



February 21st, 2025

PEACE CONNECTION

Friday February 21st
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday February 22nd
2:00 pm Organ Practice
6:30 pm Open Mic Night

Sunday February 23rd
9 & 11 am In Person Worship
10:00 am Christian Education
12:00 pm Cat Cafe

Monday February 24th
10:00 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday February 25th
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Peace Pavilion Meeting

Wednesday February 26th
2:00 pm Book & Bible Study with
Pastor Charlie

Thursday February 27th
Sexton's Day Off
11:00 am FLOW Spring Season
3:00 pm Communion Ministry Team
Meeting
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday February 28th
Pastor Charlie's Day Off
12:30 pm Young at Heart Lunch

Saturday March 1st
10:30 am Spring Altar Guild Meeting
2:00 pm Organ Practice
5:30 pm Sisters in Spirit Movie Night

Sunday March 2nd
9 & 11 am In Person Worship
10:00 am Blood Pressure Screening
10:00 am Christian Education

Monday March 3rd
10:00 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday March 4th
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel
7:00 pm Peace Pavilion Meeting

*Grow in Faith * Serve In Love *
Live In Peace*

Sisters in Spirit

We will meet Saturday, March 1st, for a movie night at 5:30pm, We will be meeting in the High School Youth Room. Bring your own dinner.

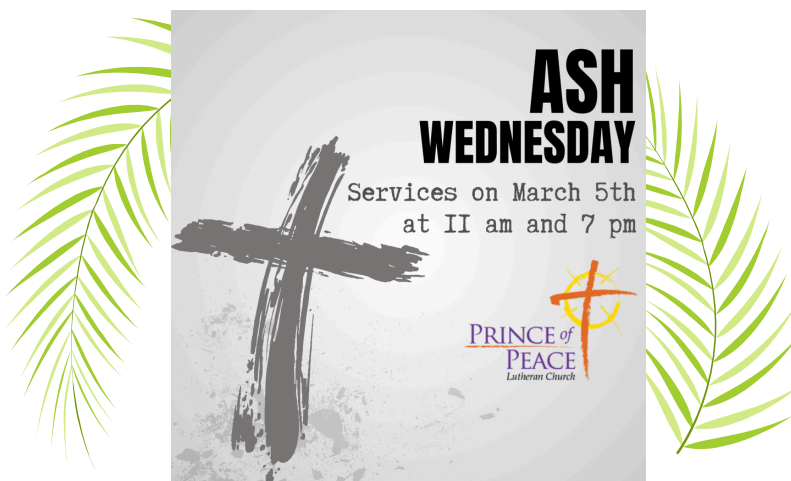
No RSVP needed. Contact Joan Drobnak at jdrobn@gmail.com or Beth Connick at bconnick@outlook.com with questions



Congregational Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the 2025 POP Annual Meeting. You can access the annual report that was shown here:.

[Click Here](#)





Coffee House & Open Mic

Saturday February 22, 2025

*Come & go anytime from 6:30-9pm
Bring your friends to:*

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*



*Perform at our "Open Mic" or just come to
listen to some great local musicians!*



*Enjoy great entertainment in a
Coffee House setting with a
variety of performers sharing
their music, magic, or
"whatever." Join us for
yummy desserts and aromatic
coffee in a friendly relaxing
atmosphere. **No cost to attend
& handicapped accessible.***



Ten(10) performance spots available with up to three songs each. Sign-up sheet available at 6:15pm with first performance at 6:30pm!

Women In Transition

We are accepting donations for women's toiletries, sanitary products, and umbrellas. The need is great! We have been asked to refrain from collecting women's clothing for them at this time. Please drop off your donations at the Donation Station. Questions, please contact Jan Filkill, 440-871-6673.



Love Inc

There is a poster near the lower entrance so you can sign up for a month to support Love Inc! We still have quite a few openings! Please consider stopping by and signing up!



Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st

A big thank you to members who have already designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to POP. The 2024 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2025. If you own any Thrivent Financial products or services you have a choice in directing where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. We really appreciate those who direct those Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace. To direct Choice Dollars log on to Thrivent.com (<https://www.thrivent.com>) or call (800) 847-4836. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about Thrivent, please contact Tim Regan at 440-227-9593 or at timothy.regan@thrivent.com.

February Young at Heart Lunch

Please join us on Friday, February 28th at 12:30 pm. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at Harry Buffalo, located at 4824 Great Northern Blvd. in North Olmsted. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lower lobby. Questions, contact Kathy Kettler at (440)734-6511.



