**24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 8, 2026 10:30 a.m.




*"Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God's Peace, for the sake of the World."*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1747 W. Milham Avenue ♦ Portage, MI 49024
Pastor Rachel Laughlin
Church phone: 269/343-3453 ♦ fax: 269/343-2025
Website: popportage.org
Prayer-mail: prayer@popportage.org
Find us on Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*

## WELCOME IN THE NAME OF CHRIST!

**Entering Worship**

- Fully accessible restrooms (men's, women's, single-stall) are located behind you as you face the altar. The women's room and nursery have changing tables.
- People of all ages and stages are encouraged to worship together. A staffed nursery is available 9 AM – Noon.
- Many people enjoy prayerful quiet in the Sanctuary before worship begins to help center themselves. By keeping conversation in the Gathering Space before worship, you are giving the gift of this peace to your neighbors.
- All are welcome to share Christ's communion regardless of age or faith tradition. The bread is gluten, nut, and dairy free. Wine and grape juice are available.

**Embodying Praise**

- Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.
- Some brains need a quiet activity to help them learn. Feel free to borrow a worship bag or a fidget toy to help your brain and body stay engaged. Ask an usher for assistance.
- If your body would benefit from extra motion during worship, you are welcome to get up and move about during the service. The Prayground in front of the left pews is equipped with quiet activities and soft toys for little ones. Parents are invited to sit nearby to assist children in engaging in worship in an age-appropriate manner. The service is audible in the Gathering Space, if you need to step out for a time. For children who need a louder place to play, the staffed nursery is available to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- Hearing assistance devices direct clearer sound directly to your ears. They are available from the ushers. If you use Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids, see the back of the bulletin for instructions on connecting to the assistive listening system in our sanctuary.

**Engaging in Community**

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people. Please join us in the Gathering Space after worship for snacks, coffee, and fellowship.
- This bulletin may be recycled in the basket on the floor near the glass door to the front parking lot. We invite you to take home the *Peace Proclamations* page with announcements and upcoming events.
- If you'd like to learn more about our community you can: greet Pastor Rachel at the door by the baptismal font after worship, visit the welcome table to pick up informational brochures or staff business cards, or visit our website: www.popportage.org.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

MUSIC FOR THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP  Wake, Awake for Night is Flying
arr. JS Bach

WELCOME

*Stand*
INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
**All: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,
**All: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
**All: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG Wake, Awake for Night is Flying ELW 436

GREETING
P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
**All: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P: Let us pray,
**All: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*
THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24

R: Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
**All: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 70

Reader: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
**High: Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**
**Low: Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me**
**turn back because of their shame.**
**All: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"**
R: But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung twice*




GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*
SERMON Pastor Rachel Laughlin

*Stand*
HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 949

## Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



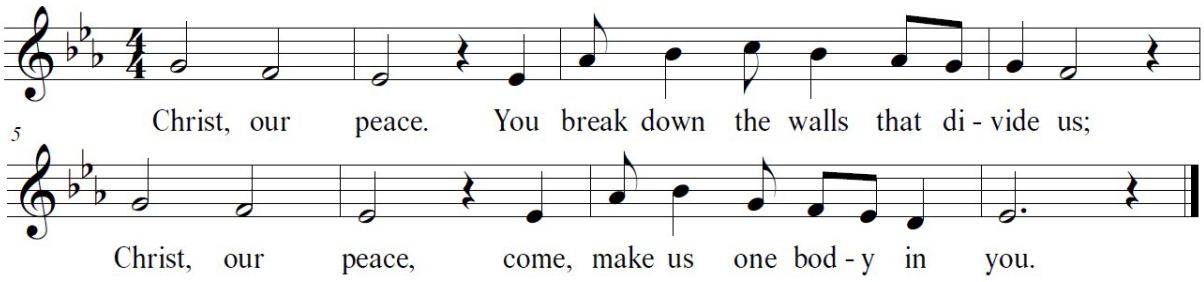
APOSTLES' CREED

Asst: With the whole church, we confess our faith:
**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**
**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**
**he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**
**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**
**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**
**Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION




*After "Generous God" worshipers respond "**pour out your love**."*
*Repeat "**Christ, Our Peace**" after completion of the intercessory prayers.*

## WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL:

SHARING OF THE PEACE
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
**All: And also with you.**

*Worshipers share a sign of God's peace with one another,*
*greeting each other with words like "Peace be with you... And also with you."*

OFFERING *Please date and complete the fellowship registration pad.*

*For members of the Prince of Peace community, an offering is our expression of gratitude to God,*
*and a way we share God's love with the world. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.*

OFFERING RESPONSE Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW 244
*Stand for last verse.*

