March 2026
Volume XXX11 Number 3

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

Palm Sunday Path

Sunday, March 29, is Palm Sunday. Each year on this holy day, we recount Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and the final days leading up to his crucifixion, death, and resurrection. In worship, the day always feels a bit special as we congregate in the Gathering Space to wave our palm branches in procession as we enter the sanctuary singing, "All Glory Laud and Honor." In this small way, we bring the story of Jesus' own entrance to Jerusalem to life in our own bodies, making it easy to imagine ourselves as part of the crowds that welcomed him all those years ago.

What we may not realize is that Jesus' entrance wasn't necessarily the only important one in the city of Jerusalem that day. Lots of people were gathering there for the celebration of the Passover, including Roman Imperial authorities. They would have arrived with their proud horses and chariots, perhaps with a legion of soldiers parading into town with them. Jesus' arrival on a humble donkey would have been a sharp contrast to the way military might of Rome arrived for the religious festival. And that is part of the point: Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem as the Messiah, the Son of God, was a sign to all kinds of authority – religious and political alike – that God's reign would be different than what people had come to expect from those in power.

Because this day in our Christian calendar points so clearly to the differences between God's Kingdom and our earthly Empires, an ecumenical group of faith leaders have chosen Palm Sunday as the day to make a public statement witnessing to our Christian values in this time of political turmoil in our country. The Palm Sunday Path (https://www.wndpalmsundaypath.com/) leadership in Michigan is planning a procession to the state capitol in Lansing on the afternoon of Palm Sunday.

Let me be very clear: this event is intended to be a public witness to our faith and shared values, not a political protest. Our goal is to express a clear message of hope and vision of a future that is based in Matthew 25, where Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and welcome the stranger. Clergy are being invited to dress in clerics, robes, and/or stoles. We are all invited to bring palm branches to wave as we walk from a local UCC congregation to the capitol building. Organizers are requesting that any signs or posters express positive and unified messages about feeding, healing, and welcoming. This event is about having the theological and creative imagination to express what we believe is possible when we are living as the people God calls us to be.

Contact me via e-mail (pastorrachel@popportage.org) if you would like more details or to support or participate in the Palm Sunday Event.

Shalom, Pastor Rachel

What's Happening at POP!

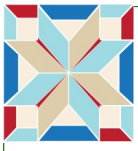
WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

All women are invited to join us
March 2 and 16 at 7 pm
In the Flex Room or on Zoom

BREAD AND BREAKFAST IS BACK
SATURDAY, March 7

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, March 3 & 17 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, too. Contact Sheryl for more information: 267-6274.

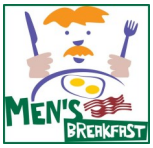
Ladies Lunch Bunch
Meet at 11:45am on **March 17** at Casa Tequila
23901 City Center Cir, Mattawan
Questions? Car pool? Need a ride?
Contact Dianne Hellman, 323-9392.

Ruth Circle will meet
Monday, March 23 at 9:30am
in the Social Hall.

If you are seeking a women's group who learn together, support one another and enjoy the fellowship of love and joy, please consider joining us. Study guides are available in the library or just come!
Contact Claudia Blahnik at 269/352-7430
or cjblahnik@yahoo.com,
if you have hesitations or questions.

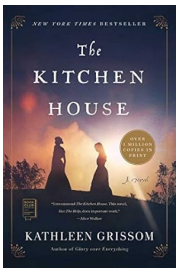
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Meets **Friday, March 6 at 10 AM** in the Social Hall.
If you or someone you know would like a shawl, or for more information about becoming a prayer shawl creator, please contact Dianne Hellman, 323-9392.

Bunko
Join us Tuesday, March 10 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.



Men's Breakfast!
8:00 AM, Wednesday, March 11
Mark's Diner on Romence Rd. in Portage.
Join Pastor Rachel for breakfast, prayer, and conversation.

Prince of Peace Book Club



The POP book club will be discussing "The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom at our **March 18th** meeting at 10:00 am in the Peace Lounge.
This historical fiction novel takes place in the 1790's on a Virginia plantation. Little Lavinia, an Irish orphan becomes an indentured servant when her parents die on the voyage to America. She lives in the kitchen house with slaves who become her new family. She also becomes part of the owner's family which leaves her caught between two worlds.

Our book for April is "Home Front" by Kristin Hannah.

