



Tidings of Peace

April 2024

Volume XXV Number 4

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

Administrative Assistant: Ext 10

Tamara Preston

secretary@popportage.org

Accountant Ext 17

Marilyn Storch

accountant@popportage.org

Technology Manager Ext 15

Mike Whately

technology@popportage.org

Engagement & CYF Ext 12

Em Witteveen

engage@popportage.org

Deacon Intern Ext 12

Emma Janzen

intern@popportage.org

Director of Music:

Janet Hill

Custodian:

Steve Haddix

custodian@popportage.org

Pastor's Page

Continuing in the Covenant

Throughout the season of Lent we learned about God's promises to us and considered how we are called to respond to those promises as we continue in the covenant of our baptism. On Wednesday evenings I invited participants to share examples of ways they could continue in that covenant in the coming week. Here are some of the ideas they shared:

To live among God's faithful people: share the good news with my neighbor's children, be kind to ALL people, participating in handbells, walking with church friends, praying for church members in need, sending a postcard to my prayer partner, being an active part of the POP community through worship, meals and study, singing songs of praise, listening to others, sharing home communion with those who can't be physically present, working with others at church in the library, caring for others as God cares for us, spending intentional time with family, living in hope, trusting God

To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper: continue daily devotions, checking on people who are afraid of declining health and sharing encouraging words to help them have hope, taking time to enjoy and be aware of nature, reading and listening to the gospel, listening when someone needs to be heard and know it's an honor to be the listener, utilizing Bible.is (a Bible phone app), read Jesus Calling and look up the corresponding Bible passages, keeping ears and heart open to help someone, praying, singing

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed: proclaiming good news through singing in the choir, saying something kind to everyone I speak to during Lent, teaching with generosity, remind family members they are part of God's family and always welcome, being forgiving, holding my tongue instead of speaking against a neighbor, checking on a friend with a visit or a note, meeting with my prayer partner, telling my friends what they mean to me, being a better listener and accepting of others' opinions, staying to talk with someone new at a church event, walking away from gossip, assuming the best in people, speaking well of someone who I might have criticized previously, opening myself so God's love can flow through me

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus: taking home communion/visiting with those who cannot come to worship, help a struggling coworker, being nice/kind to others, taking a senior citizen shopping, show love and understanding, offer to take care of children to give young moms a break, forgive others and think of good things about them, pray for friends in need, lessening the burdens of those closest to us, respecting people's views and listening respectfully (even when we don't want to), remembering Jesus' acts of kindness and thinking about ways we can act for justice to show similar kindness.



Continued on page 4

What's Happening at POP!



Shawl Ministry
Prayer Shawl Ministry Meets **Friday, April 5 at 10 AM** in the Social Hall.
 If you or someone you know would like a shawl, or for more information about becoming a prayer shawl creator, please contact Dianne Hellman, 323-9392.

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

Back in person!! Join us!! Would love to have you!!

POP, Social Hall, 7:15 pm, **April 1 and 15**

Finishing our discussion on Refugia Faith

Come and help decide our next study!!

Contact Diane Snyder 269/532-3296 for more information

When: Tuesday, April 9 at 1 PM

Where: POP Social Hall



BUNKO Just a few rolls of the dice and you'll have this fun game mastered!

Bunko is easy to learn and offers wonderful opportunities for conversation and connection with others.

Call Carla Hannemann at 269/216-3498 for more information.

Ladies Lunch Bunch meets **Tuesday, April 16**

Meet at 11:45am at Rykse's, 7141 W. Q Ave., Kalamazoo

Questions? Car pool? Need a ride?

Contact Dianne Hellman, 323-9392.

This is a great time for good food and fellowship.
 Hope to see you there.



**Ruth Circle will meet
 Monday, April 22**

Biblical stories of the natural world help us grow our love for God, other creatures and the Earth. This is the focus of this Springs study in the Ruth Bible Study group, which meets at 9:30am the fourth Monday of the month in the Social Hall. Copies of the lesson are found in the library and the Gather magazine, the magazine of WELCA.

Please, join us for wonderful fellowship and coffee before the lessons.

Questions: Claudia Blahnik at 269/352-7430 or cblahnik@yahoo.com.



**BREAD AND BREAKFAST
 SATURDAY, April 6**

Bread construction will begin at 7:00 a.m. and breakfast will be served at about 9:00 a.m. Come and bake bread, or just come for the breakfast and conversation...it's all good!

For more information, or to be included on the mailing list, talk with Wade Lawrence at church, email him at

wade.b.lawrence@gmail.com, or call him at (269) 353-9885.

We hope to see you there!

