



Tidings of Peace

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church ♦ 1747 W. Milham Avenue, Portage, MI 49024 ♦ 269-343-3453 ♦ popportage.org

“Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God’s Peace, for the sake of the world.”

Staff

Pastor: Ext 13

Rachel Laughlin

pastorrachel@popportage.org

Youth Minister: Ext 12

Megan Floyd

megan@popportage.org

Administrative Assistant: Ext 10

Tamara Preston

secretary@popportage.org

Bookkeeper: Ext 17

Sarah Maurer

Bookkeeper@popportage.org

Volunteer Coordinator: Ext 15

Mike Whately

volunteer@popportage.org

Director of Music:

Janet Hill

Worship Team Director:

Scott Walker

Custodian:

Steve Haddix

Custodian@popportage.org

Nursery: Ext 23

Amanda Bischof

Mariana Bringas Acevedo

Pastor’s Page

*Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.*

I learned this song as a kid attending ELCA camps in Indiana. Our children & youth learn it when they participate at Living Water Ministry events like Camp Stony Lake or the Great Lakes Gathering. It’s the song that rang in my ears the first week in August when the Churchwide Assembly discussed what it would mean to become a “sanctuary denomination.” Bishop Satterlee wrote about it in the synod newsletter in August. He writes: “Our church is trying to be faithful. Becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. This designation is a declaration that the ELCA is taking action in response to Jesus’ commandment to welcome and love our neighbor and keep with scripture that states, *“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself”* (Leviticus 19:34).

The ELCA’s designation as a “sanctuary denomination” means that our church will continue to support refugees as they are resettled in the U.S. through our partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, provide legal assistance to immigrants pursuing their legally-protected right to seek asylum, and ensuring that undocumented immigrants are aware of their rights under U.S. law. Moreover, the ELCA will continue to advocate for just and humane treatment of detained immigrants, including calling for adequate housing at detention centers and accompanying minors through immigration court as part of the ELCA’s AMMPARO program.”

He goes on to say that we in individual congregations will need to figure out what being a sanctuary means for us. We currently work with Samaritas to help refugee families as they re-settle in the Kalamazoo area. We house the refugee “closet” full of furniture and household items families need as they move into their new homes. We support the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) with our mission support dollars to the synod and churchwide expressions of the ELCA. Right now, that’s what being a sanctuary church looks like for us. If you’d like to help with this work or have ideas for how we can continue to grow in these areas, contact me or Volunteer Coordinator Mike Whately to get connected. pastorrachel@popportage.org or volunteer@popportage.org

Later in his article, Bishop Satterlee points out that the vast majority of the ELCA is made up of immigrants. After WWII, one in six Lutherans was either displaced or a refugee. This important work is part of our heritage as well as our call from God to welcome the stranger and love our neighbors.

There were many more important discussions and decisions at Churchwide Assembly. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was re-elected for a second term. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Secretary, as current Secretary The Rev. Wm. Boerger will be retiring at the end of his term. We voted to participate in the World Council of Churches’ “Thursdays in Black” campaign, working toward a world without rape and gender based violence. We approved the social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action” and a declaration of inter-religious commitment.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, website, Peace Procs, and future newsletters for more information about these actions and more. I can’t fit it all in one newsletter article! And, as always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Shalom, Pastor Rachel



What's Happening at POP!

Come and join our Women's Small Group beginning September 9 at 7 pm in the high school room!!

We study and ponder how as Christian women we can continue to grow and use our gifts and talents in today's world via Christian books and scripture. This summer we have been reading A Year of Biblical Womanhood by Rachael Held Evans. We will determine our future meeting dates on September 9. Our second text, A Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers, will take multiple sessions. These texts are available online via Amazon or Barnes and Noble and at the Kalamazoo and Portage Public Libraries either hardcover or electronic. For questions, contact Diane Snyder or Kristine Pioch. Hope to see you then!



