November 2025
XXX1 Number 11

# 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."*

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## Pastor's Page

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.*
*Love has been perfected among us in this:*
*that we may have boldness on the day of judgment,*
*because as God is, so are we in this world.*
*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;*
*for fear has to do with punishment,*
*and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*
*We love because God first loved us.* – 1 John 4:16b-19

There are so many scary and overwhelming things in the news these days, I find it helpful to remember that as God's beloved people we are rooted and grounded in a love that is greater than we can ever fully comprehend; a love so perfect, it casts out fear.

In my experience, this hasn't meant I never feel afraid. I still feel fear when I see another mass shooting or images of war on the news. I still feel that jolt of terror in my belly when I find myself in an unfamiliar or uncomfortable situation. I still worry about the consequences when I think I've said or done something that might upset people.

My ability to love is not perfect. There are times when I still speak or act out of fear. Still, I do my best to trust in God's perfect love to lead me through that fear so I can respond out of love instead. God's love is what I lean on when fear threatens to get the best of me. I can quiet the fearful voices in my head and heart by reminding myself of God's love and striving to make choices about how I live based on that love instead of on my fear.

On October 9, I sent an e-mail to everyone on our e-mail list with the text of a letter written by the ELCA Conference of Bishops addressing the national and global tension we face in these days. I found this paragraph from the letter is particularly helpful:

"In this time of division and fear, we, as people grounded in our faith, insist on love.
This commitment flows from our faith in Christ crucified and risen—the One whose love breaks down barriers, confronts hatred, and transforms hearts.
Love insists on the dignity of every human being.
Love insists on justice for the marginalized and oppressed.
Love insists that the church must reflect God's diverse, life-giving community.
Love insists that we listen, speak, and act with respect, even in disagreement.
Love insists on hope, trusting that God's kingdom of justice and peace will prevail."

As a community of faith, we have many opportunities to practice living this faithful love. When we gather around the Communion table, we all share the same food and receive the same promise that God's gifts are "for you." When we pray, we lift up many types of concerns, from individual health needs to the needs of creation, for leaders in the church and in the world, and so on.

Continued of pg. 4.

# What's Happening at POP!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Next meeting **Friday, November 7 at 10 AM** in the Peace Lounge.

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.

**Quilters**

**Tuesdays, November 4 & 18 at 9:30 AM**

**Where: POP Social Hall**

Not sure you can sew well enough to participate? Don't worry! They're happy to teach you! Contact Sheryl for more information: 267-6274.

**When: Tuesday, November 11 at 1 PM**

**Where: POP Gathering Space**

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, November 21.**

Meet at 11:45am at Monelli's Italian Grill, 7141 S Westnedge, Portage

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.

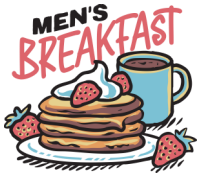
**Women's Study Group**

Come join us **Nov 3 & Nov 17**
7 pm POP Flex Room or Zoom
Continuing our discussion on
Bishop Michael Curry's Book,
**"LOVE IS THE WAY"**
Would love to see you!!

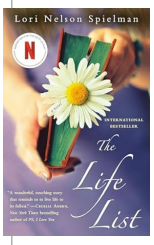
More information:
**Contact Diane Snyder, dmsnyder1149@gmail.com**

Men's Breakfast
**8:00 AM, Wednesday, November 12**

Mark's Diner on Romence Rd in Portage.
Come for fellowship, 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 book **for November 19th** is "The Life List" by Lori Nelson Spielman. A woman believes she will inherit her mother's business. However, mom's will states that she must fulfill the lists of dreams she wrote when she was 14 years old before she can receive her inheritance. The story is her journey to complete each goal. Along the way she discovers a family secret, mends relationships, and finds new passions.

The Book Club will not meet in December but if you want to read ahead, our book for January is "My Friends" by Fredrick Bachman.