Giving Statements

The 2024 Giving Statements were mailed or emailed on January 27, 2025. If you need a copy, or have questions on your statement, please email secretary.popfinancial@gmail.com or call the office.



Spring Altar Guild Meeting

Saturday, March 1, 10:30 am – Charter Room

We are meeting to discuss Lent, Easter and summer worship plans.

New members (women and men) are always welcome! Interested? Come to the meeting to see if this is something for you!! Call or text Dineen Terstage with questions (440-263-6759).



Update for SHP

Save the date for our Sleep In Heavenly Peace Build on Saturday, June 7th!

We are now collecting monetary donations to support materials for our Sleep In Heavenly Peace build on June 7th. Each bed costs \$250 with a goal to support a Full Build of 20 beds, or \$5000.

Additionally, we are now accepting donations of new kids twin bedding. The bedding needed is twin "Bedding in Bag" set, kids twin sheet sets, pillows, mattress protectors, comforters, quilts, blankets and throws. The bedding can be left on the bunk beds in the narthex.

Monetary donations can be placed in the collection baskets, entered into the Tithe.ly portal or sent to Prince of Peace. PLEASE be sure to note Sleep in Heavenly Peace on the memo line.

Any questions, please contact Diane Merhaut.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BEDDING DRIVE

To Benefit Kids in
Western Cuyahoga County



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR
DONATIONS OF NEW
TWIN SIZE

- MATTRESS PROTECTORS
- PILLOWS
- COMFORTERS
- BED IN A BAG SETS
- SHEET SETS
- QUILTS
- BLANKETS
- THROWS



SHP is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that works with community volunteers to build and deliver beds to kids who don't have them.

Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA
Cleveland West Cluster Spring Rally
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

May 3, 2025

8:30 AM registration \$5

Offering 50% to NEOSWO and 50% to Sleep in Heavenly Peace
In-kind Gifts---Stuffed animals, standard sized pillows, twin sheets

THEME

"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

Presentation from Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Cuyahoga County



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
28455 Center Ridge Rd
Westlake, Ohio 44145

RSVP deadline April 28 - Sherryweber@verizon.net or
phone 914-924-4451

More information to follow

New Member Profile Story

MARK & DEBRA STEWART



Mark and Debra joined Prince of Peace Church on February 9, 2025. Adding their dedication and spirit here will strengthen the foundation that God has given us! Debra was born in Plainfield, NJ and grew up in Easton, PA. She has 1 brother and 1 sister in her family. Mark was born in Rochester, PA and has 1 sister in his family. He grew up in several places in Western Pa, but his teen and early adult life were spent in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh.

Mark and Debra both attended the University of Pittsburgh. Debra majored in Healthcare while Mark majored in Psychology and Computer Science. They met in college at a Pitt football game! They have raised their daughter who is now a Partner in a Family Law practice @ KJK. Their son-in-law is an Engineer and has earned an MBA working now at the Cleveland Clinic. They cherish and shower their love on a granddaughter that is 2 ½ years old!

After college, they moved to Columbus, Ohio where they lived for 44 years. Debra's career included 40 years as an acute care physical therapist, and 2 years as a Master Gardener volunteer. Mark worked 40+ years as a software developer and software project manager of large network management systems for AT&T and IBM. In retirement, he worked as a part time tax preparer at H&R Block and more recently as a volunteer tax preparer for AARP.

Debra says she joined POP because it was a friendly church. Dan & Barb Fronczak, Fran Molnar and Sisters in Spirit are her mentors here. Mark joined because it is a welcoming church, close to home and affiliated with the ELCA. Mentors include the Fronczaks as well as the SOAP Bible study group and Habitat for Humanity friends. They have hit the ground running while participating in many of our ministries and missions. Mark enjoys time spent with SOAP Bible study, Habitat for Humanity, & Tables of 8. Debra focuses on Sisters in Spirit, Women's Discipleship group, the Landscaping committee, Habitat for Humanity & Tables of 8.

Mark has hobbies and interests that include Pro Football (especially the Steelers and Browns - he senses that combination is not allowed ;-), Pittsburgh Penguin Hockey, OSU Football, software development (especially building apps for Apple platforms and Web development). Debra loves ice hockey, especially the Pittsburgh Penguins and Gardening.