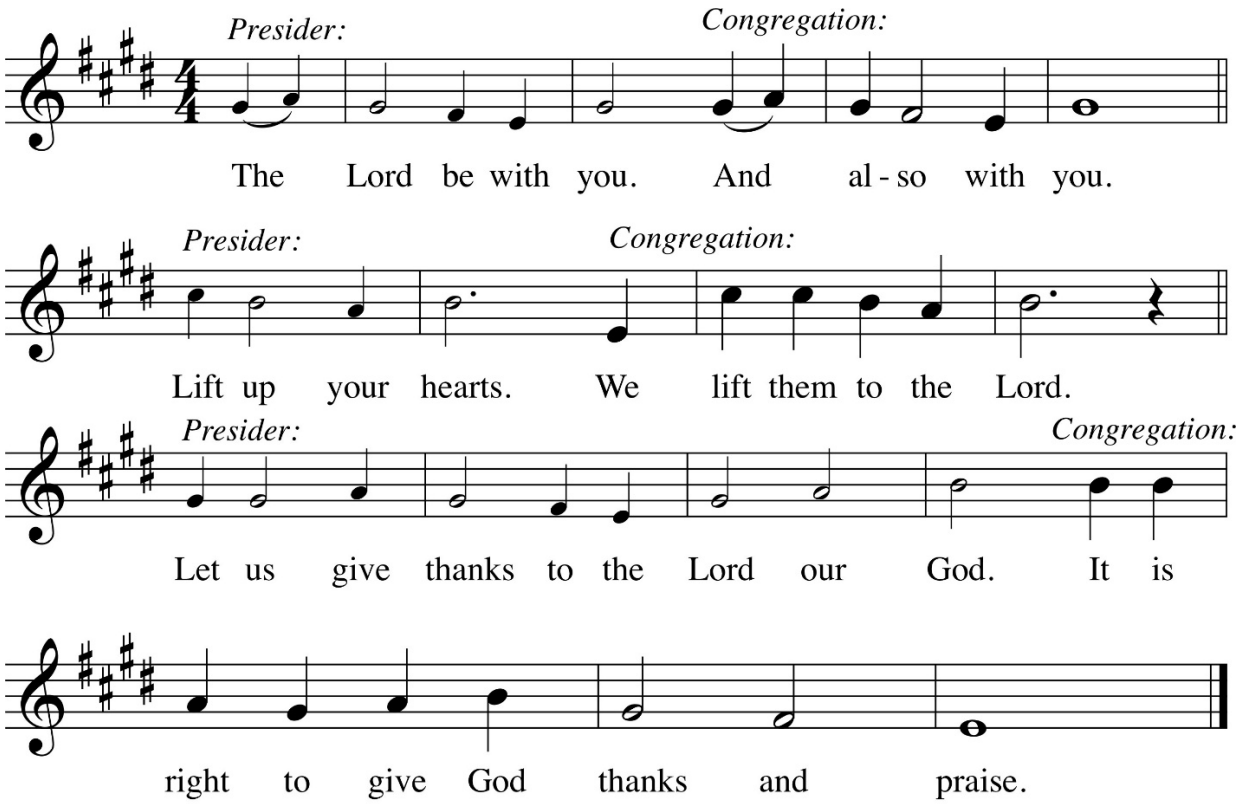
*Stand*
LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

*I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,*
*singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. Psalm 26:6-7*