Women of the ELCA

**Ruth Circle is Monday November 25**

Come at 9:30 for refreshments and fellowship followed by the study. We are usually done by 11:15. Still unsure? Call Dianne Hellman (269-323-9392)

**BREAD AND BREAKFAST IS ON HIATUS UNTIL 2026**

# Social Concerns

**Social Concerns Update:**

Thanks to Paul MacNellis' trailer and Lee Banitt 's truck, PoP delivered 95 boxes, containing 789 items to the truck for transport to the Minneapolis LWR warehouse. Thank you all, again, for making the kits and sewing the quilts.

Thank you for your weekly food donations that have filled the little red wagon for several weeks. Loaves and Fishes is grateful for our offerings and has shared client survey data with us. In a time of increasing food scarcity in our area, here are some of those important highlights.

. 65% have children in the home

. 42% are employed, full or part time

. 45% are retired, disabled or are stay at home parents

. 56% receive SNAP, WIC are unable to cover

food needs even with that assistance.

. 51% say receiving KLF helps use of other funds for housing, child care etc.

PoP food and monetary contributions to KLF are important as is our food distribution ministry. Please consider the support of these.

Volunteering at our food distribution is always needed as well. It's easy to sign up with the genius.

**Library Spotlight**

War, Veterans and Christianity:

As Veteran's Day approaches and increasingly a more violent world our next book display in the Gathering Place is going to center around war and its fallout, as well as our place as Christians regarding war. With the use of both fiction and non-fiction books, we look at our involvement at in our past wars, issues regarding our veterans physical and mental health and the history and views of Christianity regarding war.

**November 11**

**Blessed to be a Blessing -**

Please consider donating non-perishable food items for the blessing box. Some suggested items are peanut butter, jelly, soup with pop-top lids, fruit cups, crackers, cookies, and toiletries. You can put your items in the Blessing Box bin in the Gathering Space by Social Concern basket.

**Take a turn filling the Blessing Box.** It needs to be filled *daily*. Items will be sorted into bags so it is as simple as taking a bag from the storage area and placing the items in the box out front by the sign. If you don't have building access, it is easiest to come during regular office hours 9 AM – 4 PM. Staff can also buzz people in from off-site if you need to arrive outside of office hours. Sign up at : https://tinyurl.com/ybfd3sx8

**Food Scarcity is in Our Community!**
**Will you help our neighbors?**
It takes 4-5 people to help this ministry. Please sign-up and **arrive by 12:30 to help set up. Sign up is on the website.** https://popportage.org/pages/food-distribution-signup

**November 4 is Election Day.**

The church hosts two precincts. One in the Gathering Space, the other in the gym, this means there will be many people in and out of our building that day.

**VOTE!**

# Pastor's Page Continued

This month, consider the ways you can practice living in love instead of in fear and try something new. Perhaps you can listen to a friend or family member's perspective more deeply. Perhaps you can use your voice in a new way to advocate for a cause you care about. Perhaps you can find and share a hopeful story in the midst of the fearfulness in the news. Whatever you choose, make your choice in loving faithfulness to the God whose perfect love sustains us all.

Shalom,
Pastor Rachel

PS - Please note, living in love instead of fear does NOT mean taking unnecessary risks with our health or safety. We can live in love and still lock our doors at night, have cameras in the church parking lot, and regularly discuss emergency procedures as a staff and council. We have an annual fire inspection and do background checks on staff and anyone who is entrusted with the care of our children. We do these things because they help us love one another better by providing a safe environment in which to gather.
https://nclutheran.org/a-letter-from-bishops-of-the-elca-to-the-church/

# Fellowship News

*"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." – Melody Beattie*

As we begin to plan Thanksgiving with friends and family near and far, just remember that your POP family is thankful for you too Mark your calendars for the upcoming seasonal events.

The annual Gingerbread decorating will happen **Sunday, November 16th** after church. This is a one Sunday event, so plan to make a whimsical holiday decoration. The houses always are always so varied and creative – and the construction materials are really sweet! It really is a joyful way to spend an a afternoon to get in the holiday mood. A lunch of sloppy joe and vegan sloppy joe will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Space. As always, thanks to Kim and Wade Lawrence for leading this event.