Some things that people may not know is that 30+ years ago Mark participated in a Baseball Fantasy Camp in Columbus. He got brushed back by Catfish Hunter, got a hit off of Ferguson Jenkins and got needled several times by the all-time great lefty Warren Spahn! Debra says it helps her if you wear your name tags. Debra has a bucket list that includes a plan to visit all NHL Ice Hockey Arenas. Mark wants to digitize decades of still photos, slides, and videos and use them to build an autobiographical pictorial website as a lasting family legacy. With their "get it done" attitude I'm sure they will make it happen. You can meet them at the Contemporary Services most weeks. They will live out our mission to Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Live in Peace!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Writer



KIDS BOOK BANK

**SATURDAY MAY 3RD
1-3PM**

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Volunteer to sort books that will be distributed to schools and communities to promote literacy. Welcoming donations of early readers, children's, and teen books, especially books featuring diverse populations and characters of color





John 3:16-17

Jesus said, 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 3:16 has been called "The Gospel in a Nutshell." A poem by Maurice McCarthy called, "The Greatest" takes this verse and breaks it down into several "greatest" statements. The verse is in italics and the poem is bold, and my comments are added.

For God - The greatest one. In the beginning begins with God. Soon after the beginning, we fell. So did God turn His back on us? No.

For God So loved - The greatest degree. 1 John 4:7-8 defines God with one word, and that word is love!

"7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

God shows us God's love in the gift of grace. Philip Yancey puts it this way: "Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more — no amount of spiritual calisthenics and renunciations, no amount of knowledge gained from seminaries and divinity schools, no amount of crusading on behalf of righteous causes. And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. Grace means that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love." (Philip Yancey)

For God So loved the world - The greatest amount of people. Our relationship with God may be a PERSONAL thing, but it is most certainly NOT a PRIVATE thing. It's not just about Me'n Jesus. Let me encourage you to look at our journey as a community more so than as an individual.

That He gave - The greatest generosity! All that is good is a gift from God. One of our most difficult things to learn is that there is nothing God needs from us. It is like that rich Aunt Mabel who is so difficult to buy Christmas gifts for, because she already has everything. What does God need? Nothing.

What God DESIRES from us — as we hear in Micah 6:8 — to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Martin Luther put it this way: "God provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

God gives, and the greatest gift given is not possessions, but something near and dear to Him.

He gave His only Son - The greatest uniqueness. Emmanuel God with us.

So That everyone - The greatest invitation. Notice no one is to be considered OUTSIDE of this promise. IT is PURE grace. And since YOU and I are not the giver, there is no reason we ought to be upset with the gift, OR the recipient.

Everyone who believes in Him - The greatest simplicity. Simplicity? Yes, absolutely. How can that be? It seems to many of us that it believing that is the sticking point in the relationship with God.

The reason it is simple is because this is still God's doing, not ours. Martin Luther put it this way, when he explained the Holy Spirit part of the Creed — he wrote, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." (small catechism, 3rd article of the creed).

everyone who believes in him may not - The greatest certainty. I think the word "MAY" is not a good translation. It suggests the idea of "On the other hand, maybe not!" But that is not what the text suggests — the word is certain. It is given. WILL NOT is better, or SHALL NOT. Again, God is certain. What God says will be.

may not perish - The greatest possible loss. Can you think of any greater loss than death? Look at the money and energy we spend to avoid it. This is the enemy God sent His Son to conquer. He faced it, head on. It seemed as if death had won.

everyone who believes in him may not perish but - The greatest difference. Luke 24 — Easter Story

But first day of week, looking for body BUT not there, sad, but men in white — not here, not dead, but is alive.

may not perish but may have - The greatest possession. Again, the word needs to be WILL have. God promises, and what God gives is the greatest gift of all. Given for you, simply because God loves you!

may have eternal - The greatest length. My favorite question, and I get it at least once every couple months is "when did God begin? Who created God?" My answer is always my wedding ring — a perfect circle — it never begins, it never ends. Life with God continues forever — you may not know where and when it began in your life — it happened while still in your mother's womb, and it will last forever.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life - The greatest gift. The greatest life is given as a gift, so that you might have greatest gift, life.

For God does not come to condemn, but to save.

Let us pray: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Save the Date!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 16-20



Cokesbury Kids
ROAD TRIP
ON THE GO WITH GOD

AN ECUMENICAL VBS FOR CHILDREN K-GRADE 5

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

28455 CENTER RIDGE ROAD, WESTLAKE

STAY TUNED FOR PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION INFO!