Maundy Thursday	*April 2*	*7:00 PM*
Good Friday	*April 3*	*7:00 PM*
Easter Vigil	*April 4*	*7:00 PM*
Easter Sunday	*April 5*	*8:00 AM & 10:30 AM*

enhanced Fellowship between services.

Children and Youth News

The theme for the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in July 2027 was announced at the tail end of January, and we are excited to "Imagine More" with youth from all over the country as we prepare for and attend the Gathering. Keep an eye out for our first special Gathering Fundraiser—Chuck-a-Duck during the Graduation picnic on May 17th!

Several of our kids and youth joined the rest of the congregation to see **Pastor Rachel sing the National Anthem at the K-Wings game.** We went on our regular 'adventure' during the second intermission to find ice cream, and we brought Intern Kathleen along to share the excitement--hot fudge and caramel sundaes for all!

We celebrated the end of the season after Epiphany on Transfiguration Sunday, February 15th. We remember this Sunday each year as the day we "bury the alleluias" until Easter. Everyone was invited to draw, color, or write a special Alleluia message that we collected at the end of worship. Then, we closed all the pieces in a chest that won't be opened until we celebrate Christ's Resurrection!

Middle and High School youth were invited to learn about printmaking through a workshop with Judson S. They each chose a story or passage from the upcoming lectionary readings, and their art will serve as the bulletin cover on the corresponding week.

Our third-twelfth grade youth have been practicing the names of the books of the bible. They've spent time focusing on some more familiar names, like the books in the Pentateuch and the four gospels, and have expanded out into other parts of the bible that we read from regularly. We've even had a few tricks when leaders sneak in a name that is *not* a book of the bible! Our youth have been working hard to expand their biblical literacy, and not only in the table of contents. Frolic and Upper Elementary students have been studying New Testament stories. High Schoolers have been focusing on stories of women in the Bible. First and Second graders have been learning about some of the traditional elements of Lutheran worship and reading about the ways we are called by God to serve and love those in our community. Confirmation students are also learning about elements of worship, wrapping up a unit on the apostle's creed and heading soon toward a unit on The Lord's Prayer.

All are invited to enjoy Ice Cream Sundaes and learn to make palm crosses on Palm Sunday after worship, hosted by the Youth Committee!

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

Social Concerns

Social Concerns Update -
Recently our team participated in an adult Faith Formation discussion of Prince of Peace donations to local and world wide benevolences.
The discussion offered two ways to donate.
1. Non monetary, involves supporting a local community organization in any of the following ways.
- working in the Jubilee Garden, benefitting the work of Mothers of Hope.
- securing, repairing, delivering furniture and household items benefiting Refugee programs.
- preparing and delivering meals to the Open Doors Shelter benefiting Open Doors of Kalamazoo.
- teaching, translating, educational assistance, driving, and advising helps Refugees acclimate to their new country.
- driving senior citizens to doctors appointments helps the Shepherds Center do their work
- working with Food distribution and free store are ways to help local eliminate food insecurity.
- working at Project Connect helps the marginalized and homeless people of Kalamazoo.

There are many more ways to help without donating money.

2. Monetary ways include donating in your name or donating through Prince of Peace. Funds are budgeted from the general giving to help local benevolences ($7,500 in 2026). Social Concerns then decides who should receive funds and how much.
Our criteria for determining each recipients is:
- Does the group follow Christian principals of loving thy neighbor as themself?
- Are they supportive of every race, gender & religion? No discrimination.
- How many people do they help?
- How large is their budget and what are their financial sources?
- Does PoP have a personal connection with the organization through our members? (Greater knowledge of their needs)

We welcome your input and suggestions for distributing these funds and will soon have a form available for your input.

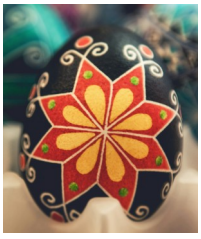
With the 2025 budget we donated to the following non profit organizations.

Shepherds Center, SWELL, Kalamazoo Gleaners, YWCA Domestic Family Shelter, Michigan Immigration Law, Housing Resources Inc., Portage Community Center, Loaves and Fishes, Mothers of Hope and WMU Sieta Scholars.

Fellowship

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."
— Virgil A. Kraft

Get out your calendars! The fellowship committee has a bunch of upcoming activities and information this March!