The Annual POP Holiday Hors d Oeuvres Party is almost here!
This will occur Friday, **December 5 at 7pm** at Pete and Michell Eldridge's lovely historic home in downtown Kalamazoo. This was a lovely evening last year, and this year will be just as wonderful! Guests are asked to bring an beer or hors d'oeuvre to share. Wine will be provided. This is an adults only event, so line up those babysitters now! Be on the lookout for further details.

As we head into this Advent season, take a moment to look around you for those who might need some additional support or companionship. Just a warm smile and an invite for coffee or a quick note to let someone know that they are in your thoughts can really help those who find this season difficult. In these trying times, fellowship with one another is really a balm on a sore soul.

**Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 2**

# Council and Committees

## Council CORNER

During Council's October meeting we are pleased to hear about the annual Stewardship campaign getting off to a good start and are prayerfully enthusiastic for intent day coming up. Budget and new council member nominating has begun as we begin having eyes looking closely at planning for next year. We ask all congregants of PoP to prayerfully consider joining council if you are asked about serving on council. It truly is an honor to help steward PoP's mission. Pastor Rachel gave us an update through her monthly report that her first full month back from sabbatical has gone very well and faith formation classes are off to a great start. Intern Kathleen also shared her first report and is acclimating to PoP well and is blessed by all the support she is receiving. Please seek out those of us in yellow lanyards if you desire learning more.

**Do you like Living Lutheran Magazine?**

Group discounted subscriptions to Living Lutheran magazine are only offered to those with at least 10 group members, so Prince of Peace can no longer offer this option. If you wish to receive the magazine at home please go to Email Digest / Magazine Subscription - Living Lutheran where you can subscribe for either a paper copy of the magazine to be delivered to your home for $19.95/year or Living Lutheran Stories e-digest where you will get personalized stories delivered to your inbox biweekly or monthly.

Pray Without Ceasing

***Pray Without Ceasing*** is a nationwide prayer movement started in the ELCA to uplift and unite communities in prayer during a time of significant change.
**Join us every Wednesday at 10 am** here at church to pray together.
For more information, contact Laurie Brown or Em Witteveen.
For more information on the Pray Without Ceasing movement, visit pray-without-ceasing.org.
The Zoom link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84102538282?pwd=L4MIxRUcrPcMjoQ7sI7J4FoJiLzutc.1

## CHURCH CLEANUP

**November 8 is the Fall Clean-Up at Prince of Peace.**

We will be starting at 8:30 AM and will wrap up around noon. Everyone is welcome even if you can only attend for part of the time. Tarps, rakes and blowers will be needed to move the leaves to the rear of the property. Please join us for a little outdoor exercise along with coffee, juice, donuts!

Rain date is Saturday November 15.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY AT POP! We need your help!**

The Personnel Committee is excited to announce the posting for a part-time **Nursery Assistant**. With one of our congregational goals being to engage more families with children, we recognize that we now need a second paid staff member vs relying only on volunteers to fill the critical assistant position. This non-benefitted position is guaranteed two (2) hours/Sunday. Pending budget approval for 2026, we anticipate the position expanding to three (3) hours/Sunday while learning hour/faith formation classes are offered. We will continue utilizing volunteers, ages 13 and up, to serve as back-up coverage when Melissa and/or the assistant is unavailable.

The full job description is posted on POP's website under the "About" tab/"Current Job Opportunities." If you, or anyone you know, has interest in this paid position, please submit a resume and cover letter to secretary@popportage.org. We appreciate any help you can give us with passing on this opportunity to your contacts! If you or others have questions, please contact Em Witteveen, Engagement Coordinator, or any of the members of the Personnel Committee listed below.

Thank you!

Sue Jones, Personnel Committee Chair

Committee members: Lisa Creed, Paula Kana'an, Judson Stemaly, Dave Reinhold, or Pastor Rachel -

# Adult Faith Formation

**Alzheimer's Disease** and other associated forms of dementia have become a significant health crisis in the United States, and the world. The difficulties that the disease presents to families and communities are enormous. Caregiving for someone with dementia presents huge challenges.

