

# Prints of Peace



July 2025

Volume 30 Issue 7

## Growing Young

Have you ever wondered, “Where are all the kids we used to have in church?” Or “Why is our Sunday School so much smaller than a few decades ago?” Or “Where are the 20-somethings?” If so, you’re not alone. In recent years, this trend has been seen in churches across the country, in every denomination. Yes, things have changed here at Prince of Peace. But it’s not our fault. We haven’t done something wrong. We haven’t failed. But we also don’t just need to sit here and accept it. There are things we can do. We can make Prince of Peace a place that is as **welcoming** and **inviting** and **loving** of young people as possible.

That is the message of a book published a few years ago called ***Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church***. This book is the result of deep research and thoughtful prayer. It has provided many congregations with the tools to assess how they can make their church the most welcoming and loving congregation they can be.

It isn’t a program to follow that solves everything. It isn’t a silver bullet that brings all the kids running. Rather, it’s a list of strategies and suggestions for ways we can subtly shift the *culture* of a congregation to be attractive and welcoming to young people.

The six strategies, or commitments, are these:

- Unlock keychain leadership.
- Empathize with today’s young people.
- Take Jesus’ message seriously.
- Fuel a warm community.
- Prioritize young people [and families] everywhere.
- Be the best neighbors.

I notice two things about those commitments. First, they’re not just ways to make the church more welcoming for young people – the secret is they’re also ways to make a better church all around. And second, they’re things we’re already doing, at least to some extent. What this book will help us to do is to do them more *intentionally*.

I will be reading the book *Growing Young* over the next eight months, and I invite you to join me. I want to make it as easy to participate as possible, so we’re only going to meet once a month. I would like for you to be part of it. Could you commit to buying this book, reading one chapter a month, and meeting for an hour and a half each month? Our first meeting will be on **Saturday, August 2 at 9:00 am**. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex with more information, and a place to order the book.

Together, we can help Prince of Peace “grow young”!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,  
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT  
PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

## *JOHN 3:16*

Tuesday, July 01	Psalm 140; Jeremiah 3:15-18; Ephesians 5:6-20;
Wednesday, July 02	Psalm 140; Jeremiah 23:16-22; Matthew 10:16-25;
Thursday, July 03	Psalm 66:1-9; 2 Kings 21:1-15; Romans 7:14-25;
Friday, July 04	Psalm 66:1-9; Jeremiah 51:47-58; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7;
Saturday, July 05	Psalm 66:1-9; Zechariah 14:10-21; Luke 9:1-6;
<b>Sunday, July 06</b>	Isaiah 66:10-14; Ps. 66:1-9; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Monday, July 07	Psalm 119:73-80; Jeremiah 6:10-19; Acts 19:21-27;
Tuesday, July 08	Psalm 119:73-80; Jeremiah 8:4-13; Acts 19:28-41;
Wednesday, July 09	Psalm 119:73-80; Joshua 23:1-16; Luke 10:13-16;
Thursday, July 10	Psalm 25:1-10; Genesis 41:14-36; James 2:14-26;
Friday, July 11	Psalm 25:1-10; Genesis 41:37-49; Acts 7:9-16;
Saturday, July 12	Psalm 25:1-10; Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37; John 3:16-21;
<b>Sunday, July 13</b>	Deut. 30:9-14; Ps. 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
Monday, July 14	Psalm 25:11-20; Job 24:1-8; James 2:1-7;
Tuesday, July 15	Psalm 25:11-20; Proverbs 19:1-17; 1 John 3:11-17;
Wednesday, July 16	Psalm 25:11-20; Ecclesiastes 9:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46;
Thursday, July 17	Psalm 15; Genesis 12:10-20; Hebrews 5:1-6;
Friday, July 18	Psalm 15; Genesis 13:1-18; Ephesians 3:14-21;
Saturday, July 19	Psalm 15; Genesis 14:1-16; Luke 8:4-10;
<b>Sunday, July 20</b>	Genesis 18:1-10; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Monday, July 21	Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 18:1-12; Colossians 1:27-2:7;
Tuesday, July 22	Psalm 119:97-104; Proverbs 9:1-18; 1 John 2:1-6;
Wednesday, July 23	Psalm 119:97-104; Deuteronomy 12:1-12; John 6:41-51;
Thursday, July 24	Psalm 138; Esther 2:19-3:6; Acts 1:15-20;
Friday, July 25	Psalm 138; Esther 3:7-15; Acts 2:22-36;
Saturday, July 26	Psalm 138; Esther 4:1-17; Luke 8:22-25;
<b>Sunday, July 27</b>	Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13
Monday, July 28	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 5:1-14; Colossians 2:16-3:1;
Tuesday, July 29	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 6:1-7:6; Romans 9:30-10:4;
Wednesday, July 30	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 7:7-8:17; Matthew 5:43-48;
Thursday, July 31	Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 23:1-11; Romans 11:33-36;

*Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to [DailyLectio.net](http://DailyLectio.net), where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!*

## June Council Highlights

- Keep an eye out for some new communication methods from the council coming soon.
- Council approved endowment money from Technology for a Meeting Owl for the conference room.
- Welcome new members Judy Ryno, Monica Spero, Alexandra Summy and Dominic Holecz.
- Don't forget your Weis cards on Sunday.

## July Birthdays



*Please keep these people in prayer on the anniversary of their birth!*

April Miller,  
Jennifer Baker  
Ruth Hinton  
John Suranofsky  
Ben Scholtes  
Brenda Stauffer  
Connie Silvius  
Edna Antonucci  
Sara Godshalk  
Walter Stana  
Alex Summy  
Jackie Horn  
William Waszmer



### Worship On-site (9:45 on Sundays)

Our worship will be held outside on the last Sunday of each month, through August!

### Online / Facebook

Watch our worship each week at our website ([popbangor.org/video-worship](http://popbangor.org/video-worship)). Or watch it on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/popbangor](https://facebook.com/popbangor)).

### POP-KIT

Coming soon! "Prince of Peace Keeping in Touch," a prayer partner ministry. Watch for more info!

### Recent Pastoral Act

Funeral: Greta Sherlock,  
June 7



**Social Ministry News:** This committee received \$5,625.00 from the Turtzo Missionary Bequest. \$1,500.00 was given to Gene Williams at Disciple Makers, and \$4,125.00 was given to the ELCA Missionary Fund. We are very blessed to receive these funds annually, to support our missionaries. Questions: see Mary O'Meally



## Outdoor Worship

We will worship outdoors in our grove again this summer! This year, we will gather outside on the last Sunday of each month, through August. The walkway to our grove is located at the end of the parking lot. For those who are uncomfortable walking into the grove, we will again set a speaker up on the hill so that you will be able to hear the service in your car, if you park next to the grove entrance. If the weather is bad, we will hold worship indoors instead. Outdoor worship will not be rescheduled. —*Pastor Scholtes*

Would you like to join the volunteer team? Contact the church office at 610-588-2355.

If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, please find a replacement and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change.

<b>New Format!!</b>	<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 27</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Sherk and June Jones	Holly Blakeslee, Sara Godshalk	Sue Reinhart, Vivian Fahr	John and Georgia Suranofsky	Lisa and Wayne Jones
<b>Council Greeters</b>	Jackie Horn	Brenda Hughes	Brenda Hughes	Jean Janosa	Jean Janosa
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Connie Itterly	Tina Smith	Sherry Hock	Alex Scholtes	Mark Grusso
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Laraine Brands	Connie Itterly	April Miller	Kale Baker	Marlene Stana
<b>Communion Assts.</b>	Marlene Stana, Jim Jennings	April Miller, Diane Hahn	Tina Johns, Connie Itterly	Laraine Brands, Brooks Baker	Tina Smith, Jim Jennings
<b>Ushers</b>	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Brenda Hughes, Traci Rumsey	Marlene and Butch Stana	Sue Reinhart, Sara Godshalk
<b>Power Point/Camera</b>	Kim Jennings	Antonioli Family	Tara Flyte	Cathy Mullen	Tina Johns
<b>Acolytes</b>	Landon Horn	Aaron Smith	Taylor Baker	Sadie Baker	Fabian Vargas
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Tina Johns	Georgia Suranofsky	Chip Harrison	Brenda Hughes	Tina Johns
<b>Pew Tenders</b>	Rhonda Montgomery	June Jones	Sara Godshalk	Sherry and Maci Hock	Sara Godshalk
<b>Bread Baker/Providers</b>	Karen Karner				Pat Manicke