Pysanky Eggs Are Back
Pysanky egg decorating is coming up on **Sunday, March 15** after service. Kim and Wade Lawrence share their expertise every year for this event. For those that don't know, Pysanky eggs are Ukrainian decorated Easter Eggs. The process of creating the designs and dying the eggs is really remarkable and fun. If you haven't tried this yet, you are missing out! The designs can be as ornate or as simple as you wish, so all are welcome. Lunch will be provided.
A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space.

Easter Brunch
As we celebrate Easter this year, the Fellowship Committee is organizing a return to the Easter Brunch! There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering space to volunteer to bring food items for our celebration.
We are in need of casseroles, quiches, small sandwiches, deviled eggs, cheese, fruit, pastries and bread items. Fellowship will provide coffee, tea, water and lemonade to drink. If you are bringing items that are shelf stable (boxes of crackers, cookies etc.) or easily refrigerated items (cheese, fruit, etc.) you can drop those off prior to Easter. If you are bringing items like casseroles or quiches, please bring them in already heated as we do not have the oven space to heat these up at church. Everything will need to brought to church Sunday morning by 8:30AM. The committee will be setting up for serving between services and after the 10:30 worship. If you have a spare pair of hands that wishes to assist with set up or clean up, please contact Gail or Tamara for details.

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Fellowship Continued

Sunday Fellowship
We are in continual need of volunteers to handle the coffee fellowship after service. We have prepared a list of instructions that can be referenced to make this easier. Please contact any member of the Fellowship Committee for details.

2026 Women's Retreat
We continue to make plans for our POP women's retreat on **May 22-23 at Das Essenhaus** in Middlebury, Indiana. There will be accommodations for either single or double occupancy. Rates should be released soon that will include your room, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. (Friday dinner will be on your own.) If you haven't been to Das Essenhaus, they have a large property that includes the hotel, a bakery, restaurant and several charming shops to peruse. This weekend retreat looks to be a lovely time for the women of POP to deepen old friendships and create new ones while exploring our relationship with God.

Kalamazoo Growlers
POP will spend a lovely summer evening cheering on the **Kalamazoo Growlers on Friday, June 26th**. First pitch will be at 6:35PM. Tickets will be $15 per person and will include a Growler's hat! (Children 3 years and younger are free.) The seats this year will be on the 1st base line behind the Growler's dugout. (No more sun in everyone's eyes!) Sign ups for tickets coming soon.

New Event Alert
Mark your calendars for a new and exciting outing for POP! We will be organizing a group to attend the **Demolition Derby at the Galesburg Speedway on August 29**. We are still working on details – stay tuned!

New Monthly Information
This month we are going to start to provide three additional local opportunities available that you may want to check out if you are looking for a solo outing or for you and your POP bestie to attend. These may be festivals, expos, concerts, shows and more. *(Be advised, unless noted, these will require an entrance fee or tickets. Google the individual event for additional details to plan your outing.)*

We are also going to draw attention to events that POP members are participating in. This could be a concert, community activity, sporting event or school event that is open for POP fans to cheer on and support other members. Please contact Tammy Cooper with your events at mamacoops@aol.com to be included in the monthly newsletter. We will need date, place & time. Due to privacy concerns, we will not be noting the individuals by name just that a POP member is involved.

Next Meeting
Fellowships next meeting will be Sunday, March 22nd after church in the library. Everyone is welcome! We have had some suggestions for new activities, and we will be working on those!

Local Outing Ideas
Butterflies are Blooming at the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids March 1-April 30. This highly anticipated event, the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the United States, showcases the stunning diversity and intricate beauty of butterflies and moths.

Grand Rapids Lantern Festival at the John Ball Zoo – April 8-June 14. This nightly, immersive event showcases over 50 new, large-scale, colorful, and interactive lantern displays along a one-mile trail, including, including zoo-themed, cultural, and mythical, creatures illuminating the zoo.

Maple Sugar Festival at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Sat, March 7 9AM-4PM Join in the fun for the 61st annual Maple Sugar Festival. Each year we celebrate the first signs of spring, from the festival's humble beginnings of a kettle on a tripod to today's full day of activities with the all-important pancake breakfast topped off with real Michigan maple syrup.

Upcoming Events With POP participants!
High School Robotics Competition
March 21-22 at Berrien Springs High School
March 28-29 at Battle Creek Central High School

Angels In America: Part One: Millennium Approaches
Play by Tony Kushner
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre March 13-22
(WARNING: This play contains mature language, content and situations and is recommended for adults only.)