Quilters

Tuesdays, April 2 & 16 at 9:30 AM

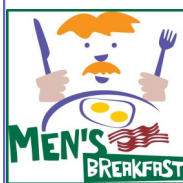
Where: POP Social Hall

If Tuesday mornings don't work for you, no problem! Most of the tasks can be done at home. Or, if you'd prefer to meet at another time, please contact Sheryl at 267-6274.



Not sure you can sew well enough to participate? Don't worry! They're happy to teach you!

Men's Breakfast



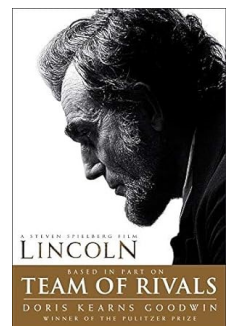
8:00 AM, Wednesday, April 10

Michelle's on Romance Rd. in Portage. Join Pastor Rachel for breakfast, prayer, and conversation.

Tell them you're with Prince of Peace. We've got the back room reserved.

Prince of Peace Book Club

The POP Book Club will meet in the coffee room **Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00am**, this be a continuation of the book "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. We will be discussing chapters 10 - 19. If you are interested in Abraham Lincoln and that time in history, you may be interested in this book and discussion. All are welcome.



This is a nonfiction book about Abraham Lincoln and the men surrounding him. The first chapters deal with the men who were running for President in 1860 and election politics which seems especially appropriate for reading during this election year.





Social Concerns Update:

Our team has been coordinating the Mission Statement of Prince of Peace with mission statements of local benevolences which we support. With help from newest member Don Jones, we are making progress and will hopefully be able to share our results soon.

Our current focus is preparing for many projects and events we have coming up. This list of needs may be helpful for you in finding ways to support the Social Concerns ministry. Even the smallest gift or effort makes a big difference as we follow Jesus.

-Open Doors Shelter Meals -

Use Sign up Genius to select a Tuesday date to prepare dinner once a month (contact information on genius). Dinner consists of main dish, side (salad or veg), bread and dessert. Deliver between 4-5 pm.

-Loaves and Fishes Donations -

Donate any non-perishable foods (If possible 6 grams of protein). Place in "Red Wagon on Sunday or before.

-Jubilee Garden -

Volunteer to plant, weed, water and pick vegetables. Deliver produce to Mothers of Hope. Complete tasks when needed by Mark Clyne

-Food Distribution/Free Store

Set up and meet food delivery truck
Direct and control car line
Sign in recipients.
Prepare Free Store
Greet and give out free store products to recipients

-Plyarning mats -

Donate clean laundry bags
Cut, and roll plyarn balls
Weave plyarn mats at home for sending to Ethiopia

-LWR Quilting -

Donate cotton fabrics, thread and other items
Cut squares.
Pin quilt tops and prepare for sewing.
Sew squares together, sew around pinned quilts, tie quilts.
Attend quilting sessions, or sew at home.
Display during blessing of quilts.
Pack for shipment.

-LWR Backpacks -

Sew prepared backpack kits (found on gathering space table) We need 200.
Donate contents; spiral notebooks, #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, erasers, scissors, rulers.
Pack on GWOH's day.

-LWR Health Kits -

Donate bath towels, bar soap, nail clippers, toothbrushes.
Pack on GWOH's day

-Project Connect -

Help shop for Free Store.
Transport items to Kalamazoo Fairgrounds for event
Work at Project Connect event in October.

Housing Resources Inc is having their *Walk to End Homelessness* on **Saturday, April 13.**

If you would like more information, donate or want to start a team, go to
www.housingresourcesinc.org.

This and That



LAWN-MOWING TEAM

WE NEED HELP!

(and you are invited)

Prince of Peace has a beautiful landscape with trees, lawn, and special

planting areas. We do have a dedicated group of folks who work to keep our lawns looking great from April through October. Over the years our ranks have thinned out. If you are interested in helping us fill out the cutting schedule or have questions, please contact Bill Hellman at db.hellman@aol.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 4 at 8:30 to 12:00 is our Spring Clean Up Day. Grab your gloves and rakes and help us spruce up the church lawns after a long winter.

Rain date: May 11

Pastor's Page Continued

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth: learn/read more about justice/diversity , take time to talk to people I don't know and may be of a different culture than me, drive elderly folks to gatherings, help someone less fortunate than ourselves, serving in church, treating all people the same no matter what they look or sound like, praying for justice in our world and for leaders, participate in supporting laws and representatives that keep the lives of all people at the forefront, sharing God's blessings, being aware of privilege and using our position to lift up others, be forgiving to friends/family, acknowledge our weaknesses, love our refugee neighbors as ourselves, day to day kindness with smiles and nice comments to all (neighbors, store clerks and customers, service people, friends, family), speaking up when we see injustice, listen to everyone with a loving heart

I'm so glad we get to live into this covenant together! Thank you for sharing your insights!