**Jesus teaches us to care for one another.**
Faith communities like ours can play a significant role in providing needed support to those with the disease and their families.
This three-week series will provide the basics of what Alzheimer's is, the warning signs of the disease, and what science is saying about how one may be able to delay or even prevent getting the disease.
Each week's presentation will build on the previous week, yet each also stands on its own.

**Week 1, November 2: Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia:** The terms "dementia" and "Alzheimer's" are often used interchangeably. Week 1 will sort out those terms, and dive into the basics of how the disease affects those that have it, how it progresses, risk factors for getting it, current available treatments, and glimpses into the future for progress in battling the disease.

**Week 2, November 9: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's:** Have you noticed yourself or others having "senior moments" when one cannot find the right word, or cannot find the darn car keys? Do you wonder, "am I (or are they) getting Alzheimer's?" Week 2 will explore 10 warning signs for Alzheimer's, and differentiate between normal age-related cognitive changes, and more worrisome signs that something may be amiss.

**Week 3, November 16: Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body:** There are no available treatments to prevent or cure Alzheimer's. The good news is that there are ways to delay and perhaps prevent the onset of this disease. Week 3 dives into the latest research and describes changes one can make to give oneself the best chance to avoid this deadly disease.

**And no, it is NOT too late!**

ALZHEIMER'S® ASSOCIATION

# Get to Know the Staff

**Rachel Laughlin**

Birthday: November 1, All Saints Day

With so many pastors in my family, I mark many of my major life events by the liturgical calendar. I was due to be born on Reformation Day (10/31), was actually born on All Saints Day, and was baptized on Christmas Day (12/25). My family joked that Chris and I should have gotten married on Easter, but far too many of our family and friends are clergy who have to work that day so we married on May 23, which is usually in the liturgical season of Easter.

**What is your favorite way to spend a day off?**

On my days off, I love unscheduled quiet time to read, knit, spin, and eat good food. My favorite days off are spent with my husband and/or friends. For a more active day, I love going to zoos and museums, swimming or biking, preferably with friends or family.

**Do you prefer sweet or salty snacks?**

I like both – often together! Dark chocolate salted caramels are a big favorite.

# Children and Youth News

Faith Formations for all ages continued through October. Young learners in the Frolic classroom spent time exploring different parts of the Exodus story, following Moses from Egypt to the wilderness near the burning bush, back to Egypt, and into the desert across the dry ground of the parted Red Sea. First and Second Graders continued to learn about the people in our congregation, spending time learning from sacristy assistants and altar guild volunteers about what goes into preparing for worship. Upper Elementary students added more stories of Jesus to their scrapbooks, learning about some of his healing miracles and about parables, or stories that he used to teach. Confirmation students are learning deeper understandings of the 10 commandments and are busy exploring different ways to be involved in worship. High Schoolers are also finding new ways to experience worship, and are taking a renewed look at bible stories they have known for many years. We have experienced many wonderful learning opportunities and look forward to more as the year goes by!

On October 26th, we celebrated Reformation Sunday by welcoming two new confirmands as voting members in our congregation. **Congratulations, Jackson and Duran**!

**Sunday the 26th was also our annual Trunk or Treat!** We collected more than 10,000 pieces of candy and hundreds of kids' books to give away at this event. Trunks ranged in theme from familiar nursery rhymes to beloved children's stories to famous movies and beyond! Thank you to everyone who made this a successful day.

Kids and youth have spent parts of their Faith Formation classes creating special art work to be displayed in the Gathering Space through the month of November. The works are inspired by the cantata 'Rejoice in the Lamb' by Benjamin Britten, which the choir will be performing on **Christ the King Sunday, November 23rd**. We explored many different techniques in preparing the collection, and the resulting works of art will give a unique perspective to the words of the cantata. Be sure to browse the gallery and read about the choir's performance as we get closer, and join us on Sunday, November 23rd, as we celebrate the final Sunday of the liturgical year!