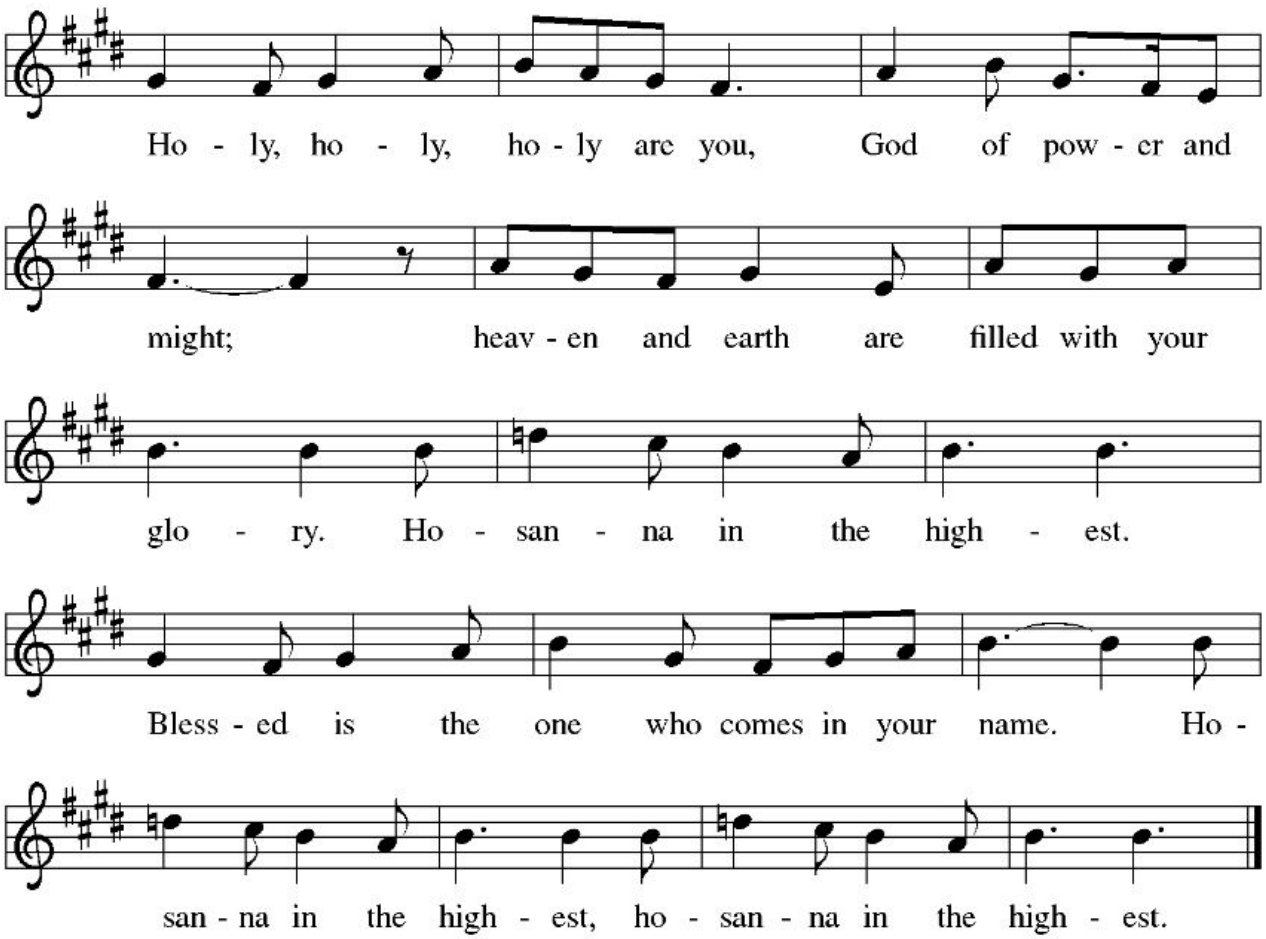
OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
**All: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING - Grace Before the Meal




P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**C: We praise you, O God.**

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**C: We bless you, O God.**

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**C: We thank you, O God.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed …Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people;
throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**C: Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**
**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

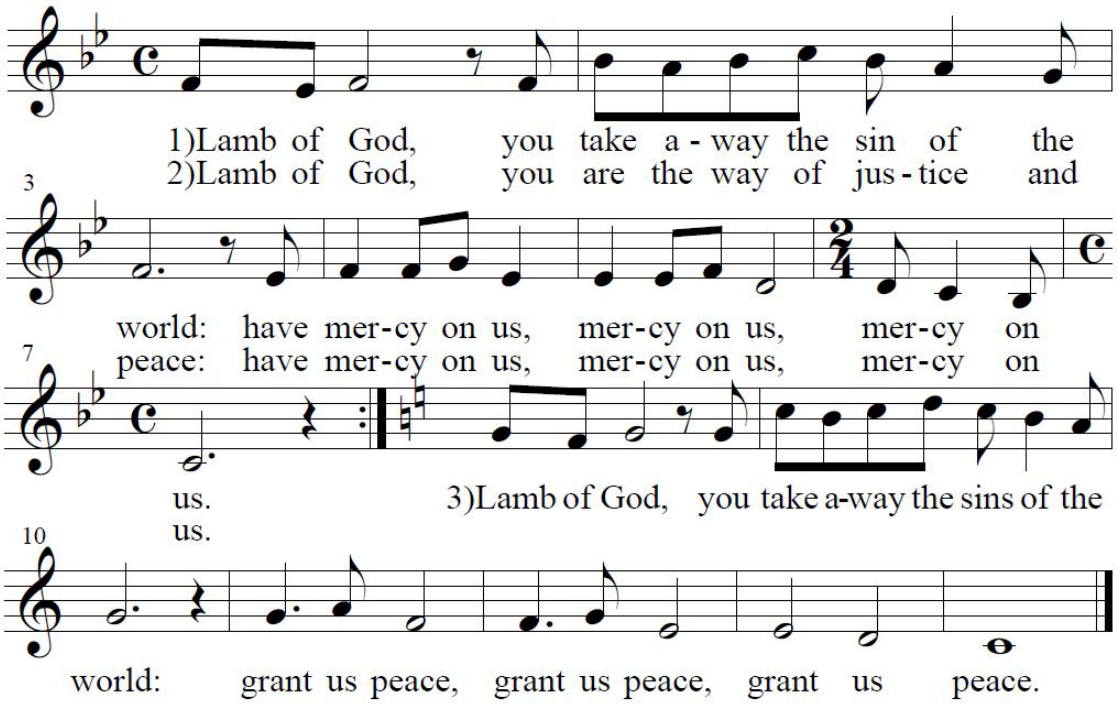
INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: If you desire to receive what God offers, come to this Table. Come with your faith and your doubt. Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love. Come taste the Lord's goodness. There is room for you here because this is Christ's table. You are welcome.