Much Ado About Nothing
Play by William Shakespeare
Western Michigan University – Gilmore Theatre Complex March 20-March 29

Adult Faith Formation

This Lent, the Adult Faith Formation class will be running the JustFaith series "Unbound."

Join us in the education wing from 9:15-10:15 am on Sundays for a deeper look into how the people and places that Jesus encountered can speak to us today. The sessions include personal reflection and small group discussions. Midweek reflections are available to complete on your own, or with a partner, to go further. The sessions stand alone so join us when you can. If you can't be onsite, contact the office for the Zoom log-in to join remotely.

Session 1, February 22 (*facilitator: Laila Poisson*): Lead Us Not into Temptation: Jesus in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)

The group journeys with Jesus into the wilderness to name the temptations that often guide our choices, so that we might consciously choose the path that leads to love and freedom.

Session 2, March 1 (*facilitator: Intern Kathleen Robinson*): Nicodemus at Night (John 3:1-21)

This session contrasts Jesus' teaching with religious rule-keeping to help your group recover the heart of the Law: love and freedom. You'll then reflect on how we can live out Jesus's teachings fully and without compromise.

Session 3, March 8 (*facilitator: Sue Stapleton*): The Well at Noon (John 4:5-42)

This session guides participants in naming and discarding the labels and limitations we impose on ourselves and one another, so that we might fully contribute our whole selves to the building of God's Kingdom.

Session 4, March 15 (*facilitator: Marti Haug*): "One Thing I do Know": The Story of the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)

This session and its subsequent weekly reflections explore the story of the man who was born blind, introduce participants to a theology of disability, and highlight some of the many gifts that people with disabilities bring to the Church.

Session 5, March 22 (facilitator: *Pastor Rachel Laughlin*): Lazarus, Come Out! (John 11:1-44)

"I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus says. How can we unbind ourselves and one another from the forces of death and despair, so that we may be free to share in life abundant?

Session 6, March 29 (facilitator: *retired Pastor Harry Biles*): Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-11)

Like the crowds on Palm Sunday, we often yearn for the kind of king Jesus of Nazareth is not. This session will guide participants in exploring our addictions to greed, power, and control, so that we may experience the true freedom of God's Kin-dom.

Looking back – Thank you to the presenters in the Faith and Finances series in February. If you missed it, check out the United Way VITA program to see if you qualify for free tax filing support or would be interested to volunteer. https://www.uwsm.org/volunteer-income-tax-assistance. Reach out to the office for copies of the tax efficient giving strategies from *Michelle Eldridge and Lori Hanneman*. And go to the PoP Service Ministries page to see more about how we live out our values with time, talent, and sometimes treasure. https://www.popportage.org/ministries

Looking ahead - There will be no Faith Formation on Easter Sunday (April 5) and we will do a post-Lenten debrief of the Unbound series on Sunday April 12. Do you have ideas for the spring (April/May) or next fall? Let Em, Sandy, or Laila **know** and we'll help plan it with you.

Justice and Diversity

Celebrate Women's History Month by Nominating a Local Woman Leader in Sustainability

The NWHA[1], *National Women's History Month* 2026 theme, **"Leading the Change,"** invites us to recognize women whose actions help build a healthier, more just, and flourishing community. Sustainability means meeting the needs of today while protecting opportunity and well-being for tomorrow[2].
It includes caring for the land, water, and air; creating fair and healthy economies; nurturing healthy communities; and advancing equity so all people can thrive.

In that spirit, we invite you to help us identify women of Kalamazoo **County** whose leadership or actions support sustainability. Help us lift up their efforts – to celebrate them and to inspire others to join the work. Through all of March, send your nominations to the PoP office or drop them in the offering plate.

[1]nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

Women's History Month

Your name (optional): _____

Your email (optional): _____

Nominee's name: _____

Connection to Kalamazoo County:
☐ Lives here now ☐ Grew up here
☐ Worked here previously ☐ Other: _____

Which best describes this nominee?
☐ Historic leader ☐ Current leader ☐ Rising leader

Area(s) of impact (check all that apply):
☐ Environment
☐ Community & civic engagement
☐ Economic opportunity & equity
☐ Education & mentoring
☐ Health & social justice
☐ Food systems & nutrition
☐ Other: _____

Briefly describe her work or impact (2–4 sentences):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

[2] *Learn More about Women's History at www.womenshistory.org*

ERACCE Training Update –
On Wednesday, February 11, five members of PoP attended the day-long class "Introduction to Systemic Racism Workshop" led by ERACCE, which stands for Eliminating Racism and Creating/ Celebrating Equity (https://www.eracce.org/). Attendees include Marti Haug, Randi Martin, Nancy and Steve Pendziszewski, and Laila Poisson. The first workshop helps to set common definitions so that we can speak effectively with each other. We began to explore how institutions (often unintentionally) uphold systemic racism. And we were given next steps to examine practices in our own institutions.