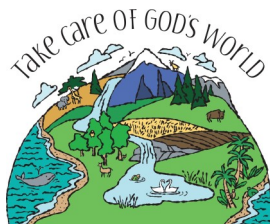
Shalom, Pastor Rachel

Educational Opportunities

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Earth Day events will be happening in the Kalamazoo area April 6 - 22.

For a list of these events, go to <https://www.kalamazooearthday.com/team-1>



Hope for Creation, "an inter-religious group working to encourage and support faith-based action on climate change in greater Kalamazoo", will be celebrating its tenth anniversary on **May 2** from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. at the First Congregational Church at 345 W. Michigan Ave. in downtown Kalamazoo.

The event will host Debra Rienstra, author of *Refugia Faith*. This book describes how people of faith can summon the hope and the courage needed to heal and

restore our home planet. Dinner will be served, so come and learn how people of faith can help preserve God's gift of mother earth. You can RSVP for this event by emailing your intent to info@hopeforcreation.net.



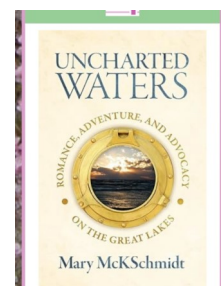
A LAKE MICHIGAN LOVE SONG

Presented by Mary McKSchmidt

Portage United Church of Christ

3:00 p.m., Wednesday
April 24, 2024

Join us at **2731 W. Milham Rd**, for a presentation by Michigan author Mary McKSchmidt based on her book **Uncharted Waters** and the work she has done since writing it. You can order the book on Amazon, or contact Deborah Kohler at revdr.deb@comcast.net to learn how to purchase it locally.



Living Lutheran Magazine has stopped publishing a paper edition. You can now subscribe to get personalized stories delivered to your inbox weekly. Go to livinglutheran.org. Scroll to the bottom and click on Subscribe, then click on LL Stories e-digest.

Council and Committees



Council's most recent meeting was busy and productive.

Every month council reviews the monthly statistical and financial reports. Efforts by staff and council to organize and streamline POP's member information continues. Both reports show steady patterns in attendance, new visitors and giving.

We were updated on various committee's work around POP. Property shared their efforts to plan for upgrades to various areas. We also were made aware of the spring clean up date this year of May 4th. Fellowship also shared it's plans for Easter's enhanced fellowship and beginning to map out events for spring.

Council approved a local Girl Scout troops' proposal for their Silver Award; which is a badge they earn with a service project. They have proposed installing a giving pantry box outside the church with food goods for community members to have access to. They will be coordinating with property and care teams to launch this initiative. We are excited to partner with them on this quest.

Council also heard Pastor's monthly report and the massive work going on by staff as Lent season continues and crescendos to Easter weekend. There was also excitement with three baptisms being planned coming up. We also received our first report from Intern Emma, who reported that getting settled in and attending various meetings for the first month has been fruitful and she is excited to begin preaching, helping with various youth initiatives and planning for Vacation Bible School with Em.

As always, council is honored to steward POP's mission and efforts in our community and please seek out those of us in yellow lanyards if you desire learning more.



The church office will be closed on **Monday, April 1** for Easter Monday.

The Pastor and Tamara will be on vacation beginning April 1.

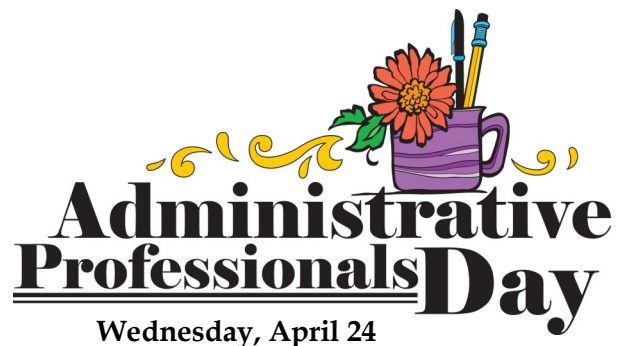
Pastor Tom Pederson and Intern Emma will be covering for Pastor Rachel.

Mike Whately will be covering for Tamara.

The Extended Ministries Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that funds will be available in 2024 for disbursement to potential extended ministries beyond the operational budget of POP. The amount available for 2024 is \$6,806.39.