Actors will begin rehearsing in November for **our Christmas Program, set for performance on December 14th** during morning worship. Follow Investigator Z, King Herod's personal Private Eye, as he chases down reports of a new king in Bethlehem! With the help of a few Bethlehem residents, he will search high and low to find this dangerous character and report back to King Herod. You won't want to miss this exciting adventure!

**So many cows!**

**Dancing witches, scary aliens and a reading rainbow**

# Justice and Diversity News

**November is Native American Heritage Month**. It is a time to honor the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples and the First Nations of this land. This fall the KVCC Visiting Writer's series hosts Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist, author, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her book "Braiding Sweetgrass" describes the Indigenous principles and practices of the Honorable Harvest. This is a set of principles and practices to live reciprocally with the earth and all creation.

**This month -**

- Read this blog post for a quick introduction to the Honorable Harvest principles https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/good-health/2015/11/26/the-honorable-harvest-lessons-from-an-indigenous-tradition-of-giving-thanks
- Attend a KVCC seminar in their Honorable Harvest lecture series to see these principles applied in our current world. November lecture topics include school meals (Nov 5), a visit with Robin Wall Kimmerer (Nov 6), the Farm bill (Nov 12), and exploring your land story (Nov 19) https://www.kvcc.edu/news/stories/2024-09-11_HonorableHarvest.php
- Read a book by Robin Wall Kimmerer - "Braiding Sweetgrass," "Serviceberry," or the picture book "Bud Finds Her Gift" (available to borrow from the PoP library)

To explore further, visit the ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations website: www.elca.org/Indigenous The Truth and Healing Movement addresses a history of injustice including the Doctrine of Discovery and boarding schools. There are also videos to introduce people and culture including Powwow 101 and the Native Voices series. Visit the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNDmVwhz-M37-KRPaf9R_DR4qjLICNm16

**Local Civic Action -**

- Vote Tuesday, Nov 4. Kalamazoo County residents vote on a replacement millage for the Metro Transit busses https://www.kmetro.com/
- Portage City residents can provide feedback on the current and future work of the Environmental Board https://www.portagemi.gov/414/Environmental-Board
- The public comment period for Michigan Department of Transportation's New Safety Rules for Roadside Facilities ends Nov 20. The rules apply to rest areas, carpool lots, scenic turn offs, and similar public-use areas. They include limits on time spent (48 hr max), loitering and group activities. Violations may be charged as a misdemeanor. https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/travel/tourists/new-safety-rules-for-roadside-facilities

From the ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life (adopted August 2025) – "God intends that humans should use their knowledge, wisdom, and power to foster the common good. When that is done by institutions through policies and regulations, or by individuals in acts of caring, humans are fulfilling their vocation to serve God's activity in the world."

https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/current-social-writing-projects/civic-life-and-faith

# Miscellany

**Rejoicing in God's Saints:**
A Daily Prayer Calendar for November

All Saints' Day falls on November 1 of each year. On that date or on the first Sunday in November, many churches memorialize members and loved ones who have died the year prior. In keeping with the spirit of All Saints' Day and of Thanksgiving, below you will find daily prompts to express gratitude to God for a now-departed saint who has influenced your life.

| | |
|---|---|
| 11/1 | Mentored you in your profession |
| 11/2 | Helped you grow in faith |
| 11/3 | Gave tangible help during a difficult time |
| 11/4 | Founded an institution or movement that is important to you |
| 11/5 | Showed tough love |
| 11/6 | Coached you as you grew in skills and confidence |
| 11/7 | Led a group that was significant in your formation |
| 11/8 | Treated you like a sibling |
| 11/9 | Introduced you to grief by their loss |
| 11/10 | Wrote something that deeply moved you |
| 11/11 | Died before you could reconcile or reconnect with them |
| 11/12 | Introduced you to a group/community |
| 11/13 | Reminded you how to see the world like a child |
| 11/14 | Advocated for you |
| 11/15 | Showed you something key about yourself/your values by being your adversary |
| 11/16 | Gave you a tangible object that continues to inspire you |
| 11/17 | Parented or grandparented you |
| 11/18 | Governed in a way that fostered trust and cooperation |
| 11/19 | Took you somewhere life-changing |
| 11/20 | Made you feel seen in a time/place that you felt invisible |
| 11/21 | Trusted you with difficult but important knowledge |
| 11/22 | Created art that speaks to your soul |
| 11/23 | Let you ask your questions |
| 11/24 | Pointed out your gifts |
| 11/25 | Introduced you to a hobby |
| 11/26 | Prayed for you |
| 11/27 | Embodied the values you aspire to |
| 11/28 | Disagreed with you but still loved you |
| 11/29 | Supported you emotionally through a low point |
| 11/30 | Did something for others in death that they couldn't have done in life. |