RACISM
=
Race Prejudice
+
The misuse of power by
Systems and institutions

Council and Committees

Council CORNER

The 2026 Congregational Council began it's term together with a retreat and meeting on Sunday 2/22. We welcomed new members Alison Carlson, Dennis Stalker, and Steve Pendziszewski. Time was spent getting to know one another and exploring how 2026 can be another great year at PoP! Each committee liaison shared initiatives their group is working on for 2026, and how council can best support those teams. As always, council is honored to steward POP's mission. Please seek out those of us in yellow lanyards if you desire learning more.

Saturday, May 2 at 8:30 to 12:00 is Spring Clean Up Day.

Grab your gloves and rakes and help us spruce up the church lawns after a long winter.

Rain date: May 9

Palms and Spring Plants

Signup and join others to prepare our sanctuary and Gathering Space to welcome Palm Sunday's procession and Easter Sunday. A signup sheet and on line will be available the first Sunday in March with dates and times.

Church Council 2026

Executive Committee	**Name**
Pastor	Rachel Laughlin
President	Judson Stemaly
Vice-President	Dennis Stalker
Secretary	Jen Deming
Council Liaisons	**Name**
Care Team	Steve Pendziszewski
Christian Education	Sandy Mertz
Evangelism	Laurie Brown
Fellowship	Sandy Bennett
Finance	Noel Sederstrom
Property	Jeremy Zimmerman
Social Concerns	Mary Clyne
Stewardship	Don Eklov
Worship	John Thommen
Youth	Alison Carlson
Youth Representative	Jackson Seguin

Tax Efficient Giving

If you missed the Adult Faith Formation class on Tax Efficient Giving, below are some highlights on how you can continue your generous giving to Prince of Peace while using a tax efficient approach – more bang for your buck!

Donate appreciated securities from a non-retirement investment account

- Good in lieu of cash for amounts over and above the new 2026 charitable cash contribution donation limit of $1,000 (individual)/ $2,000 (joint filer).
- Receive same income tax deduction (if within 30% of AGI) but avoid capital gains tax

Direct Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from an IRA

- QCD comes from your IRA account (only IRA, not Roth IRA)
- Must be age 70.5 or older
- QCDs are distributions from your IRA that then are NOT subject to ordinary income taxes
    - Reduces your taxable income which may affect certain tax credits and deductions based on income levels (Social Security and Medicare)
- QCDs count towards/reduce your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
    - What is an RMD? If you have an IRA account (a tax-deferred retirement savings account), once you reach age 72, 73 or 75 (depending on year of birth) you are required to distribute a minimum amount annually from your IRA and pay ordinary income taxes on that amount. QCDs reduce the amount on which you are required to pay income tax.
- Distributions must be paid directly to a qualified charity from your IRA account
    - You can add check writing to your IRA for this purpose
    - With check writing, you have a bank routing and account number that can be used online to make qualified charitable distributions from your IRA online
    - You can also work with your financial advisor/ broker to see if they can facilitate your QCD, usually by having you sign paperwork
    - If you write checks or make online contributions directly from your IRA, make sure you notify your financial advisor/broker to make sure there is cash available in your IRA account to clear those transactions.
    - You also need to keep track of QCD gifts and provide that information to your tax preparer. Your church contribution statement or Form 1099-R tax document will NOT specify if a distributed amount was a QCD or not.
- Annual QCD limit is quite large, currently $111,000 per person (adjusted annually for inflation).
- QCDs cannot be counted towards your charitable contributions on your tax return if you itemize – that would be double dipping.
- If you do not itemize your deductions, making QCDs effectively give you the benefit of both the standard deduction and this charitable deduction

Bunch your Charitable Deductions

- This strategy involves "bunching" deductions in alternate years
- Allows you to itemize one year and take standard deduction the alternate year
- Appropriate for people who naturally hover somewhere around the standard deduction level
- In effect, over a two-year time frame, you can have more tax deductions
- New tax laws effective for 2025 – 2028 have changed what can be considered an itemized deduction. Please consult your tax preparer or CPA to help you determine if you would be eligible to itemize under the new rules vs. taking the standard deduction and how bunching may make your giving more tax-efficient

