Journey group this year during Lent. And, taking advantage of his love of cooking, Andy entered his chili recipe in this February's Chili Cook-Off. They all look forward to getting involved in local service and outreach opportunities.

This family's faith journey at Prince of Peace is just beginning. Perhaps they will always remember how it began with small steps. As Andy said, "We've felt very welcomed and were fortunate to find POP through the kids." ■

PEACE

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

-Evangelical Lutheran Worship

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

WE CELEBRATE THE NEW SAINTS OF THE CHURCH WHO WERE BAPTIZED AND REMEMBER THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT SINCE LAST ALL SAINTS DAY IN NOVEMBER 2017.

BAPTIZED

Emery Behbehani
Axel Byrn
Grayson Coffey
Channin Edlridge

Randall Eldridge
Isabella Fronk
Derek Hensley

Theodore Hensley
Noah Hlad
Adeline Petersen

Iris Rich-Greatorex
Brodrick Santiago
Gabriela Santiago

IN MEMORIAM



CHARLOTTE NEWMAN

Charlotte Newman of Maineville died on October 25, 2017, months before her 80th birthday. She was married to her beloved husband, George, for 58 years. As a POP member of 14 years, she was active with the Senior Bible Study and was an avid quilter with Pieces for Peace. Her quiet leadership, meticulous sewing, and her teaching and love for quilting were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by many, both by Pieces for Peace members and by many POP members who received her beautiful quilts. Charlotte was a loving mother to Steven Newman Sr., proud grandmother of Steven Newman, Jr. and Felicia Newman, and great-grandmother of Anthony Lattarulo, Nicholas Lattarulo and Patrick Nystrom.



SHELBY FEIN

Shelby was born on June 7, 1999 and passed away on Friday, December 15, 2017. Daughter of Glen and Sheila Fein, sister of Dakota, Shelby was a resident of Wilmington, Ohio at the time of her death. She was a graduate of Ballard High School in Louisville, Kentucky and had just completed her first semester at Wilmington College. Shelby is greatly missed by her friends and family.

ON THE HORIZON

Monday - Friday, June 18 - June 22, 2018

Vacation Bible School (PreK-6th)

Join us as we celebrate God's Good Creation by learning about hunger, hope, and God's work in the world. Kids will spend each evening planting the seeds of faith by rotating through activity stations and will be able to see God's love take root and grow!

Thursdays, July 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 9, 2018

POP Summer Music Series

Enjoy an evening of music on Thursdays this summer at 7 pm, from bluegrass to string quartets here at Prince of Peace. Invite your friends for these unique musical treats here in our Sanctuary!

Saturday and Sunday, July 28 & 29, 2018

Senior Recognition Weekend

Celebrate our seniors and give thanks for their wisdom, guidance, and support to the ministry and people of Prince of Peace over so many years. Reception of cake to follow worship!

Saturday and Sunday, August 4 & 5, 2018

POPLuthYouth Led Worship and Young Adult Blessing

"A little child will lead them." Come worship and celebrate with our young people as they lead worship as a way to share their gifts with our community and praise God. On this weekend, all young adults who are heading into whatever is next in their lives are also invited to come receive a blessing.

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Summer "Peace Out" Festival

Celebrate the end of summer with a fun gathering of the POP community after 11 am worship, featuring food, activities (e.g. dunk tank, bouncy house), and a chance to hang out with others. A great weekend to invite friends to worship and to stay after for food and fun!

Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9, 2018

God's Work. Our Hands. Weekend of Service

Each weekend after Labor Day, Prince of Peace joins thousands of other congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to gather together for "God's work. Our hands." weekend of service. Whether we fill backpacks with needed school supplies, package food for those who are food insecure or write letters to soldiers and veterans, we are using our hands to do God's work to reconcile and restore communities in Jesus' name throughout the world. Join us to be part of "God's work. Our hands." on this annual weekend of service and to live every day living & loving like Jesus.

Saturday and Sunday, September 22 & 23, 29 & 30, 2018

Connect Weekends

Explore the many opportunities, groups, and teams of Prince of Peace and how you can connect with others as the body of Christ, serving together towards our vision of a world restored with grace & peace. Talk with group and team leaders. Explore ways to use your gifts and passions in the POP community.

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Beautiful Things: A Creative Retreat

Moved to the fall this year due to the winter women's retreat: Come spend a day exploring how God creates beautiful things and how we can, too. This retreat is intended for adults of all experience levels to embrace how creativity intersects with faith and spirituality through worshipping together and workshops exploring a diversity of creative expressions.

Friday and Saturday, February 8 & 9, 2019

REFRESH: a women's retreat for your soul, body & mind

Women of all ages, mark your calendars for the new 'REFRESH' retreat, hosted by a group of POP women, to be held at a local retreat center in Milford. The retreat will start the evening of Friday, February 8 and will continue through the afternoon on Saturday, February 9. There will be limited space for this overnight retreat (e.g. 30 women). Watch the announcements for more information about registration this fall.



Prince of Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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