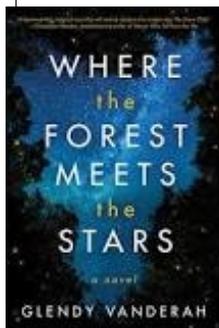
The office will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Book Club

Next meeting on **Sept 18 at 10:00 am.**

September: *Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien

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



A young girl mysteriously appears in the forest near the cabin where Johanna, a graduate student, is studying nesting birds. The girl says her name is Ursa Major, she comes from the Pinwheel Galaxy and just borrowed this body. Before she can return to her galaxy she claims she has to witness 5 miracles.

Jo worries that Ursa is abused at home and enlists the aid of her neighbor Gabe to solve the mystery. Ursa is a very bright strange girl who knows much more than a normal 9 year old and good things seem to happen when she is around. They check the records of missing children and don't find her listed. Still, they don't believe she comes from another world. Over the summer, Jo and Gabe form a strong bond with the girl and each other. What will happen when she sees the 5th miracle?

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

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

All women are welcome.

September 17 Main Street Pub

7809 S Westnedge, Portage

NEWS from the PRINCE OF PEACE Women of the ELCA



Starting Monday, September 23 at 9:30am

Ruth Circle is a group of women, who gather the **fourth Monday of the month** for fellowship & a light snack followed by Bible study as printed in the Gather magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. This September, October & November, we will study selections of Old Testament poetry, Job, Psalms, & Lamentations. Drawing from the experiences of these ancient writers, we will learn to look for God in times of deep emotions, such as joy, anger, celebrations, depression, misunderstanding & contentment, finding hope and grace along the way

All women are invited to attend. Ruth Circle meets monthly except for December & the summer months.

Questions: call Claudia Blahnik @ 269-375-6907 or 269-352-7430.

Mid Week Bible Study



Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
They are using the Augsburg Adult Study.

This quarter the focus is *Responding to God's Grace.*

The Prince of Peace quilters will resume their regular schedule beginning in September.



We are working on finishing quilts for shipment in October. New workers are always welcome. Remember what Pastor Rachel said, "If can tie your shoe you can quilt."

Schedule: Tuesday, September 3 9am
Monday, September 16 9am
Tuesday, October 1 9am
Monday, October 21 9am

Questions: call Sandy Williams at 762-4138 or Annette Smith at 327-4291

Fellowship Events

River Float & Picnic – Saturday, September 14

Jim and Sandy Foster are hosting us for a river float down the Kalamazoo River. Meet at Jim and Sandy's at 10 a.m. The float will begin about 10:30. The Fellowship Committee will provide hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, condiments and paper products & utensils. Please bring a dish to pass, a beverage and your own lawn chairs. We have a limited number of kayaks and canoes available. Please bring your own if you have them and life vests. Watch for the sign-up in the gathering space.



If you are unable to attend on the 14th but have kayaks, canoes or life preservers to loan to others, please call Tamara in the church office or Gail MacNellis.

Upcoming Events:

Gingerbread Houses **Nov 3 & 10**,
the Holiday Hors d'oeuvre party on **December 6**,
Family Celebration Sunday on **December 15**,
A Christmas Carol at the New Vic Theatre on **December 19** and Epiphany Crosslights on **January 5**.



Prince of Peace and Messiah have reserved 88 seats for the New Vic Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* **Thursday, December 19 at 8 p.m.**

Tickets are \$28 each and checks should be made payable to *Prince of Peace* with "Christmas Carol" on the memo line. Our final count and payment is due **November 1**, so check your calendars and sign up soon to reserve your seat.

This is the 40th Anniversary of Ted Kistler's adaptation of Charles Dicken's classic *A Christmas Carol*.

This production has become an annual tradition for many and has the reputation of being impossible to get into.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Social Concerns

Fall will be a very busy time for Social Concerns and you're all invited to join in the action as we serve in Jesus name together.

September 8 "God's Work. Our Hands Day" is a national ELCA event to serve anyone. Immediately after worship. All activities at Prince of Peace. There will be something for everyone to do. Everyone is welcome to help! **SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING SPACE.**

A quick lunch for everyone will start the afternoon.