***Updated in 2018 by Laura Stephens-Reed, Clergy Coach & Congregational Consultant***
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**2025 Chili Cook-off**

**Congratulations to Michelle Eldridge**, this year's Ted Olsen Memorial Chili Cook-off winner! Our panel of judges tasted all 8 chilis submitted for consideration and decided Michelle's was the most delicious. This year our youth joined in on the fun by creating "candy chili" with some of their favorite sweets. What a treat! Big thanks to all the chili contestants and those who provided cornbread and other goodies to go along with the meal. We all went home full and happy thanks to your generosity and kitchen skills!

2025 Winner, Michelle E., receives the apron from past winners, Wade L. and Jim M.

Top 3 Chili Chefs: Tammy C., Michelle E., and Judson S.

Youth making their chili: Hannah & Gabe C., Bette S., Greyson H. and Alex Z.

**The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving day and the Friday after.**

The floors will be waxed during that time. Please don't not enter the building while the floors are being stripped and waxed.

# Special Music for a Special Day

It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of another year in the church, shaped at its beginning by the season of Advent and its close by the Festival of Christ the King. Our lives of faith weave in and out, around and through as we retrace and contemplate the life and ministry of Jesus.

This year on **The Festival of Christ the King, November 23,** our choir will sing a Cantata, ***Rejoice in the Lamb***, by 20th Century British composer, Benjamin Britten who set poetry from a long poem of the same name by 18th Century British poet, Christopher Smart. The cantata. ***Rejoice in the Lamb*** was commissioned by St. Matthews Church in Northhampton, near London, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary in 1943.

There are several "coincidences" that make the coming together of composer and poet with time and place very unusual. Christopher Smart's poem, ***Jubilate Agno (Rejoice in the Lamb)*** was known to the Rev. W Walter Hussey, the Rector of St. Matthew's Church, who knew Benjamin Britten. In the commissioning process, Hussey suggested the poem to Benjamin Britten, who selected the verses to set to music. The main theme of the poem and the cantata is the worship of God by all created beings and things, each in its own way. The opening paints the picture as the whole creation is invited to praise God, on one common pitch! Throughout, the organ accompaniment masterfully functions more like a film score, painting the picture, rather than accompanying it!

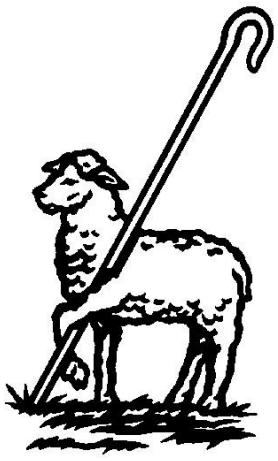
Christopher Smart developed a mental illness in mid-life and was confined in an asylum; it was during his confinement that ***Jubilate Agno*** was written.

It was both a personal and philosophical diary which merged obscure legends and genecology with startling alterations of tone and juxtaposition as he searched for inner peace and the presence of God. *Can you imagine what life was like in an 18th century asylum?*

Jump some 200 years and consider life in England, especially in the London area in 1943, after years of war and destruction. Or recall present day immigrants or African Americans throughout our own country's history. *Where was / is God?* For Christopher Smart, the answer evolved as he contemplated the creatures of God's creation -- his cat, *Jeoffrey*, the common mouse, *a creature of great personal valor* – and noted that they praised God simply by doing what they were created to do. He continued with the flowers, t*he poetry of Christ*. The plot thickens: *The flower glorifies God and the root parries* (i.e. "wards off") *the adversary.* I can imagine that the flower is not only Christ, but also Christopher Smart, himself, in the asylum, or the war-weary people in World War II Northampton, England, or "different" people in our own country, or each of us as we try to thread our way through life – and God is the root that parries or protects from the enemy.