Grant donations from a Donor Advised Funds (DAF)

- Allows donors to make an irreversible charitable contribution to their DAF fund, receive an immediate tax benefit, and then recommend grants from the fund over time.
- When you fund this account, you have "gifted" the entire amount of the contribution. However, individual grants to charities of your choice can be recommended/made from your donor-advised fund balance over time/multiple years.
- DAF funds can be established at community foundations, Schwab, Fidelity and others
- Desirable to fund with appreciated securities. Donated security is sold and invested in a diversified manner

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Tax Efficient Giving

Different custodians have different minimums.
For example, Schwab's DAF has a minimum account size of $0 and a minimum grant request of $50.

Consider Planned Giving – leaving a gift to church as part of your legacy planning

If you are planning to leave a charitable gift to church s part of your "will", how is this best accomplished for tax efficiency?

If you have tax-deferred retirement assets (such as a Traditional IRA) and non-retirement assets, consider naming the church as a beneficiary of your tax-deferred retirement assets.

Any tax-deferred retirement assets left to your human heirs will be subject to ordinary income tax; not the case when left to church (or other qualified charity)

Non-retirement assets (such as individual, joint or trust accounts) left to your human heirs receive a step up in cost basis, so if sold immediately, result in no capital gains tax to your heirs. Even if your heirs continue to hold the assets, they will be taxed at lower rates than if they were to receive pre-tax retirement assets.

Disclaimer: Very importantly, you should not rely on this information for tax or legal advice. We are not CPAs or attorneys. We highly recommend that you consult with your tax preparer, your financial advisor and/or your estate planning attorney about your specific situation.

Options for Giving Offerings to Prince of Peace

- **Sunday offering plate** – envelopes or loose checks and cash
- **Online bill pay through your bank account**
  Check sent to POP from your bank, counted in the offering
- **Tithe.ly (**POP website – popportage.org)
  One Time Gift – choosing the applicable fund (General Fund is default) and payment source (credit/debit card or bank account)

  Recurring - Tithe.ly pulls your offering from your bank account or charges your credit/debit card based upon the paraments you set (i.e. amount, frequency, etc.)

Note: Please choose the option to cover transaction fees to maximize your gift

- **Stock Gifting**

  Best is appreciated securities (lower cost basis, higher current value). This avoids capital gain taxes on sale of stock

  Raymond James is our provider to receive the gifted stock

  POP does not keep the stock. Raymond James sells the stock and issues POP a check for the net transaction amount (i.e. after brokerage fees, etc.)

  Prince of Peace Account #36476491

  Raymond James DTC #0725

  Contact your broker (if not Raymond James) and let them know they want to transfer secure ties in kind.

  Your charitable contribution to POP is valued at amount received by POP. Your charitable contribution for your taxes is valued at the average price on the date of donation.

Living Our Faith

- *Thank you for your support of,* ***Living Water Ministries.*** *Your generosity helps make possible the life-giving ministry that happens at LWM — welcoming campers, forming faith, and creating spaces where all are known, loved, and celebrated.*
  – Nicole McCarthy, Executive Director

- *Thank you for your recent donation of 442 pounds of food to* ***Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.*** *Your generosity directly supports our grocery assistance programs, helping us serve over 850 individuals every single day. For those in need, your donation provides more than just food – it offers dignity, compassion, and hope for a brighter tomorrow.*
  – Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

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

2026 Open Doors Meal Sign up!

We have one spot in December available for our Open Doors Meal Ministry.
Here is the link to sign up https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4CADAF23A1FA7-61372536-2026#/

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 7.

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

3/1	Jaxin French
3/2	Lena Klemm
	Idelle Stemaly
3/3	Jerilyn Johnston
	Cassandra Whately
3/7	Jennifer Oskins
	Carol Christianson
	Annette Smith
3/8	Mina French
	David Grinder
	Christian Maurer
3/12	Stephen Wisloski
3/13	Jacob Mills
3/14	Karl Westra
3/17	Jim Foster
	Steve Bigelow
	Peter Maurer
3/18	Dave Walch
3/19	Mike Myers
	Carly Davis
	Sharon Biles
3/20	Brian DeVries
	Alexander Zimmerman
3/21	Charlotte Chicantek
3/26	Alex Baas-Peterson
3/27	Alex Seelbinder
	Lorri Walch
	Elsa Klemm
	Carol Stezowski
3/28	Benjamin Walker
3/29	Dale Gatz
3/30	Ryan Hannemann
3/31	Renee Beck