*Sit*

HOLY COMMUNION - The Lord's Supper

- <u>All are welcome at Christ's table</u> regardless of age or membership status. Ushers will direct you to come forward. Those who prefer not to commune are welcome to stay seated or come forward for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest or make a similar sign to indicate your choice.
- The bread we serve is gluten, nut, and dairy free in hopes that our entire community will be able to share the same bread. The recipe does contain eggs and honey. Gluten-free wafers and the pre-packaged sets of elements containing a wheat wafer and grape juice are available on the stands at the head of the aisle.
- Once you receive the bread, you may move to the next server to select your own cup. The red is wine, the lighter color is grape juice. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the stands as you return to your seat.
- If it would be helpful to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will make sure that happens.
- Finally, if you desire prayers for healing for yourself, a loved one, or some part of our hurting world, a prayer leader will be available at the baptismal font during the communion distribution to pray with you.



COMMUNION HYMNS

When Peace Like a River ELW 785

Blessed Assurance ELW 638

TABLE BLESSING
Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Asst.: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
**All: Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION
*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.*

Pastor: O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of the table with our siblings who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of Life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**All: Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS
*Worshipers are invited to briefly share announcements not listed in the weekly Peace Proclamations – blessings (such as anniversaries, birthdays, births or new jobs), prayer concerns, or moments when you've encountered God recently. So that all present in person and live-streaming can see and hear you, please come up the ramp to the chancel then go to the pulpit to give your announcement.*

*Stand*
FINAL BLESSING
P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.
**All: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Soon and Very Soon ELW 439

DISMISSAL
Asst: Go in peace. Share the harvest.
**All: Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC FOR THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP Wake, Awake for Night is Flying arr. Paul Manz

**This Week's Servers**
November 8, 2026

Worship Asst: Lisa Creed
Reader: Dale Gatz
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mike Whately, Mark Clyne
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Asst.: Micki Holder, MacKenzie Hart, Layla Emrick
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host: Pam Timm
Church Lockup: Jenny Deming

**Next Week's Servers**
November 15, 2026

Worship Asst: Claudia Lee
Readers: Karen Adams
Ushers: Lee Banitt
Technology: Mike Whately, Paul Guthrie, Alex Zimmerman
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Asst.: Paula Kana'an, Camden Hart, Kathy Eklov
Altar Guild: Linda Timm
Fellowship Host & Treats:
Church Lockup: Sandy Mertz

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff
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Music Director: Janet Hill ext 16
Engagement Coordinator: Em Witteveen ext 12
Admin. Asst.: Ashley Wineland ext 10
Tech Manager: Mike Whately ext 13
Accountant: Marilyn Storch ext 14
Nursery: Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman ext 17
Custodian: Charles Boyd ext 20
Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

Use the QR code below to donate online to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and its ministries. See the Peace Proclamations announcement page for more details.

When announcements are memorable, everyone benefits! People are better able to remember the important information you are sharing when they aren't overwhelmed with too much of it at once. Please use these templates as a guide for making an effective and engaging announcement during worship.

To get your information included in the Peace Proclamations, bulletin, announcement slides, or newsletter please e-mail Ashley at secretary@popportage.org by Wednesdays for weekly publications and by the third Thursday of the month for the monthly newsletter.

**POP Announcement-Making Tips**

*Memorable announcements are engaging, to the point, and apply to most of the people present. Please include the following:*

Your Name: _____

Your role or group: _____

Event/News/Update:

_____

Date and time of event: _____

What you want people to do:

___ Sign up ___ Attend/Participate ____ Read ___ Look online ___

Other: _____

Where to find more information:

___ Website ___ Peace Procs/Bulletin insert __ Newsletter

___ Other: _____

___ By contacting a person: _____

___ e-mail them ___ call them ___ talk after worship

*Please do not share personal contact information on the livestream.*

**POP God Moment/Life Event Sharing Tips**

*Sharing glimpses of God at work in our lives brings our community joy and helps us connect faith to our daily lives. As you prepare to share, take a moment to organize your thoughts so your story will be clear and impactful. Thank you for your willingness to share your story!*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Your Name: _____

Life Event: _____

__ Requesting prayers __ Saying thank you __ Celebrating a joy __

Update after a prayer request

__ Announce a birthday (*please let the musician know in advance*)