Service opportunities include:

- Preparing 300 LWR health kits.
- Preparing 180 LWR School Backpacks
- Packing all LWR donations for sending
- LWR Quilting
- Plyarning
- Refugee Supply Closet work
- Jubilee Garden Work
- Community Meal prep
- Project Connect bag assembly

Bring your friends, your neighbors and your whole family.

October 23 - noon to 4pm

Kalamazoo County Project Connect

Prince of Peace will sponsor a Free Stuff Table at this major event for 500-600 low income and marginalized people of Kalamazoo County and the surrounding area. This is the 10th year of the event and will feature 50 plus free services and helpful information, such as hair cuts, immunizations, etc.

We need donations & volunteers to help on Oct 22 & 23.

Donations needed:

- Diapers
- Formula
- Diaper wipes
- Cleaning products
- Full size shampoo
- Laundry soap
- Feminine products
- Deodorants for men and women
- Disposable razors
- Washcloths and bars of soap

A sign up sheet will be in the Gathering Space soon.

More of What's Happening

Potluck/Bunko September 10 12:30 p.m.

See sign up in the Gathering Space.
For more information,
contact Carla Hannemann at 269/216-3498



Men's Breakfast
Tuesday, Sept. 10 8:00 AM
Panera Bread on Westnedge
in Portage.
Join Pastor Rachel for
breakfast and conversation!

PRAYER SHAWLS MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group starts
Tuesday, September 3.
We always welcome new members

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy all winter with their knitting and crocheting. There are plenty of shawls available.

If you, or someone you know, would like to have a Prayer Shawl, please contact Dianne Hellman, 323-9392, or Claudia Blahnik, 375-6907.

Sanctuary Flowers for September

Given by:

Pam & Van Timm - 43rd Wedding Anniversary
Tom & Sharin Noall - 57th Wedding Anniversary
Tamara Preston - in honor of James
Morgan's 75th Birthday on Sept. 9
Bette MacKenzie - in remembrance
of my husband, Scott



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 October!

Thank You's



Notes of **THANKS**

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

- *Thank you for helping **Open Doors** bring rich, vibrant colors back to the lives of beautiful people. Because of your gift, we are able to build relationships and overcome homelessness through partnership and personal support, because we all MATTER.* — Stephanie Hoffman, Executive Director
- *Thank you for being faithful to the **Kalamazoo Deacons Conference** & the **Kalamazoo Gospel Mission**.* — Pastor Michael Brown, CEO
- *Thank you for being a partner with the **YWCA** on our mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. Together we can continue to be the leaders in advocating for the most vulnerable in our community.* — Dr. Grace, Lubwama, CEO
- ***HRI** gratefully acknowledges your generous donation. Every dollar counts in our fight to end homelessness.* — Michelle Davis, Executive Director
- *Thank you for your donation of 81 lbs of food to **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes** hunger-relief programs.* — Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Upcoming Concert



Fujin Raijin: Music of Japan

**Sunday, October 20
4:00 PM
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Free admission**

This unique concert will feature Japanese music for organ, marimba and Taiko drums, presented by West Michigan-area musicians and visiting performers.

Entitled "Fujin Raijin" – the Japanese gods of Wind and Thunder, respectively – the program will include works from contemporary Japanese composers for solo organ and solo marimba; a piece written for organ and one Taiko drummer rarely played in the United States; and a newly commissioned piece for the entire ensemble.

The ensemble of accomplished musicians include organist Rhonda Sider Edgington from Holland, MI; percussionist Carolyn Koebel from Kalamazoo; Taiko drumming artist Ken Koshio from Phoenix; marimba player Judy Moonert from Kalamazoo; and members of Michigan Hiryu Daiko Taiko Drummers.

Youth News

Communion Education Retreat Saturday, October 5, 2019 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (lunch included)

This retreat is designed for elementary aged kids as a way to deepen their understanding around the meaning of Holy Communion. Children should bring a parent, grandparent, or adult family member or friend; someone who can learn along with them and continue the conversation with them.

