



July 2019

Volume XXV, Number 7

# Tidings of Peace

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church ♦ 1747 W. Milham Avenue, Portage, MI 49024 ♦ 269-343-3453 ♦ [popportage.org](http://popportage.org)

## Pastor's Page

*"Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God's Peace, for the sake of the world."*

### Staff

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### Worship Whys? Worship Wise!



Why do we do what we do in worship?

What is liturgy? What is a lectionary?

Why do we share the peace?

Why do we bring the communion elements forward with the offering plates?

How do hymns get chosen?

Why do the parament colors change? What is a parament?

We're going to spend the summer exploring these questions and many more!

On Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM, we'll focus on the history of an element of worship each week, such as the creed, the confession, or communion. The bulletins will occasionally contain biblical references and connections to different parts of the service. We'll explore how the words, songs, and actions of worship prepare us to live our faith in the world as well as praising God in the sanctuary.

On Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM, we'll gather for a different style of worship we're calling Evening Prayer and Praise. This casual service will give us an opportunity to explore new forms of worship that will help us think more deeply about the intersection of faith and life and begin to experience God's presence in new ways. Many of the same educational pieces that will happen on Sunday mornings – like the history and biblical connections to our worship life – will be present in the evening as well.

Throughout the summer, I'd also like to answer your questions about worship directly. E-mail me or write me a note and I will try to include the answer to your question in a sermon, Facebook post on the church page (Prince of Peace, Portage, MI – ELCA if you haven't liked us there yet), or future newsletter article. What have you always wanted to know about worship?

### Here's a schedule of upcoming themes in case you want to be sure not to miss one of them!

July 7 – Seasons of Love: the Liturgical Year

July 14 – Welcoming Diverse Neighbors

July 21 – Hospitality: A place for all people

July 28 – Lord, Teach us to Pray

August 4 – We are an offering

August 11 – Awake for the banquet

August 18 – Fire of the Word

*We'll be worshipping in the park this week*

August 25 – Healing Rites



July 2019

Don't forget to send me your worship questions! [pastorrachel@popportage.org](mailto:pastorrachel@popportage.org)

Shalom, Pastor Rachel



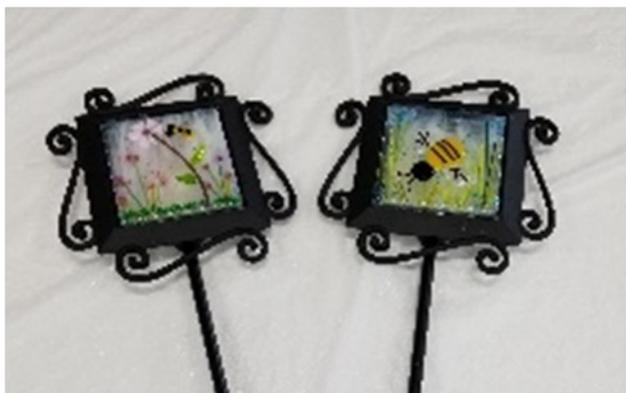
# What's Happening at POP!

## **Fused Glass Class** **Sunday, July 28, 2019 – 2-4 p.m.**

Adults and high school students are invited to join us for a fused glass class with professional artist, Gloria Badiner. Gloria will be offering us the option of making glass wind chimes or a garden stake in her studio in Mattawan. Our elementary kids enjoyed a class with Gloria in June making nightlights.

Gloria will provide a picnic lunch and all materials. The cost is \$45/person. Checks should be payable to Prince of Peace with "glass class" in the memo line. Class size is limited to 20 people, so sign up in the gathering space to save your spot.

Once we know who is signed up, we'll give you the directions to Gloria's studio. It takes about 30 minutes to get there from church.



## **Mid Week Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
They are using the Augsburg Adult Study. This quarter the focus is *Living in Covenant*.



## **The quilters will meet** **on July 9 and August 13**

Call Sandy Williams at 762-4138 or Annette Smith at 327-4291 if you have any questions.



## **LADIES LUNCH BUNCH**

We meet the third Tuesday, 11:45 a.m., at various restaurants for food and fellowship.

All women are welcome.

**July 17** The Cove 9110 Portage Rd, Portage

## **BUNKO & PIZZA**

Our next event is **Tuesday, July 9 at 12:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$5.00.** Please sign up in the Gathering Area. Come and join this group for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

## **Sanctuary Flowers for July**

*Given by:*  
Claudia Lee



## **Flower Sign-up:**

Anyone who wishes to recognize a special occasion or in remembrance of someone may contribute toward the monthly flowers and all will be recognized in the Peace Proclamations and newsletter.