Sunday, February 23, 2024

Prayer Request - Long Term

(All prayer requests made after Thursday at Noon will be posted the following week)

Patty Doran	Sister-in-law of Chuck Sieving
Dawn Higgins	Neighbor of Fran Molnar
Jayne Kramic	Friend of Kathy McCollum
Angela Missig	Daughter of Gloria Starr
Jenn Pitts	Daughter of Judy Kazak
Pam Rotella	
Bill Sweeny	Friend of Kathy McCollum
Robert Sieving	Brother of Chuck Sieving
Al Tielke	
Chris Sikora	
Kathy and Tim Needham	
Cynthia Flores	Jan Filkill's daughter
Ron Peckham	
Monica Doptis	Dan and Barb Fronczak's grandchild
Beverly Newman	Friend of Jane and Lowell Dillon
Laura K.	Deb Gibbons' friend

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

February 9	Josh Ort's family (Kelsey Buhrman's father)
	Brian (Mel and Sue Grunau's friend)
	Kathy McCollum
	John Sheridan (Mary Sheridan's stepson)
	Sean Valentine (son of Fran Wilhelm's friend)
February 16	Ira Silverman (Friend of Pat Sprague)
	Genny Patterson and her family (friend of Lisa and James Arrigo)
	Susan Goltz (Kathy Kettler's cousin)
February 23	Despina Sgondea (Diane Merhaut's friend)
	Nancy Bishop (Jan Juhn's friend)
	Aiden Clark (Krystle Henry's godson)
	Daniel Reisner (Krystle Henry's family member)
	Linda Fronczak (Dan & Barb Fronczak's family member)
	George-Ryan Grimes (Mike & Sherry Weber's son-in-law)
	Emily Saunders
	Lia Staaf
	Mary Owens

Happy Birthday

02/01 Katarina Rolik	02/13 Erin Bruneau
02/02 Emma Perry	02/13 Kathy McCollum
02/02 Rachel Drobnak	02/13 Jane Carlson
02/04 Abigail Matalavage	02/13 Jonathan Covell
02/04 Diane Christian	02/13 Sally Balch
02/04 James Wilhelm	02/15 Betsy Bailey
02/04 Tom Herren	02/16 Carol Novotny
02/05 Bradley Pearce	02/16 Connor Burdette
02/05 Erin Jagels	02/16 Saige Worsencroft
02/05 Julia Vorobej	02/17 Dennis MacKenzie
02/06 Sean Biller	02/18 Donald Chrismar
02/07 James Arrigo	02/18 Elayna Gros
02/08 Charles Sieving	02/21 Andrea Petta
02/08 Joann Burson	02/21 Kieran Lavin
02/09 Diane Miller	02/22 Jan Saunders
02/10 Sean Lavin	02/23 Edna Dickey
02/10 Nicholas Fortuna	02/23 Jon Steinbrecher
02/12 Chris Rehark	02/24 Beverly Braun
02/12 Laney Ventimiglia	02/24 Keith Wyant
02/12 Melody Hauser	02/28 Chris Petta
02/13 Charlie Woodward	02/28 Shaun Dillon

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
02/16/2025	61	114	175
02/09/2025	45	146	191
02/02/2025	56	137	193
01/26/2025	38	148	186

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 02/02 Tom & Sandy Herren
- 02/06 Dan & Gail Pogue
- 02/10 Jim & Sharon Lappin

Second Harvest

The requested items for February are:
Canned Beef Stew, Beans, Fruits & Vegetables

Giving Data

<u>Operating Giving Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>AVG/Week</u>
Total Giving as of Dec. 31st, 2024:	\$506,754	\$9,745.27
% of Annual 2024 Budget Received to Date:	104%	
Total ministry expenses incurred in 2024	\$485,476	\$9,336.07
Projected Surplus for 2024:	\$21,278	

Thank you for your abundant giving in 2024!!



Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward
pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician
brandonbpop@gmail.com

Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator
christianeducation.pop@gmail.com

Hailey Desmond, Marketing/Communications
princeofpeacecommunication@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director
& Chancel Choir Director
ifaleer@gmail.com

Wendy Hansen, Office Administrator
princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
poplutheranyouth@gmail.com

Ruth Williams, Organist
mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

Dave Covell, Church Council President
thecovells@gmail.com



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-3

28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145
440/871-5565 • www.princeofpeacewestlake.org

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am in person.

Livestream

Christian Education - Sundays 10-10:50 am

Adult supervised child care for children 5 and under is offered for both services and during

the Christian Education hour between services.