Anniversaries

Dale & Micki Holder	March 11
Dave Reinhold & Susan Stapleton	March 14
Eli & Hilde Thomssen	March 24
Robert & Lynda Bauckham	March 26
Linda Tortorice & Alphonso Ross	March 28

Prince of Peace Calendar — March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Second Sunday in Lent** 9:15am Faith Formation All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time	2 *5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group* 7:00pm Women's Study Group -Zoom	3 *9:00am ESL* 9:15am Staff Meeting 9:30am Quilters - Social Hall *6:00pm Great Lakes Adventure Club - Social Hall/Flex* 7:00pm Bells	4 *10:00am VITA Tax Clinic* *10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities* 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom **12:00pm Pray Without Ceasing** **6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper** **7:00pm Lenten Mid-Week Service**	5 *9:00am ESL* **1:00pm Food Distribution** **1:00pm Free Store** *6:30pm South County Fiber Arts* 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 *10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Peace Lounge	7
8 **Daylight-Saving Time Begins** **Third Sunday in Lent** 9:15am Faith Formation All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time **12:00pm New Member Exploration Lunch**	9 **3:00pm Social Concerns Meeting** *5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group* **5:30pm Finance Committee mtg. - Zoom** 7:00pm Personnel/Executive Committee - Zoom	10 *9:00am ESL* 9:15am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Bunko - Gathering Space 7:00pm Bells	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Mark's Diner *10:00am VITA Tax Clinic* *10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities* 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom **12:00pm Pray Without Ceasing** **6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper** **7:00pm Lenten Mid-Week Service**	12 *9:00am ESL* *6:00pm Partners in Profit* 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13 *10:00am ESL Open Tutoring*	14
15 **Fourth Sunday in Lent** 9:15am Faith Formation All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time **12:00pm Pysanky Eggs**	16 *5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group* *6:00pm Master Gardeners - Sanctuary* **7:00pm Church Council meeting - Zoom** 7:00pm Women's Study Group - Flex Room	17 **St. Patrick's Day** *9:00am ESL* 9:15am Staff Meeting 9:30am Quilters - Social Hall 11:45am Ladies Lunch Bunch @ 5:30pm Property Committee - Zoom 7:00pm Bells	18 10:00am Book Club *10:00am VITA Tax Clinic* *10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities* 11:00am Library Committee - Library 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom **12:00pm Pray Without Ceasing** **6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper** **7:00pm Lenten Mid-Week Service**	19 Newsletter Deadline *9:00am ESL* **1:00pm Food Distribution** 1:00pm Free Store *6:00pm Nurse Honor Guard of Kalamazoo* 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 **First Day of Spring** *10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* 	21
22 **Fifth Sunday in Lent** 9:15am Faith Formation All Ages 10:30am Worship 11:45am Fellowship Time 12:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	23 9:30am Ruth Circle 1:30pm Care Team Meeting *5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group* 6:00pm Justice and Diversity Meeting - Zoom *6:30pm Nami Support Group*	24 *Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal* *9:00am ESL* 9:15am Staff Meeting 1:00pm SERA 7:00pm Bells	25 *10:00am VITA Tax Clinic* *10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities* 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom **12:00pm Pray Without Ceasing** **6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper** **7:00pm Lenten Mid-Week Service**	26 *9:00am ESL* 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 *10:00am ESL Open Tutoring*	28
29 **Palm Sunday** 9:15am Faith Formation All Ages 10:30am Worship **11:45am Fellowship Time with Palm Sundaes & Palm Crosses** 1:30pm Brass Rehearsal	30 *5:30pm AA "Promises" Support Group*	31 *9:00am ESL* 9:15am Staff Meeting	1 *10:00am VITA Tax Clinic* *10:00am WMU Center for Disabilities* 11:00am Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom **12:00pm Pray Without Ceasing**	2 **Maundy Thursday** *9:00am ESL* **1:00pm Food Distribution** **1:00pm Free Store** *6:30pm South County Fiber Arts* **7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service**	3 **Good Friday** *10:00am ESL Open Tutoring* 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Peace Lounge **7:00pm Good Friday Service**	4 **7:00pm Easter Vigil Service**

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*