In the depths of despair, the door begins to unlock! The poet rejoices that God is everywhere present in the best or worst of times, and 200 years later, the composer celebrates with a lively chorus rejoicing through music and everything that makes it, with God playing upon the harp of *stupendous magnitude and melody* at which time *malignity ceases* and a *remarkable stillness* is perceptible. And the cantata closes with a peaceful and thankful *Hallelujah!*

And here in the 21st century, we also search for and rejoice in God's creating presence among us, not only with music but also through art created by the youth of our congregation as they explore God's presence in their lives and in all of creation. We rejoice and praise and thank God!



# Living Our Faith

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OTHERS**

*I want to sincerely thank you for the funds you generously provided to help with my rent!! Your support came at a time when I truly needed it, and it is a reminder of God's provision and love through the body of Christ.*

*I am deeply grateful for your kindness, and I pray that God blesses your church abundantly for the way you care for people in need! Your generosity made a real difference in my life, and I won't forget it!*

*Your church has restored my faith in the body of Christ because you didn't hold back because someone may or may not be a member of the church and if they even tithed. Thank you once again for being the hands and feet of Jesus!*

*With a grateful heart,*
*Kelly E. - Good Sam Recipiant*

- *With deep gratitude for your generous support,* ***YWCA Kalamazoo*** *continues to live fully into our mission of Eliminating Racism and Empowering Women, while promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Your donation enables us to meet the ever-changing needs of those who are too often marginalized and underserved in times of crisis.*
  –Susan Rosas, Chief Executive Director

# 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.

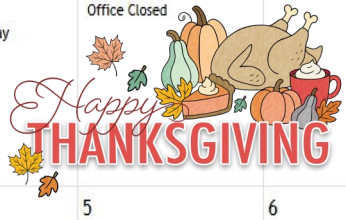
# Birthdays and Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| 11/1 | Kim Love<br>Rachel Laughlin |
| 11/2 | David Josuns |
| 11/4 | Michael Barnett |
| 11/5 | Melissa Copeland<br>Gloria Beatty<br>Randy Lund |
| 11/6 | Judson Stemaly |
| 11/7 | Lee Banitt<br>Anna DeRango |
| 11/8 | Tonya Klemm |
| 11/9 | Lorelei Koester |
| 11/10 | Claudia Lee |
| 11/11 | Inger Thoen<br>Kelsey Steele |
| 11/12 | Joel Pennington<br>Diane Snyder<br>Ron Leversee |
| 11/13 | Elizabeth VanRenterghem<br>Julie Wentzel<br>Jason Davis |
| 11/15 | Tom Palarz |
| 11/17 | Jane Knuth |
| 11/20 | Duran Cooper<br>Noah Ottesen |
| 11/21 | Don Eklov<br>Nancy Pederson<br>Leah Deming<br>TJ Kana'an<br>Lisa Creed |
| 11/23 | Eric Lehman |
| 11/24 | Brooke Leversee<br>Tyler Leversee |
| 11/27 | Sherry Myers |
| 11/28 | Diane Wilke-Karna |
| 11/29 | Karen Josuns<br>Laila Poisson |
| 11/30 | Carolyn Anderson<br>Ben Seguin<br>MerriKay Oleen-Burkey |

**Anniversaries**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dennis & Betsy Stalker | 11/21 |
| Mike & Sherry Myers | 11/22 |
| Erin & Ron Leversee | 11/27 |