The committee welcomes written requests with the following information: 1) Name of requestor 2) Name of extended ministry 3) Brief description and potential impact of the ministry 4) Amount of monies requested. The Endowment Committee will then review the request and determine if monies will be distributed.

Please contact Mark Clyne via email (markclyne@sbcglobal.net) or any of the other Endowment Committee members (Kevin Jawahir, Carole Nelson, Joyce Stout, Mike Wathen) or fill out a paper form available from the church office with any requests and place them the Endowment Fund mailbox in the workroom. If you use a paper form, please notify an Endowment Committee member as we currently do not monitor the mailbox regularly.



Upcoming Events



On **Sunday, April 21**
we will have a service

and reception to recognize all those who are in ministry at Prince of Peace. Those who help with the service, with food distribution, the refugee ministry, prayer shawls, quilters and the list goes on.

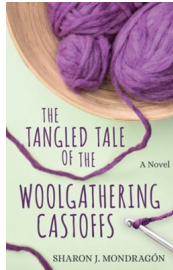
Please, plan on attending that day so that we can celebrate you!

Sunday, May 19 we will celebrate all of our graduates. If someone in your family is graduating, make sure you let Em know.

There will be a special liturgy and then our **Grad Blast Picnic**.

On **Wednesday, May 22 POP Reads!**

Join us as at 7:00pm as we zoom with author Sharon Mondragon, to discuss her latest book, "The Tangled Tale of the Woolgathering Castoffs." It is an easy read and a delightful book, so you still have plenty of time to read it.



Immanuel Lutheran is inviting us to attend the White Caps baseball game with them.

When: Saturday, August 24 at 7:05 pm

Cost: \$16.00 per ticket. Park does not accept cash for parking and food. Cards only~

Watch for sign up sheet in June.

Save the Date for VBS!

Join us

Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14
for "Bon Voyage" - *Exploring the World that God So Loved.*



On **Friday, June 28**, we will head to the ballpark to watch the Growler play and the Pastor sing the National Anthem.



Watch the Gathering Space for a sign up and the May newsletter for all the details.

Coming up later in the summer.

Dates TBD.

Bike the Kal Haven Trail

Trivia Night

River Float

April 1

April 21

May 4

May 11

May 12

May 18

May 19

May 27

Office Closed for Easter Monday

Ministry Recognition Sunday

Spring Clean up *Rain date: May 11*

Synod Assembly

Mother's Day

Synod Disability Day

Graduation Sunday and Picnic

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Thank You's

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OTHERS

- Thank you for your support of **Michigan State University**. Your gift went toward Eagle – Educating Anishinaabe: Giving, Learning, and Empowering. – Alison Gaudreau, Asst. Vice-President, Engagement

- Each and every day, nearly 32,000 individuals in Kalamazoo County face food insecurity – and obstacle that has serious physical and emotional consequences for the entire family. Fortunately, generous community members, including you, step forward to help alleviate this obstacle withing our community. Thank you for your recent donation of 112 pounds of food to **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes**. – Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Intent Giving



How Good Sam Works

We will be distributing monies monthly. We will divide the overage into 12 months and give out that portion monthly.

We accept applications for rental or utility assistance.

Applications will be accepted, on-line or in person, the first Monday of the month and disbursed the second week. We will disburse in the order applications are received until we run out of funds for that month. Any applications that come before or are left after will be destroyed. We will not hold them to the following month.

We appreciate the congregations support of this ministry and hope that it will continue so that we can help the most that we can.

On-line Giving

On-line Giving Has Never Been So Easy!



You can click or copy and paste the link

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=2250097>

or use the QR code.

You can also go to the Prince of Peace website & click on the giving button.

For questions contact either Marilyn or Tamara.



Birthdays and Anniversaries


4/1	Larry Ott	4/13	Jeff Schuhknecht	4/20	Kai Clemans	4/27	Cindy Lampos
	Christine Guthrie		Adam Beuker		Jonathan Deming	4/28	Emily Walker
	Tom Webster	4/14	Abigail Lassila	4/21	Justin Hannemann		Roxanne Johnson
4/4	Noah Mickelson	4/15	Carole Nelson		Michael Girand	4/29	Bev Schmidt
4/6	Reagan Smith		Libby Erdmann	4/22	Cathy Satterlee	4/30	Amy Baumann
	Michelle Eldridge	4/18	Jim Douglass		Wade Lawrence		
4/9	John Beatty		Trish Wiita	4/26	Peter Olsen		
4/10	Callan Davis		Scott Meier		Darcy Banitt		
4/11	Bill Floyd	4/19	James Cooper				
	Mitch Maurer		Dianne Hellman				
4/12	Ann DiJulio		Gregory Guthrie				
			Jack Guthrie				