We need a minimum of five people to sign-up, contributing \$10 to cover the cost of the flowers.

**Sign up for August!**



**The office will be closed**  
**Thursday, July 4**  
**in observance of**  
**Independence Day.**

# More of What's Happening @ POP!

## Book Club

We are on hiatus until September.



The following is a list of books we plan to read this fall:

September: *Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien

October: *Where the Forest Meets the Stars* by Glenda Vandera

November: *Molokai* by Alan Brennert

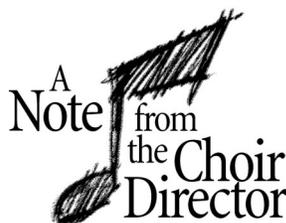
December: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Happy reading over the summer!

I think we have a pretty good mix of books. If you read anything that you think would make a good book for discussion let us know so we may include it in the future. Hope to see you all for our next meeting on **Sept 18 at 10:00 am.**

## Special Music during July and August

There are **TEN CHANCES** to share special music during summer worship.



This includes solos, ensembles, vocal, instrumental -- ALL AGES and ALL STYLES. Talk to Janet Hill if you have music to share. (Call or text: 616-340-7151)

We will be hosting a blood drive on **Monday, August 19 from 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM.**

Versiti, formerly Michigan Blood will be collecting the blood. Please put the date on your calendar. More information will be provide in the near future.



## Social Concerns



### Samaritas World Refugee Day Celebration at Prince of Peace.

On the evening of **Thursday, June 20** our parking lot was packed and we could hear the wonderful musical sounds of a Congolese entertainer coming from behind the church.

Samaritas sponsored the event to celebrate **World Refugee Day** which included amazing foods, a huge bouncy house, tented areas/stage for wonderland entertainment and most of all hundreds of refugees, sponsors, supporters and friends.

Great thanks to Afifa Taj, Chris Cavanaugh along with Mary, Efran and Joel for bringing this celebration to our church.

We hope to host next year as well.



### On Friday, June 21, members from Prince of Peace served lunch at Ministry with Community.



# July PoP Talks

## July 7 – Mormonism 101

with Meghan and Dave Decker, neighbors of Laila Poisson.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Maybe you've seen the musical or flipped through a copy of the Book of Mormon in a hotel room at some point. If you've ever had questions about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, this is a wonderful opportunity to ask.

## July 14 – Remembering God's Promises: Funeral Planning POP Talk

A Christian funeral is a powerful reminder of God's victory over death and God's love for all who are grieving a loss, but I often sit with grieving families who are not sure what hymns or scripture passages to choose for a loved one's funeral because we find it difficult to talk about in advance. This POP Talk will focus on how to have a conversation with those you love about your funeral wishes and walk you through some steps for pre-planning the service.

## accept others July 21 – Friendship in Faith

Steve Bigelow and Dick Hewitt, political opposites in many ways, talk about their friendship and how it's grounding in faith has helped it survive a divisive cultural climate.



## July 28 – Faith, Sexism, Justice

A conversation about the proposed ELCA Social Statement that will be voted on at the Church-wide assembly in August.



The full document can be found here:

[https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice?\\_ga=2.77514582.214818400.1560436238-1065418135.1551903125](https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice?_ga=2.77514582.214818400.1560436238-1065418135.1551903125)

# Thank You's



## Notes of THANKS

### Dear Prince of Peace Family,

Thank you all for your support during this challenging time as we remember and celebrate my father's life.

Chris and Laurel Hopper

### Synod Prayer Partners

If you would like to sign the letter you will find it in the Gathering Space next to the table sign:  
SYNOD PRAYER LETTER.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OTHERS

- *Pastor Rachel and Friends,*  
*Thank you for the many ways you make a difference in the lives of our members. Thank you all for your generous support and caring — Matt Claus, and Kelly Henderson, Executive Director of Ministry with Community*
- *Your recent food donation is helping local families in a very real, very important way. Thank you for the 120 pounds of food. The fresh food items you donated are immediately being distributed to our pantries, and they are filling the cupboards and refrigerators of so many families in Kalamazoo County. — Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director of Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes*



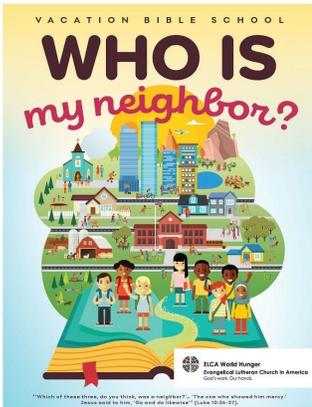
Thank you for making a difference in the lives of girls in Greater Kalamazoo!