# Prince of Peace Calendar — November

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26<br>**Reformation Sunday**<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>**9:45am Nominating Committee Meeting**<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time<br>**3:00pm Trunk or Treat** | 27<br>9:30am Ruth Circle<br>1:30pm Care Team Meeting<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>6:00pm Justice and Diversity Meeting - Zoom<br>*6:30pm Nami Support Group*<br>7:00pm Youth Committee - Zoom | 28<br>*Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal*<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>7:00pm Bells | 29<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom | 30<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>5:45pm Mutual Ministry Meeting - Library<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 31<br>**Reformation Day**<br>*10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* | 1<br>**All Saints Day** |
| 2<br>**Daylight-Saving Time Ends**<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time | 3<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>7:00pm Women's Study Group - Flex Room | 4<br>*8:00am Election - Gathering Space and Gym*<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>9:30am Quilters - Social Hall<br>*6:00pm Great Lakes Adventure Club - Social Hall/Flex*<br>7:00pm Bells | 5<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom | 6<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>1:00pm Food Distribution<br>1:00pm Free Store<br>*6:30pm South County Fiber Arts*<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 7<br>*10:00am ESL Open Tutoring*<br>10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Peace Lounge<br>5:00pm Co-op Site Visit | 8<br>8:30am Fall Clean up Day<br>9:00am Co-op Site Visit |
| 9<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time | 10<br>**3:00pm Social Concerns Meeting**<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>**5:30pm Finance Committee mtg. - Zoom**<br>7:00pm Personnel/Executive Committee - Zoom | 11<br>**Veterans Day**<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>1:00pm Bunko - Gathering Space<br>7:00pm Bells | 12<br>8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Mark's Diner<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom | 13<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>*6:00pm Partners in Profit*<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 14<br>Charge Youth Conference<br>*10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* | 15<br>Charge Youth Conference<br>8:30am Fall Clean up Rain Day |
| 16<br>Charge Youth Conference<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time<br>12:00pm Gingerbread Houses - Social Hall | 17<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>*6:00pm Master Gardeners - Sanctuary*<br>7:00pm Women's Study Group - Flex Room<br>**7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting - Zoom** | 18<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>9:30am Quilters - Social Hall<br>11:45am Ladies Lunch Bunch @<br>*3:00pm Alpha Delta Kappa - Kitchen & Social Hall*<br>5:30pm Property Committee - Zoom<br>7:00pm Bells | 19<br>10:00am Book Club<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Library Committee - Library<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom<br>*12:00pm Project Connect*<br>**7:00pm Church Council meeting - Zoom** | 20<br>Newsletter Deadline<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>1:00pm Food Distribution<br>1:00pm Free Store<br>*6:00pm Nurse Honor Guard of Kalamazoo*<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 21<br>*10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* | 22 |
| 23<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time<br>12:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting<br>5:30pm Thanksgiving Service and Pie Social @ Unitarian Universalist Church | 24<br>9:30am Ruth Circle<br>1:30pm Care Team Meeting<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>6:00pm Justice and Diversity Meeting - Zoom<br>*6:30pm Nami Support Group* | 25<br>*Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal*<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>7:00pm Bells | 26<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom<br>7:00pm Christian Education-Zoom | 27<br>**Office Closed**<br>**Thanksgiving Day** | 28<br>Office Closed<br>  | 29 |
| 30<br>**Advent**<br>9:15am Faith Formation All Ages<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fellowship Time<br>**12:00pm Christmas Program Rehearsal** | 1<br>*5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*<br>7:00pm Women's Study Group - Flex Room | 2<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>9:15am Staff Meeting<br>9:30am Quilters - Social Hall<br>*6:00pm Great Lakes Adventure Club - Social Hall/Flex*<br>7:00pm Bells | 3<br>**10:00am Pray Without Ceasing**<br>*10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities*<br>11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom | 4<br>*9:00am ESL*<br>1:00pm Food Distribution<br>1:00pm Free Store<br>*6:30pm South County Fiber Arts*<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 5<br>*10:00am ESL Open Tutoring*<br>10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Peace Lounge<br>7:00pm Holiday Hors d'oeuvre Party | 6<br>9:00am Bread & Breakfast |

**Legend:**

AA-–Alcoholics Anonymous ESL—English as a Second Language

NAMI — National Alliance on Mental Illness

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
**269/343-3453**
www.popportage.org
Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*