**July Altar Guild:** Janet Martocci & Susan Reinhart; **August Altar Guild:** Cathy Mullen, Phyllis Bisher

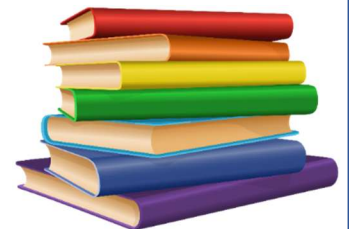
**Real Readers: Join Us! We meet at 2 p.m.**

**Real Readers Book List for 2025:**

**a little bit of everything for everyone. New members are always welcome!**

Questions? Please feel free to speak to Karen Karner, Janet Martocci or Sherry Hoch for information.

July 3 – “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick (Sandy)  
 August 7 – “Tell Me Everything” by Elizabeth Strout (Terry)  
 September 4 – “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver (Janet)  
 October 2 – “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Molnar (Karen)  
 November 6 – “The Housemaid” by Freida McFadden (Mary)  
 December 4 – “All He Ever Wanted” by Anita Shreve (Maureen)



**2025 Turtzo Scholarships Were Awarded on June 22nd:**

The Anthony D. and Jeanne M. Turtzo Scholarship award recipients are Blake Kornafel and Anthony Diabo. Congratulations!

**Graduate Recognition Sunday Was Held on June 22nd.**

- ♦ **Brandon Walter Harrison**, graduated with his MBA Healthcare Management from DeSales University; Major: Business Administration, Healthcare Management
- ♦ **Owen Reinhart**, graduated from High School and Army National Guard
- ♦ **Tina Johns**, Lay Ministry, LLM
- ♦ **Aria Joy Hughes**, completed Preschool, Major, Fun/Dance. Promoted to Kindergarten.
- ♦ **Mia Hock**, completed Preschool, Promoted to Kindergarten.



**We honor you all and congratulate you on your accomplishments. We pray that your future plans will be blessed with success.**



## July is Lehigh Valley Foster Care Project Month

Hi, Social Ministry, here. During the month of July, we are going to be the Helpers' Helpers once again. In 2023, we had a visit from Maria Samaritano, she told us how hard it was, especially emotionally for the case workers to do their jobs with children and troubled families. We gifted them with lots snacks and let them know that they were in our prayers.

They were so thrilled, it helped build up their morale. We have had Maria come give a Temple Talk since then and we decided it was time to treat them again for all the hard work they do for children and families in our area.



Coming in July, we are asking that you bring in snacks such as granola bars, small bags of cookies, chips, pretzels, some small luxury items like nail files, hand lotion, packs of tissues, protein bars. They asked if we could donate sticky notes. POP Seekers made the encouragement cards we will include.

There are 140 hard-working case workers, let's treat them and make them feel that they are appreciated. Look for the white decorated basket in the narthex for a list of items. A basket will be in the narthex for you to fill it with goodies as well as an envelope for cash donations!

Remember that a matching donation of up to \$500 is available from the Endowment Fund. Thank you for being a caring and generous Helpers' Helper again Let's go for it all!

Have any questions? Holly Blakeslee, Sherry Hock and Georgia Suranofsky will be glad to help. If you want to contribute but can't get out to shop, let us know. Have any suggestions for a future project to help someone in need? Want to become a member of Social Ministry? Let us know.

*--Sherry Hock and Holly Blakeslee*

### Stewardship Good News!

We are celebrating Faith in Action at Thrivent Financial by your Generosity! Thank You!

POP Members who have investment or insurance accounts with Thrivent have directed **\$10,139 in Choice Dollars** since inception for churches and charities of their choice

We have led **54 Action Teams** since 2016 totaling **\$16,200** to support projects POP determined. To complete the projects, **6,633 volunteer hours** were given

*More good news from Thrivent...*

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has a helpful service called "Money Canvas". Money Canvas offers a series of free one-on-one meetings with a financial coach to help you see where your money is going and build healthier financial habits. The coach will help you gain confidence and find ways to take control over everyday money decisions. No products will be sold. Visit Thrivent's website today for more information at <https://www.thrivent.com/generosity/money-canvas>. Please contact Georgia Suranofsky if you have any questions.