The retreat will include baking communion bread, learning about the bible passages that inform our practices, and they will decorate a chalice that will be used by your family during communion on the following Sunday, as a way to commemorate this deeper learning.

We will also have lunch! To make our lunch, we need each participant to bring a veggie that can be put into a shared soup!

All people are invited to receive Holy Communion, and this includes infants and young children! God calls everyone to come and receive! As we grow, we also need to periodically take time to learn about how God is encountering us through the bread and wine. That's what this retreat is for, so we hope you can join us.

Please sign up to attend by clicking this link:
<https://forms.gle/aJ4kWJfn3DB674KZ8>

Deadline to sign up is Sept. 29th



New Members



Welcome to our new members. . .

We took in 4 new members on August 4.

All with strong Lutheran backgrounds and all who had moved into the area.

Please, take time to welcome them and get to know them.

Welcome
Our New
Members

Rod and Helen Hokenson

Address: 1700 Bronson Way #324
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-1087
Phone: 269/305-5448
Email: rod.hokenson@gmail.com

Rod and Helen recently moved from Adrian to be closer to family. Rod and Helen are both from Minnesota and met while in college at Gustavus Adolphus. Rod was a Lutheran pastor for 30 plus years, serving churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Helen was an elementary and middle school teacher until retirement. They both have a love for music and sports, singing in choirs at the churches they served and attended. Their children are Gregory, Kalamazoo; Stina, San Francisco; Steven, Miami, and James.

Joelyn Rich

Address: 4347 Foxfire Trail
Portage, MI 49024
Phone: 989/370-4731
Email: joelyn2010@yahoo.com

I moved to the area June 1st after living in Alpena, MI, my entire life. Although I'm leaving many life-long friends, I feel the strong pull of living closer to my children and grandchildren at this point in my life. My daughter, Andrea Seguin, her husband, Ben and my grandson Jackson live in Portage and are members here at Prince of Peace. When making the decision to move, Prince of Peace was a big part of choosing Portage as my new home. I look forward to this new adventure in my life and becoming an active member here.

Diane Wilke

Address: 35204 51st Ave
Paw Paw, MI 49079
Phone: 517/203-9127
Email: dianewilke12@gmail.com

Diane moved here 8 months ago from Okemos. She transfers from Faith Lutheran. You will see her with her fiancé, Dave Karna. She enjoys gardening, camping, fishing, boating, cardmaking, knitting and cooking.

Miscellany



Just a reminder . . .

we need your young adults current address for this year.

As your young adult head off to college we would like to include them in our card ministry for young adults. Please contact the office to update the address.



Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 8

Are you stressed and need to relax?

Power of Breath class meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Come try it out. Questions? Call Carolyn Selby 269/327-9949

Facts and Figures

August Attendance:

8/4	125	evening:	12
8/11	137		16
8/18	97	Outdoor/indoor worship	
8/25	151		

SPECIAL GIFTS FOR PATHWAYS OF GIVING

Good Samaritan - Jim & Anne Vogt
Loaves and Fishes - Gail Hoover
ELCA World Hunger— Dale & Micki Holder, John & Gloria Beatty, Bev Schmidt, Diane Snyder, Brian & Karen DeVries, Bob & Carla Hannemann, Peter & Tammy Olsen, Greg & Chris Guthrie, Joyce Stout
Lutheran Disaster— Diane Snyder, Rod Hokenson