With gratitude, Girls on the Run of Greater Kalamazoo Staff and board





## VBS 2019: Who Is My Neighbor?



**Monday, August 12-  
Thursday, August 15**

Our VBS is for the whole family! We'll start with a simple dinner at 5:30 PM (*you don't have to be right on time*), and we'll begin our program at 6:00 PM. This is a time to build connections with God alongside your kids and other families.

Older children are encouraged to participate as well! Not only will they get to participate, but they can help the younger kids, and also help out in other ways... all while earning PEP points!

Friends, neighbors, grandparents are also invited!



**Register Today for VBS**

Please click or copy and paste this link:

<https://forms.gle/Gh6Xfa4mZht8FjZW9>

(Paper registration forms will be available in the gathering space.)

## Peace Kids!

### Peace Kids Workshops!



We've launched something new! On the first Sunday of each month, we're inviting our elementary age kiddos to participate in fun events, where they can learn all kinds of things! Most of

the workshops will happen immediately after worship, will include lunch, and will be taught by our own members who have cool things to teach. Occasionally we might head offsite for a field trip!

We began in May with the Fused Glass Workshop with local artist, Gloria Badiner.

### **Peace Kids – July 7 – change of plans!!**

We're going to postpone Pastor Morgan's cooking class, and head to the Kalamazoo Nature Center instead! The Kalamazoo Nature Center is free on Sunday, July 7, so why not take advantage of that? There's a sign-up sheet in the gathering space, and the group that goes will meet at POP at 1 PM to car pool or caravan.

Unfortunately, I will not be back in time to go with you, but I hope you have a wonderful time and send me pictures that I can post on our church Facebook page!

### **Peace Kids – August 4**

We can reschedule Pastor Morgan for this month... or save that for the cooler months.

We are open to suggestions!

The goal of these workshops is to build up the relationships between the young children of our congregation and the older generations, while learning something fun in the process. Some of our other teachers on deck are Dick Hewitt, who will lead us in some STEM projects, and Carla Hannemann who will share her skills at stamping and card-making.

Do you or someone you know have something fun to teach?

Let us know!



# You All Like Each Other Too Much

**On Father's Day**, I spoke with a visitor to our congregation. He lives on the east side of the state, and his daughter is a member of our congregation.

When I walked up to him, he was waiting to speak to pastor. I greeted him and we exchanged some pleasantries. He then said, "I want to tell you something that a visitor to our congregation told our congregation that really changed our congregation." He told me how he stood in three different places in the Gathering Space and no one spoke to him until I walked up. Then he said "You all like each other too much."

We attend service, move to the gathering area for cookies and a drink and speak with our friends after the service, and rarely speak to visitors or people we don't know. Speaking to strangers can be difficult, we were taught as children not to talk to strangers. But if we follow that advice we never meet anyone new. That's not what life in Christian community is about. We are all called to share the love of Jesus with others. Besides we have the Evangelism Committee. Is talking to visitors their responsibility? Introducing yourself and welcoming people is hospitality. We have greeters at the door before service, but no one is assigned to talk to visitors after service, because talking to visitors after service is everyone's responsibility.

## So what can we do about it?

If you do not know someone near you in worship, introduce yourself to them with a simple "Hello, my name is ..., I don't think I know your name." or something similar.

Start up a neutral conversation. Neutral conversations usually involve the weather, sports, movies/TV shows. Invite someone new into your conversation with friends or start by asking what they like to do in their free time. Maybe you love the same team or TV show.

Ask if you can refresh their coffee or introduce them to the pastor or youth minister.

Offer information about yourself or the community. Do not ask personal questions such as "How old are you?", "Are you married?", or "What are you doing here?" These questions make the person uncomfortable or unwelcome.

Many of us must move outside our comfort zone to talk to visitors at church, but without visitors our church will not grow.

*"There is no comfort in the growth zone and no growth in the comfort zone."* (Unknown)

**Mike Whately, Volunteer Coordinator**

## Tips for Greeters and Everyone Else!



**Rather than asking visitors their names**, offer your name first. This communicates openness to relationship and not just an interest in getting a visitor's contact information. It will likely help a person feel more comfortable knowing someone's name in a strange place.

**Be proactive in getting to know people**, but be aware of verbal and nonverbal indications that someone isn't ready for a long conversation. If someone gives short answers with little additional information or won't respond with questions for you in return, that may be a sign they don't wish to talk. Others might keep moving after a quick greeting or avoid eye contact. Respect the person's signals.

**Practice seeing visitors as people more than potential members.** Invest time and genuine interest in getting to know them even if they are just passing through. They are probably interesting people!

**Smile with your whole body, not just your mouth.** Keep your head up, try to make eye contact, avoid crossing your arms (this gesture can signal unintentionally that a person is self-protective rather than open), and turn your body toward those you are greeting.



# Facts and Figures

## June Attendance:

6/2	174	
6/9	148	Pentecost
6/16	135	Father's Day
6/23	150	

## SPECIAL GIFTS FOR PATHWAYS OF GIVING

**Good Samaritan** - Jim & Anne Vogt  
**Loaves and Fishes** - Gail Hoover  
**ELCA World Hunger**— Joyce Stout, Larry Wentzel,  
 Bob & Carla Hannemann, Ray & Linda Isakson,  
 Brian & Karen DeVries  
**Lutheran Disaster**— Rod Hokenson  
**Kent Hill Special Music** - Bob & Carla Hannemann

## General Fund May

Contributions	\$ 33,312
Expenses	\$ (33,673)
Surplus/deficit	\$ 361



Happy Canada Day!



Use this QR code to make your contribution to Prince of Peace.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

7/2	Lindan Smith	7/17	Christopher McManus	7/25	Lukas Pederson
7/3	Adam Schuhknecht		Jim Vogt	7/27	Paul Swodzinski
7/4	Pamela Schuhknecht	7/18	Jeremy Zimmerman	7/29	Reece Howes
7/5	Kris Rieck	7/19	Rebecka Creed	7/31	Kyra Graham
7/7	Sophia DeRango		Dave Morin		Makayla Seelbinder
	Matt Erdmann		Derek Stepanski		
	Lillian Ross	7/20	Alexander Eldridge		
7/10	Gail Hoover		Ken Lampos		
7/11	Terri Drafta	7/23	Christopher Barnett		
	Eric Nitz	7/24	Linda Boeschstein		
	Tim Kana'an				



## Anniversaries

Greg & Melissa Mickelson	7/5	Doug & Joyce Beak	7/21
Paul & Sheryl Swodzinski	7/6	Matt & Holly Lago	7/22
John & Nancy Ablao	7/9	David & Amy Cooper	7/23
Ron & Kathy Schuen	7/9	Michael & Sara Cruchelow	7/29
Jim & Karen Douglass	7/12	Jason & Carly Davis	7/31
Michael & Debbie Barnett	7/13		
Todd & Ashley Super	7/16		
Jonathan & Melissa Ottesen	7/17		

# Prince of Peace Calendar

JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:15 AM POP Talks 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Praise	<b>1</b> 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	<b>2</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:30 PM Great Lakes Adventure Club	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Power of Breath	<b>4</b> Independence Day Office Closed 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities	<b>5</b> Office Closed 6:00 PM Tai Chi	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Bread & Breakfast
<b>7</b> 9:15 AM POP Talks 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Praise	<b>8</b> 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg. 5:30 PM Finance Committee mtg. 6:00 PM Social Concerns Meeting 7:00 PM Executive Committee	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Quilters 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 12:30 PM Senior Potluck- Bunko 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Power of Breath	<b>11</b> 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	<b>12</b> Office Closed 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:15 AM POP Talks 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Praise	<b>15</b> 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	<b>16</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 11:45 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch @ The Cove 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>17</b> 10:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 PM Evangelism Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council meeting 7:30 PM Power of Breath	<b>18</b> Newsletter Deadline 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	<b>19</b> Office Closed 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> PoP Campers @ Stony Lake until 7/26 9:15 AM POP Talks 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Praise	<b>22</b> 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	<b>23</b> Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Kalamazoo Recorder Players	<b>24</b> 10:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Power of Breath	<b>25</b> 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	<b>26</b> Office Closed 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 AM POP Talks 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Praise	<b>29</b> 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	<b>30</b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	<b>31</b> 10:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Power of Breath	<b>1</b> 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring	<b>2</b> Office Closed 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Bread & Breakfast

**Legend:**

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous  
 FA—Food Addicts in Recovery  
 WMU—Western Michigan University  
 ESL—English as a Second Language  
 TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

**269/343-3453**

www.poppportage.org

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