### Joyful Noise Good News!

Collection for May totaled \$155.00! Year to date total is \$659.50!  
Thank you for your continued generosity!



*The following individuals made a contribution to the Sunday School:*

*In Loving Honor Of:*

William Baker  
By Brooks, Janessa and Family  
Dennis Horn  
By Brooks, Janessa and Family  
Larry Ott  
By Lisa Ott and Kathleen Ott  
Justin Ott  
By Lisa Ott and Kathleen Ott  
Michael Labarre  
By Lisa Ott and Kathleen Ott  
Tyler Hughes  
By Aria and Eli  
Craig Hughes  
By Tyler and Jaron  
Neil L. Pearson, Sr.  
By The Pearson Family  
Jim Jennings  
By Kim, Cory and Owen Jennings  
Cody Lee  
By Avery Lee  
Wayne Jones  
By Romeo and Fabian Vargas; and  
Avery Lee  
David Drake  
By Wayne and Lisa Jones  
John Martocci  
By Daren and Crista  
Ray Flyte  
By Tyler, Ashley and Lauren  
Barry Duane  
By Ray and Tara  
Larry Stauffer  
By Brenda Stauffer and Son Michael

Neil Billger  
By Petrina Billger  
Neil Billger  
By Jennifer Bartholomew and  
Michelle Youngken  
Neil Billger  
By All His Loving Grandchildren  
Neil Billger, Best Great Pop-Pop  
By Sophia and Elijah Ramierz  
Justin Vargas  
By Romeo and Fabian Vargas  
Gunnar Jones  
By Layla Jones  
Mark T. Grusso  
By Monica Spero  
Dennis Mullen  
By Cathy Mullen  
John Hemak  
By Dennis and Cathy Mullen  
Jim Wess  
By Dennis and Cathy Mullen  
Percy (Nick) Reimer  
By Sara and Bill Godshalk  
Scott Schipps  
By Danielle and Matt Schipps  
Charles Comunale  
By Justine, Marc, Jeff and Eric  
Robert Saviet  
By Lily and Daniel  
Charles Comunale  
By Zach, Autumn, Bean, Olivia, Carmon,  
Santino, Charlie, Reagan and Hailey

*May God's blessings be on you  
In everything you do  
In your going out and coming in,  
May His presence be with you  
For you have shown me the way  
And taught me by God's wisdom,  
So today, I will return  
The love you've freely given.  
-- M. S. Lowndes*

*The following individuals made a contribution to the Sunday School:*

*In Loving Memory Of:*

Joseph Stana  
By The Stana Family

Will Rambo  
By The Stana Family

Charles Jones  
By Sherk and June Jones

Lambert Saddler  
By June and Sherk Jones

Earl Fraunfelter  
By Betty DeVito

Tony DeVito  
By Betty DeVito

Howard Ott  
By Lisa Ott and Kathleen Ott

Fred Gates  
By Doris Thomas

Leslie Ott Sr.  
By the Hughes Family

Wayne Lawler  
By the Hughes Family

Joseph Comunale  
By the Hughes Family

Stanley Godshalk  
By Rich and Sue Reinhart

John Reinhart  
By Rich and Sue Reinhart

Franklin T. Brown, Jr.  
By John and Georgia Suranofsky

John H. Suranofsky  
By John and Georgia Suranofsky

Frank Thompson  
By Carolyn, Holly and Stacy

Roy Leidy  
By Carolyn, Holly and Stacy

Alonzo Widenor  
By the Pearson Family

Leroy Pearson  
By the Pearson Family

Runo Johnson  
By Karen Johnson Karner

James Miller  
By Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchild

James R. Jennings  
By Jim, Kim, Cory and Owen Jennings

Earl Steinmetz, Sr.  
By Brenda and Larry Stauffer

Paul Stauffer  
By Larry and Brenda Stauffer

Ray Flyte, Jr.  
By Ray and Tara

Val Fontanella  
By Ray and Tara

Elwood Steinmetz  
By Connie and Tom Itterly

John Hahn  
By Renee Palmer

John Hahn  
By Diane Hahn



Stanley Messinger, I love you  
By Kerry L. Horn

Dad, Frank W. Horn, I love you  
By Kerry L. Horn

Pappy, Ralph Horn, Sr., I love you  
By Kerry L. Horn

Pap-Pap Joseph Miller, I love you  
By Kerry L. Horn

Peter Difilippantonio  
By Petrina and Neil Billger

John Billger  
By Neil and Petrina Billger

Harry Fair  
By Petrina and Neil Billger

William Jones  
By Wayne and Lisa Jones

Luther Steinmetz  
By John and Janet Martocci

Nicholas Martocci  
By John and Janet Martocci

Angelo DeSalvo  
By Mary O'Meally

Harrison M. Godshalk, Jr.  
By Bill and Sara Godshalk

Elwood G. Moysey  
By Bill and Sara Godshalk

Harrison M. Godshalk, Sr.  
By Bill and Sara Godshalk

Marwood Hill  
By Sharon Hill

Donald Hearn  
By Justine, Marc, Jeff and Eric

Carmon Comunale  
By Justine, Marc, Jeff and Eric

Arlington Weidlick  
By Joanne Robinson

J. Edwin Johnson  
By Joanne Robinson

Floyd "Austin" Oyer  
By Louise, Jane and Carolyn

***We'll always remember you because there will  
never be another one to replace you in our  
hearts, and the love we will always have for you.***



*The following individuals made a contribution to the Sunday School:*



*In Loving Memory Of:*

Delmore Smith  
By Manus Smith  
Manus McLean Sr.  
By Manus Smith  
Manus McLean  
By Manus Smith  
Russell Eichlin  
By Manus Smith  
Kenneth Lane  
By Kathy Lane  
Robert Lane  
By Kathy Lane  
William Lane  
By Kathy Lane  
Warren Lane, Sr.  
By Kathy Lane  
Warren Lane Jr.  
By Kathy Lane

*Dad*

**We'll always remember  
that special smile,  
that caring heart,  
that warm embrace,  
you always gave us.  
You being there  
for Mom and us,  
through good and bad times,  
no matter what.  
We'll always remember  
you Dad because  
they'll never be another one  
to replace you in our hearts,  
and the love we will always**

Charles Lane  
By Kathy Lane  
Edward Weidman  
By Kathy Lane  
Nate Collins  
By Dennis and Cathy  
Nathan Collins, II  
By Dennis and Cathy  
James Neiley  
By Lois Neiley  
Edwin E. Bartholomew  
By Annette Buss and Family  
C. Floyd Smith  
By Annette Buss and Family  
Stewart C. Smith, Sr.  
By Annette Buss and Family



**Endowment News**



REMINDER: Council is now accepting ideas for new sub accounts for 2026. The ideas received will be reviewed, considered, and council will make their recommendations at the Annual Meeting. Please contact a council member by **August 1st** for the form to submit your idea.

**UPDATES ON DISBURSEMENTS:**

-Major work has been completed to enhance the "Bell Area". Thanks to Ron Getz, John Martocci, Brooks Baker and Jayden Garis for their efforts. Funds were released from the Outdoor Enhancement sub fund for \$1,212.19.

-The new carpeting in the narthex and hallways has been installed. Funds were released from the Property sub fund in the amount of \$11,326.56.

-Thanks to Sara Godshalk for organizing a collection of hygiene items for P.U.M.P. Funds were released from the Helpers' Helpers sub fund for \$500.00 as a match to what was collected.

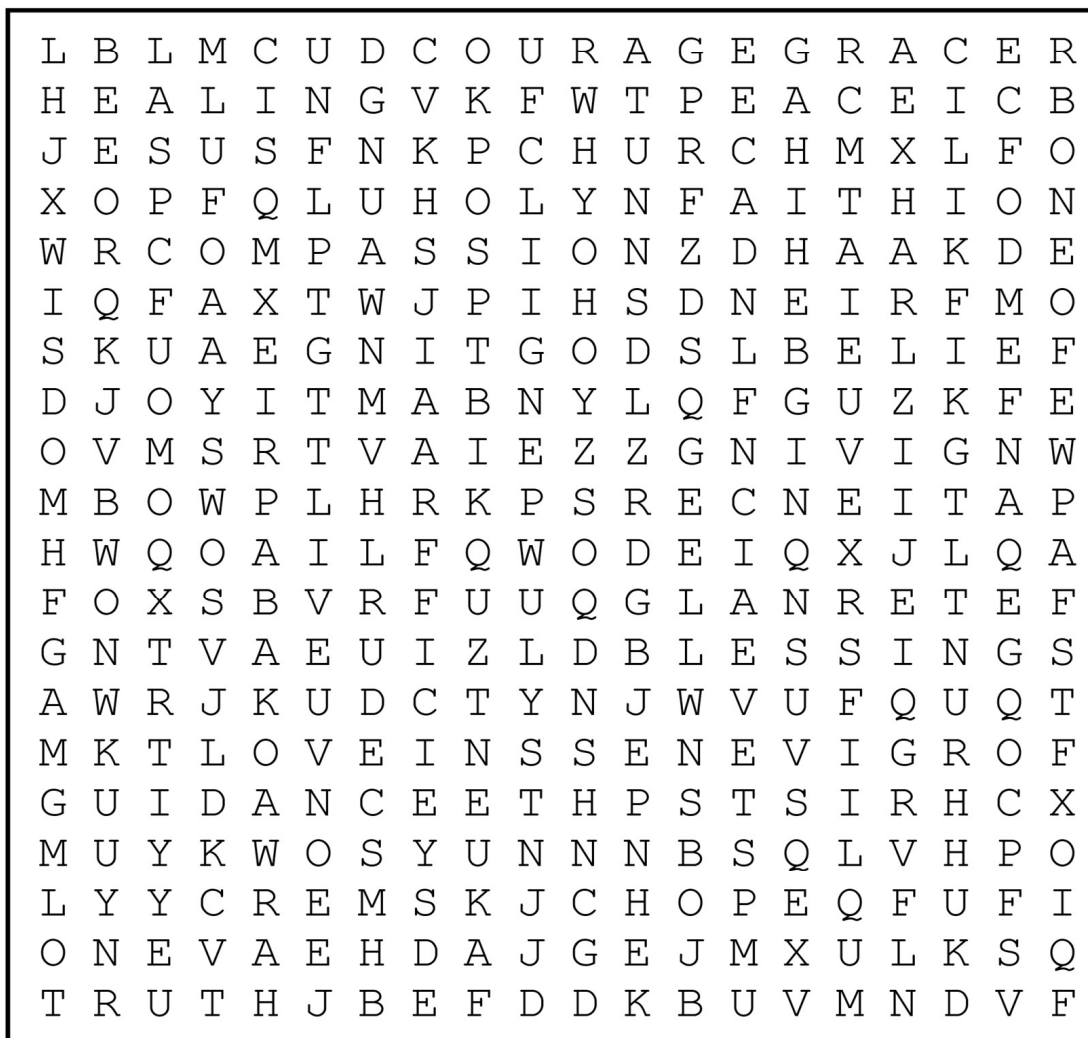
**DID YOU KNOW?.....Year to date releases from sub funds total \$19,174.75**





# Church is Fun

## Word Search

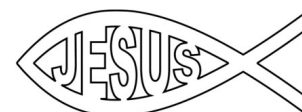
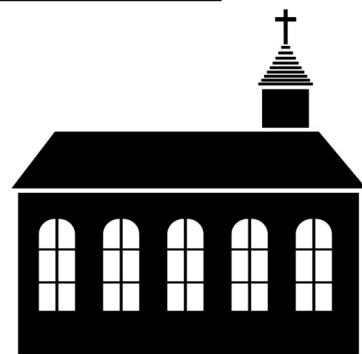


### Word list:

BELIEF  
BLESSINGS  
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
COMPASSION  
COURAGE  
ETERNAL  
FAITH  
FAITHFULNESS  
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP  
GIVING  
GOD  
GRACE  
GUIDANCE  
HEALING  
HEAVEN  
HOLY  
HOPE  
JESUS

JOY  
LOVE  
MERCY  
OBEDIENCE  
PATIENCE  
PEACE  
SALVATION  
SPIRIT  
TRUTH  
WISDOM



*May the Lord  
bless and protect you*

*May the Lord shine  
His face upon you  
and be gracious to you*

*May the Lord turn  
his face toward you  
and give you Peace*



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)  
Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013  
Office Phone: 610-588-2355  
Website: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)

**Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes**

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
**Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!**  
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**
- **Volunteer Pastoral Assist. Larry Rissmiller**
- **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Brenda Hughes**
- **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Saviet**
- **Administrative Assistant: Annette Buss**

**Congregation Council Members**

Larry Rissmiller, President  
Kale Baker, Vice President  
Tina Johns, Secretary  
Allison Manicke, Youth  
Jean Janosa  
Mary O'Meally  
Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

Jackie Horn  
April Miller  
Brenda Hughes  
Wayne Jones  
Kerri Miller  
Holly Blakeslee  
Justine Saviet

Would you like to place an article in the monthly newsletter? Highlight your ministry? Post a Thank you? Make an announcement?

**EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE  
APPRECIATED!**

July 2025 Newsletter is:

**Tuesday,**  
**July 8th at Noon**

**\*\*Please submit items in a Word Document  
not PDF format, thank you!\*\***

**\*\*Items received  
after the deadline  
will go into next month's  
newsletter.\*\***

**OUR PURPOSE  
STATEMENT**

*We, the people of Prince of  
Peace Evangelical  
Lutheran Church,  
will actively seek and serve  
Christ in all people.*





# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Grant-Funded Tech Project Sparks New Ministry Opportunities at Ziegels

*Written by: Winona Schappell of Ziegels Union Church, Breinigsville*

In the fall of 2024, Ziegels Union Church, comprised of two sister congregations, the Ziegel United Church of Christ and Ziegels Lutheran Congregation, embarked on a joint effort to upgrade the shared 1908 church building's Fellowship Room with upgraded technology to enhance and increase informal worship and educational mission opportunities. With the potential of applying grants to support the goal of ministries using technology, Mary Redline (UCC) and Winona Schappell (Lutheran) used local community and current congregation demographics to piece one initiative with the application

of four grants: three from UCC Penn Conference grants, Energizing Ministries, Neighbors in Need, and Operational Love of Church, and one from the NEPA Synod Witness and Service grant. With creative planning, the grants were written to cover the funding of a \$13,000 technology initiative. By January 2025, we received notice from Penn Conference and NEPA Synod confirming that all four grant applications were accepted and approved. Excited about the opportunities that these grant approvals offered,

there were still more obstacles to address. The grants did not cover the full quote for a PC projection system from Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound, so fundraisers and memorial/donation drives were needed. However, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound started work on the project, trusting that we would be successful in raising the balance.

The Lord's blessings came in many shapes and forms.

Communications started with the Union Treasurer on establishing an accounting system to monitor grant expenditures. Union committees (Christian Education, Worship and Music, History, Fellowship) were contacted to

begin considering how to incorporate the use of the technology for our 275th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025. The Technology Committee helped to wire Internet connections, and the Property Committee found an electrician to complete the required electrical work. And with the Lord's blessings, individual members contributed donations and memorial funds of over \$6,300. With the support of the congregational members and committee volunteers, this whirlwind project was completed in three months.







On March 19th, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound completed all the installations for a PC-controlled multimedia projection system. That same evening, Pastor Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Pastor, used the projection system for the second Wednesday Lenten service held in the Fellowship Room. Both Pastor Andy and Pastor Larry Pickens, UCC Pastor, continued to use the projection system for the remaining Wednesday Lenten services.

Since March, several 275th Anniversary events have been held. Christian Education used the technology for a Martha Washington Tea Party and Youth Sunday worship service. The History Committee sponsored two presentations: *The Pennsylvania Germans: Past, Present & Future* by Dr. W. Donner and *The Muhlenberg Family and the Lutheran Church in Early Pennsylvania* by Christopher Malone, Curator of Historic Trappe. Weekly PowerPoint slideshows of church announcements were presented during the Fellowship Hour that is held between the Lutheran and UCC Sunday services. Families have used the system to share family photos during viewings and funeral luncheons. The system is providing an avenue of endless ministry opportunities for church committees and leadership. It is an exciting future of ministry at Ziegels Union Church, thanks to the seed funding from the Synod and Penn Conference grants.



**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godsllove.org/missionsupport](https://godsllove.org/missionsupport).

## WITNESS & SERVICE GRANTS



Grab your leadership or ministry team and complete an application!

[godsllove.org/witness-service](https://godsllove.org/witness-service)

- 01 Complete an application
- 02 The Grant Team reviews your application and notifies you
- 03 Complete your project!
- 04 Submit your evaluation form

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# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.



## Either/Or or Both?

"The Rich Young Man" asked Jesus, *"Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"* People have been asking this question since the beginning of time. Jesus' answered, *"Obey the commandments."* Some, like "The Rich Young Man," feel confident they've fulfilled the commandments, but nagging doubts remain. They ask, along with the man, *"What do I still lack?"* (Matthew 19:16-26)

What is lacking is our ability to keep every law perfectly. Within the heart of every one of us lies our dread enemy: sin. We cannot do enough good things to defeat sin and gain eternal life. Paul tells us how we have been saved: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Grace through faith saves us. Then is there any room for works in our lives? Paul addresses that question as well: *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10).

Why did Jesus ask the young man to give away his possessions? It was because those things so filled his heart there was no room for God's love. Therefore the good life he led and

the good things he did were to no avail because they were not done for God and for his glory.

It's not "either/or"; it is "both." While we are saved by grace through faith alone and we rely solely on Christ and his redeeming work, our faith is evidenced through the works we do in his name and for his glory.

## God Will Supply

We go to work based on the promise of a wage for our labor. We enter into marriage covenants promising to be faithful to our spouses for life. We get on planes, trusting the pilots are well trained and the aircraft safe so that we can get to our destinations. We drive our cars on the right side of the road (in the US, anyway!), confident that oncoming traffic will stay in their proper lanes.

If we put so much faith in fallible humans who are prone to error and misjudgment, how much more can we live as stewards who give first to God, trusting him to supply all our needs! *"Praise be to the Lord,"* prayed Solomon. *"Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses"* (1 Kings 8:56).

God's stewards throughout history have praised God for his faithfulness: Elijah, fed by ravens beside the brook (1 Kings 17:2-4); Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6); Paul preaching the Word of God even while imprisoned (Acts 28:17-31).

How about the Macedonians who gave generously even out of their poverty to share with others they felt were even more needy (2 Corinthians 8)? All these attest to the faithfulness of God. Surely God has blessed us, too, so that we can bless others with our gifts. David, the psalmist, wrote from experience:

*"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed" (Psalm 37:25-26).*

***A pig and a chicken were walking down a village street. They stopped outside a church to read a notice advertising a bazaar and tea, in support of the church's program. At the bottom of the sign they read: HAM AND EGGS WILL BE SERVED.***

***The chicken was heard to say, "See! Even we can help with the work of the church!"***

***"Yes," said the pig, "but yours is only a contribution. MINE IS A SACRIFICE."***

## **Gratitude**

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9) was a disliked tax collector who gathered money from his own Jewish people for the Roman government. Hearing that Jesus was coming, Zacchaeus had a strong desire to see this man everyone had been

talking about. Unfortunately, Zacchaeus, being short in stature, couldn't see over the crowds, but, also being resourceful, he climbed a tree for a perfect view.

When the Spirit of the Lord calls us, as he called Zacchaeus, we would do well to respond as Zacchaeus did. His hunger and thirst were great, and, sensing Jesus could satisfy it, he had no thoughts of pride or position. His focus was on Christ. Jesus said, *"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today"* (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus was overwhelmed with gratitude, which showed in the words he spoke.

*"Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount"* (Luke 19:8).

Gratitude shows itself in thankful words and benevolent actions. As evidence of his gratitude Zacchaeus gave up what had, until that day, been all his joy ... his monetary wealth.

*"Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost' "* (Luke 19:9-10).

***There are three kinds of workers in church today: tired, retired, and tireless.***

***Service is love in work clothes.***

***Work follows worship as the day the night!***

***Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!***