General Fund

July

Contributions	\$ 33,418
Expenses	\$ (27,996)
Surplus/deficit	\$ \$5,422



Remembering 9/11



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

9/1	Sarah Beuker Bruce Mills Nicholas Tarpley Conrad Tisland	9/10	Stacey Lawrence	9/20	Rob Boulis	9/27	Sue Grinder Janet Hill Jack Jones
9/2	Doris Bernlohr Karen Knapp	9/11	Nathaniel Scaglione	9/21	Jocelyn Steinke Mike Whately	9/28	Julie Cartier Laniah Cruchelow Kelly DeRango
9/4	Karen Clyne	9/12	Bob Drafta	9/22	Ken Tabor	9/29	Cheri Jespersen Mary McCrumb Brent Palarz
9/7	Natalie Devries	9/13	Van Timm	9/23	Andy Anderson Gary Bischof Heather Maurer	9/30	Mitchell Eldridge Kaya Ottesen Greg Visel
9/8	Nancy Mason	9/14	Louise Berdahl	9/24	Gordon Hare		
9/9	James Morgan Jo Rich	9/15	Joanne Preston	9/25	Jennifer Gatz Paula Kana'an		
		9/16	Michelle Gustafson	9/26	Allison Dumler Alexis Maurer Amelia Maurer		
		9/17	Bette MacKenzie Morgan Schuhknecht				
		9/18	William Tarpley Larry Wentzel				

Anniversaries

Ray & Sandra Williams	9/1	James & Jessaca Hart	9/18
Kevin & Jenn Jawahir	9/2	Brian & Kris Rieck	9/18
Mitch & Heather Maurer	9/3	Tom & Sharin Noall	9/22
Kevin & Joelene Pedersen	9/3	Carol & Cheryl Stezowski	9/24
Tom & Sherri Webster	9/8	Dave & Lorri Walch	9/24
Greg & Lori Hannemann	9/10	David & Karen Josuns	9/25
David & Sue Grinder	9/15	Van & Pam Timm	9/25
Mark & Gail Brown	9/17	Marty & Cassandra Pone	9/28



Prince of Peace Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 AM Worship	2 Labor Day Office Closed 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	3 First Day of School 9:00 AM Quilters 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:30 PM Great Lakes Adventure Club 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM FA 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	7 9:00 AM Bread & Breakfast 9:30 AM Worship Team Rehearsal
8 Rally Day 9:15 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM God's Work Day	9 9:00 AM ESL Meeting 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	10 8:00 AM Men' Breakfast @ Panera 9:00 AM ESL 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 12:30 PM Senior Potluck- Bunko 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	11 Patriot Day 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council meeting 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 PM Power of Breath	12 7:30 AM FA 9:00 AM ESL 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	14 10:00 AM River Float @ the Fosters
15 9:15 AM Acolyte & Communion Asst. Training 9:15 AM Learning Hour: Internet Safety 9:30 AM MS & HS Parent Meeting 10:30 AM Worship-Bible Presentation Sunday 11:45 AM Morning "PoP" Stars Children's Music	16 9:00 AM Quilters 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg. 6:30 PM Master Gardeners Meeting	17 9:00 AM ESL 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 11:45 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch @ Main St Pub 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring	18 10:00 AM Book Club 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 12:00 PM ESL Citizenship Class 2:00 PM Evangelism Committee Meeting 5:30 PM ESL Citizenship Class 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 PM Power of Breath	19 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 AM FA 9:00 AM ESL 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	21 9:30 AM Worship Team Rehearsal
22 9:15 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Morning "PoP" Stars Children's Music	23 First Day of Autumn 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	24 Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal 9:00 AM ESL 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Kalamazoo Recorder Players	25 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 12:00 PM ESL Citizenship Class 1:00 PM SERA 5:30 PM ESL Citizenship Class 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 PM Power of Breath	26 7:30 AM FA 9:00 AM ESL 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	28
29 9:15 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Morning "PoP" Stars Children's Music	30 4:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:00 PM T.O.P.S 5:30 PM AA "Promises Support group" mtg.	1 9:00 AM ESL 9:00 AM Quilters 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Ladies Exercise 1:30 PM Literacy Tutoring 5:30 PM Great Lakes Adventure Club 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 12:00 PM ESL Citizenship Class 5:30 PM ESL Citizenship Class 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 PM Power of Breath	3 7:30 AM FA 9:00 AM ESL 10:00 AM WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00 AM Literacy Open Group Tutoring 12:00 PM Literacy Tutoring 6:00 PM Tai Chi	5 9:00 AM Bread & Breakfast 10:00 AM Communion Education Retreat

Legend:

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

ESL—English as a Second Language

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

269/343-3453