Anniversaries

Judson & Idelle Stemaly	April 1
Louis & Nancy Jean	April 5
Matt & Sarah Erdmann	April 5
Joyce & Gordon Hare	April 7
Gary Bischof & Karen Helmeke	April 8
James & Kimberly Banner	April 17
Ken & Cindy Lampos	April 19
Sandra & Donald Mertz	April 21
James Morgan & Tamara Preston	April 25
Lisa & Steve Creed	April 25
Gregory & Christine Guthrie	April 26
Tom & Jennifer Palarz	April 29
Timothy & Paula Kana'an	April 30

Prince of Peace Calendar — April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 8:00am Easter Worship 9:00am Easter Fellowship Time 10:30am Easter Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 2:00pm SCA-3 Hills	1 Office Closed 5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group 6:30pm CLO Housing Group 7:15pm Women's Small Group	2 9:00am ESL 9:30am Quilters - Social Hall 5:30pm Great Lakes Adventure Club - Social Hall/Flex 7:00pm Stress Less Kzoo	3 10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop - 80327 7:00pm Early Music Michigan - Social Hall	4 9:00am ESL 1:00pm Food Distribution 1:00pm Free Store 6:30pm South County Fiber Arts	5 10:00am ESL Open Tutoring 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Social Hall	6 7:00am Kalamazoo Runners 9:00am Bread & Breakfast
7 9:15am Faith Formation 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 2:00pm SCA-3 Hills	8 10:30am Literacy Tutoring - Library 2:00pm Keith Geiman Trumpet Studio - Music room 3:00pm Social Concerns Meeting 5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group 5:30pm Finance Committee mtg. - Zoom 7:00pm Personnel/Executive Committee - Zoom	9 9:00am ESL 9:15am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Senior Bunko - Gathering Space 2:00pm Keith Geiman Trumpet Studio - Music room	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Michelle's 10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 2:00pm Keith Geiman Trumpet Studio - Music room 7:00pm Early Music Michigan - Social Hall	11 9:00am ESL 1:00pm Food Distribution 4:30pm Rich/Taulbee Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00am ESL Open Tutoring 3:00pm Rich/Taulbee Wedding	13 
14 9:15am Faith Formation 9:15am Sumud - Adult Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 2:00pm SCA-3 Hills	15 10:30am Literacy Tutoring - Library 5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group 7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting - Zoom 7:15pm Women's Small Group	16 9:00am ESL 9:15am Staff Meeting 9:30am Quilters - Social Hall 11:45am Ladies Lunch Bunch @ Rykse's 12:00pm Kalamazoo Conference 7:00pm Bells 7:00pm Stress Less Kzoo	17 10:00am Book Club 10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00am Library Committee - Library 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop - 80327 7:00pm Church Council meeting - Zoom 7:00pm Early Music Michigan - Social Hall	18 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am ESL 1:00pm Food Distribution 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00am ESL Open Tutoring	20 9:30am Cathwren Warner Memorial Craft Retreat
21 9:15am Faith Formation 9:15am Sumud - Adult Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 12:15pm Middle and High School Youth Group 1:30pm Nat'l Youth Gathering Prep Meeting 2:00pm SCA-3 Hills	22 Earth Day 9:30am Ruth Circle 10:30am Literacy Tutoring - Library 4:00pm Care Team Meeting 5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group 7:00pm Justice and Diversity Meeting - Zoom	23 Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal 9:00am ESL 9:15am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Bells	24 Administrative Professionals Day 10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 7:00pm Early Music Michigan - Social Hall	25 9:00am ESL 1:00pm Food Distribution 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00am ESL Open Tutoring	27
28 Baptism of Thomas Walker 9:15am Faith Formation 9:15am Sumud - Adult Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 12:00pm An Honest Conversation 12:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 2:00pm SCA-3 Hills	29 10:30am Literacy Tutoring - Library 5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group	30 9:00am ESL 9:15am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Bells	1 10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop - 80327 7:00pm Early Music Michigan - Social Hall	2 9:00am ESL 1:00pm Food Distribution 1:00pm Free Store 6:30pm South County Fiber Arts 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00am ESL Open Tutoring 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Social Hall 4:00pm Keith Geiman Trumpet Studio	4 9:00am Bread & Breakfast 4:00pm Keith Geiman Trumpet Recital

Legend:

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous ESL—English as a Second Language

SCA—Society for Creative Anachronism

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

269/343-3453

www.poppottage.org

Facebook: Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA