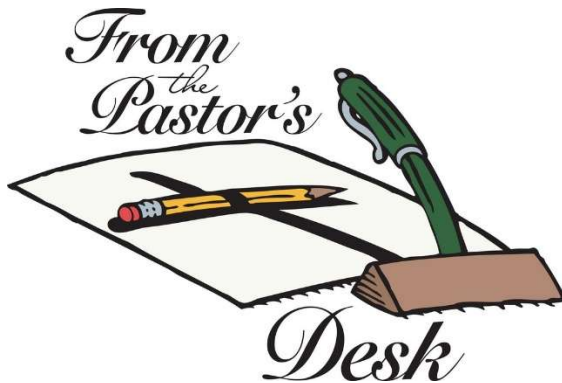


Prints of Peace



August 2026

Volume 31 Issue 8



Do miracles happen? When someone has a medical procedure done, and can suddenly see clearly for the first time in years, is that a miracle? When a shy teenager leaves home for three weeks, excited to explore a new adventure, is that a miracle? When someone finds a parking spot right next to the entrance of the store, is that a miracle?

Do miracles happen every day? Or are they rare? Is a rainbow a miracle? Is a newborn child a miracle? Or are these just everyday occurrences?

These are good questions, and we might disagree on the answers.

We're going to explore miracles in sermons throughout the month of August. Each Sunday's gospel reading throughout August contains a miracle. I'll be inviting you to look at each gospel reading and see if you can find the miracle there. The first one will be easy – it's the story of Jesus feeding over five thousand people with just a few loaves and fish. The miracle there is clear to see. But as the month goes on, the miracles will get a little harder to identify. And maybe along the way, we'll discover something about the miracles in our lives today.

We'll be joined in this journey by five poems written by Joe Scholtes, one for each Sunday. I'm not sure yet how I plan to use these poems – I might read them as part of the sermon each week or include them in the announcement folder or in my daily emails. Or we might even sing one or two of them as hymns. We'll see.

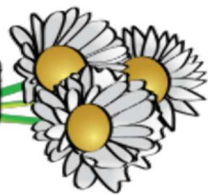
Come and explore with me what miracles God has in store for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Mill J. Scholtes
Pastor Scholtes

WHERE
THERE IS
hope,
THERE IS
faith.
WHERE THERE
IS FAITH,
miracles
HAPPEN.

Happy Birthday



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

Taylor Baker
Wilma Hill
Pauline Newell
Isabel Baker
Maxwell Manicke
Stephanie Steele
Evelynn Diabo
Craig Hughes
Barbara Reimer
Lori Heitzman
Sharon Shook
Donna Ott
Betty Steinmetz
Robert Duran
Diane Kimsey
Lee Ann Lambert
Trista Artley
Autumn Williams
Dean Holecz
Kale Baker
Cathy Mullen
Lauren Frey
Monica Spero
Petrina Billger
Peyton Walters
James Poliskiewicz, Jr.
Isaak Griggs
Mark Grusso

Join us . . .

Worship with us on-site at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays

Online / Facebook

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

Outdoor Worship

The Worship and Music Committee has scheduled worship in our grove every other week in the summer! Weather permitting, we will worship in the grove August 9 & 23; and September 6. In case of inclement weather, we will hold worship inside that day.



Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: Jocelynn Marie Albert, July 6
Colton Levi Myers, July 7
Harper Brielle Myers, July 7

Council Highlights

The July Congregation Council meeting was canceled. Watch for August's council highlights!

Thank you! Troop 41 thanks POPs Treasures for giving them the opportunity to sell donuts as a fundraiser, during their June event. Also, thank you to those who purchased donuts. The fundraiser was a big success. We are hoping to be present at the August event. Yours in Scouting, —**Troop 41 leaders and scouts**

Endowment News

Disbursements from the Property sub fund totaled \$645.00 for stone to enhance the grove and entry island into the parking lot. We thank Ron Getz for spreading the stone to keep our church area beautiful.

REMINDER: New ideas for sub funds need to be sent to council for review by August 1. Talk with any council member.

DID YOU KNOW?.....Year to date releases from sub funds total \$51,555.45



August Altar Guild: Cathy Mullen, Phyllis Bisher **September Altar Guild:** Connie Itterly, Diane Searfass

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30	September 6
Greeters	Lisa and Wayne Jones	Mary O'Meally, Holly Blakeslee	Dave Karner, Tina Johns	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Traci Rumsey, Brenda Hughes	Connie Itterly, Sue Reinhart
Lay Readers	April Miller	Jim Jennings	Traci Rumsey	Mark Grusso	Justine Saviet	Tina Johns
Assisting Ministers	Alex Scholtes	Kale Baker	Marlene Stana	Tina Johns	Laraine Brands	Tina Smith
Com. Assts.	Laraine Brands, Tina Smith	Marlene Stana, April Miller	Jim Jennings, Brooks Baker	Alex Scholtes, Laraine Brands	Tina Smith, April Miller	Jim Jennings, Marlene Stana
Ushers	Sara Godshalk, Sadie Baker	Tina Smith, Justine Saviet	Brenda Hughes, Traci Rumsey	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker
Power Point Camera	Cathy Mullen	Kim Jennings	Tara Flyte	Jim Jennings	Tina Johns	Antonioli Family
Acolytes	Fabian Vargas	Landon Horn	Alex Scholtes	Ben Scholtes	Taylor Baker	Fabian Vargas
Offering Counters	John Suranofsky	Connie Itterly	Tina Johns	Mary O'Meally	Jean Janosa	Georgia Suranofsky
Pew Tenders	Sara Godshalk	June Jones	Traci Rumsey	Sherry and Maci Hock	Rhonda Montgomery	Sara Godshalk
Bread Baker	Cathy Mullen		June Jones		Ingrid Levisay	

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.

Real Readers: Join Us! We meet at 2 p.m. the 1st Thursday of each month...

August 6 – “My Friends” by Fredrik Backman (Cheryl)
 September 3 – “The Paper Palace” by Miranda Heller (Terry)
 October 1 – “Broken Country” by Clare Leslie Hall (Patti)
 November 5 – “The Secret of Secrets” by Dan Brown (Cindy)
 December 3 – “Atmosphere” by Taylor Reid (Janet)



**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Church Picnic!



**Save the Date and Join us
for a Church Picnic:**

Sunday, August 9, 2026 after the service, in the GROVE, weather permitting. Food, fun, fellowship, and activities for the kids. Bring a chair and a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex counter.

Questions? See Tina Johns.

How can I make a difference at Prince of Peace?

There are so many ways you can volunteer here at Prince of Peace and support our ministries.

The Blue Valley Farm Show will be held on August 11-15th. It's not too early to think about the Jacktown events on October 17 & 18. Please prayerfully consider spending some time to help in this important ministry here at Prince of Peace.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

—April Miller, Volunteer Coordinator



Join us for Faith by Firelight

Faith by Firelight will be held in the grove on the following dates: August 22, September 26, and October 24. We will begin around 6:30 p.m. Hot dogs and s'mores will be provided. Feel free to bring your own beverage and a snack to share. In case of inclement weather or fire ban we will cancel. Questions? See Connie Itterly or Scott Schipps.

P.U.M.P Special Request Update:

P.U.M.P. requests peanut butter, cereal, and any kind of pasta. As always, staples are always appreciated too. **Please note:** P.U.M.P. cannot use 18 count egg cartons only dozen count cartons. Thank you!



Social Ministry Project Update:

There were 7 bags of dog food donated, (earlier in the project, 2 bags were missing), a sub-fund request was made for \$70.00 for The Slate Belt Advocacy Group. The coin challenge was a great success, a total of \$138.20 was donated, the youth group was the winner of this challenge. They decided to donate the money to AWSOM, an animal shelter in Monroe County. A sub-fund request was made to match this amount. Social Ministry thanks you for your support of this project. Don't forget our summer project, personal care items for PUMP!

weis

Thanks to all for your continued support of our Weis 1% Rebate program. A check in the amount of \$405.73 has been received for the most recent group of slips totaling \$40,573. Please continue to bring your slips (including those paid with Weis gift cards - we can use these also for our 1% program). Thanks again! --Janet Martocci

POP'S Treasures:

Come, Shop, Donate

Our next sale will be on
August 7th (10 a.m. -2 p.m.)
and the 8th (9 a.m. -Noon)

**Drop Offs on August 10th,
17th and 24th,
(1-2 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.)**

—Jackie Horn



MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL
JOY & PEACE
AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY
OVERFLOW WITH HOPE
BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Romans 15:13

Hello from your Health and Wellness team!

When there is a projected heat advisory with temperatures soaring above 100, please be sure to take proper precautions, check on neighbors, and don't forget to keep your pets cool and hydrated as well! Please reach out to the Parish Nurse Justine Saviet RN with questions. Here is a link with some good advice from the CDC:
<https://www.cdc.gov/heat-health/about/index.html>



Make a Heat Action Plan with Your Health Care Team



1 Stay Cool

Try One Or More Of These:



Stay in the shade



Cooling Aids



Use a fan



Use an air conditioner

2 Stay Hydrated



3 Know the Symptoms

There are signs that your body may be getting too hot:



Sweating a lot



Very tired and weak



Dizzy, lightheaded, nauseated



Call 911 if you have chest pain that is not going away, severe shortness of breath, or confusion. These may be signs your body is already too hot.

4 Check Air Quality



5 Have a Medication Plan for Hot Weather

Some medications may make it harder for your body to cool down.
Some medications may not work well when they get hot.



Review your medications with your doctor



Store your medications in a cool place



Prepare for power outages

Stewardship News

“God’s Refrigerator Door”



Look at all the fun things that happened during Vacation Bible School! The theme of “Bless our trip” was a big hit with the kids who attended. A big thank you to all the teachers and assistants!



A message from Cathy Mullen: I started doing PowerPoint when Pastor Shade was here. Mary Lee Dry encouraged and instructed me during the Saturday night services. I started doing it because it looked easy and I thought that I could. My daughter calls me a “tech-tard” and I really am, but the service is there and you just follow it. When I do the PowerPoint, I feel like I am contributing to the service that encourages me to continue. Now, turning the computer, camera and sound system on can be my downfall. I have forgotten to turn the camera on so now have a note posted to remind me to do just that. No one seems to know who is doing the PowerPoint until you make a mistake, then everyone knows! I enjoy doing the PowerPoint and it makes me feel like I’m more of a part of the church. And the best part, despite my mistakes, no one has threatened to fire me yet.



Pastor, Jim, Kim, John and other members of the team are always patient and kind when I have a question.

I encourage anyone interested to give it a try. You may end up liking it as much as I have for so many years.

--Thank you, Cathy, for being part of our worship ministry!

**THANK
YOU!**

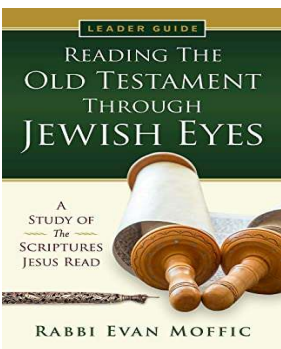
Joyful Noise Good News!

June’s collection totaled \$92. The year-to-date total collected is \$619.00 - Thank you for your continued generosity!

Prince of Peace Seekers (POPS)

POPS resumes on September 10th, from 10 a.m. - Noon, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available. We meet for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. We have some topics planned to spark your spiritual imagination!

On September 10, we will celebrate our “homecoming” and welcome anyone who may be joining us for the first time. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share ideas for POPS gatherings in the future.



Pastor Scholtes and Kim Jennings will lead a six-part series titled: “Reading the Old Testament through Jewish Eyes” from September 17th through October 22nd. The study written by Rabbi Evan Moffic who has a passion for sharing Judaism and its traditions with Christian audiences. A short video will accompany each session in which Rabbi Moffic explores the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, and highlights points of interest to Christians. He describes the role of the Torah in Jewish worship and practice and explores the key themes of each book guided by the wisdom of Jewish interpreters through the centuries. During the six sessions we will also be reading various passages and discussing how the Torah can be a source of wisdom, truth and transformation in our lives today.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Karner or Janet Martocci.

TRUTH

Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to DailyLectio.net, where you can sign up for daily emails or download the app for iPhone or Android!

Saturday, August 01	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11;
Sunday, August 02	Isaiah 55:1-5; Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21; Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21
Monday, August 03	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Romans 1:8-15;
Tuesday, August 04	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 26:1-15; Acts 2:37-47;
Wednesday, August 05	Ps. 78:1-8, 17-29; Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35; Matthew 15:32-39
Thursday, August 06	Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:1-16; Acts 17:10-15;
Friday, August 07	Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40; Acts 18:24-28;
Saturday, August 08	Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:41-46; Matthew 16:1-4;
Sunday, August 09	1 Kings 19:9-18; Ps. 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matt. 14:22-33
Monday, August 10	Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 7:11-8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10;
Tuesday, August 11	Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29;
Wednesday, August 12	Psalm 18:1-19; Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24; Matthew 8:23-27;
Thursday, August 13	Psalm 67; Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4;
Friday, August 14	Psalm 67; Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28;
Saturday, August 15	Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36;
Sunday, August 16	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Ps. 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt. 15:21-28
Monday, August 17	Psalm 87; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21;
Tuesday, August 18	Psalm 87; Isaiah 43:8-13; Romans 11:13-29;
Wednesday, August 19	Psalm 87; Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13;
Thursday, August 20	Psalm 138; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11;
Friday, August 21	Psalm 138; Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18;
Saturday, August 22	Psalm 138; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12;
Sunday, August 23	Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
Monday, August 24	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; 1 Samuel 7:3-13; Romans 2:1-11;
Tuesday, August 25	Ps. 18:1-3, 20-32; Deuter. 32:18-20, 28-39; Romans 11:33-36
Wednesday, August 26	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13;
Thursday, August 27	Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6;
Friday, August 28	Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12;
Saturday, August 29	Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17;
Sunday, August 30	Jeremiah 15:15-21; Ps. 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28
Monday, August 31	Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:2-26; Revelation 3:1-6;

The following individuals contributed to the Sunday School:

In Honor of:

Jim Jennings
by Kim, Cory and Owen

Wayne Jones
by Romeo and Fabian Vargas

David Drake
by Wayne and Lisa Jones,
Romeo and Fabian Vargas

Neil Billger
by Petrina

Neil Billger
by Jennifer and Michelle

Neil Billger, the greatest Pop-Pop
by Sophia and Elijah

John Suranofsky
by Brooks and Janessa Baker and Family

Dennis Horn
by Brooks and Janessa Baker and Family

Bill Baker
by Brooks and Janessa Baker and Family

Robert Johns
by Tina Johns

Henry Ring
by Tina Johns

Ray Flyte
by Tyler, Ashley and Lauren

Barry Duane
by Ray and Tara Flyte

Craig Hughes
by Tyler and Jaron

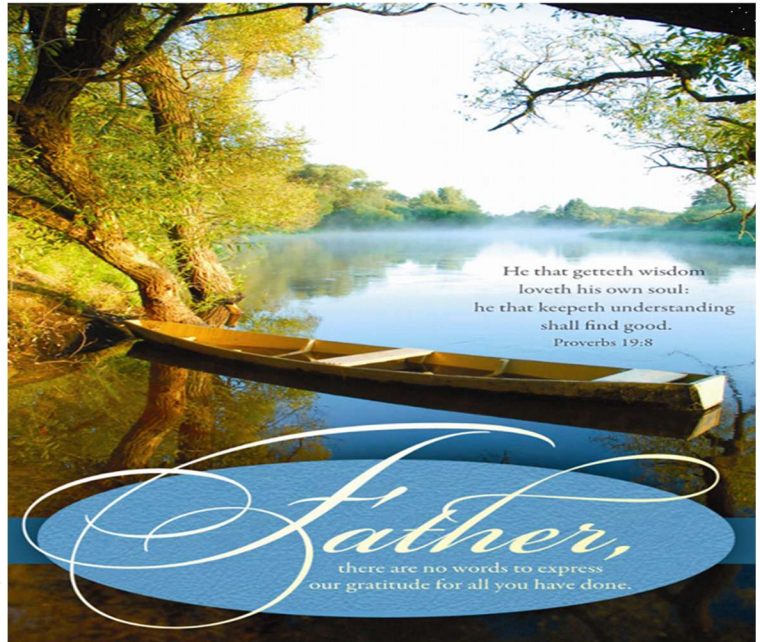
Tyler Hughes
by Aria and Eli

John Hemak
by Dennis and Cathy

Jim Wess
by Dennis and Cathy

Larry Stauffer
by Brenda Stauffer

John Martocci
by Christa and Darren



**You're a Special Dad!
For all you've given
through the years,
for sharing smiles,
and laughs and tears...
for being there
to see us through,
this comes with thanks
for being you!!**

**This special Fathers Day wish
That comes with love to you
Brings warm and heartfelt thanks
For all the thoughtful things you do--
It also comes to let you know
You mean more to me each day and
To everyone your life has touched
In such a loving way.
Happy Father's Day —
With Love, Always!**

Happy Father's Day!
We love you now and always!

In Memory of:

Arlington Weidlick
by Joanne Robinson
J. Edwin Johnson
by Joanne Robinson
Peter Difilippantonio
by Petrina and Neil Billger
John Billger
by Neil and Petrina Billger
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
Charles Lane
by Kathy Lane
Edward Weidman
by Kathy Lane
Floyd Oyer, Jr.
by Louise, Jane & Carolyn
Nate Collins
by Dennis and Cathy
Nathan Collins
by Dennis and Cathy
Bob Reimer
by Dennis and Cathy
Marwood Hill
by Sharon Hill
Elwood Steinmetz
by Connie and Tom Itterly and Family
Richard Butler
by Stephanie, Colleen and Evan
Bob Lantz
by Sandy Butler
Angelo DeSalvo
by Mary O'Meally

I Thought of you...

**I thought of you with love today
but that's nothing new.
I thought of you yesterday
and the day before that too.
I often speak your name.
Now all I have are the memories
and a picture in a frame.
our memory is my keepsake
with which I'll never part.
God has you in His keeping
and I have you in my heart.
—by Shawn Eugene Jones**

Lambert Saddler
by June and Sherk Jones
Charles W. Jones
by Sherk and June Jones
Joe Stana
by The Stana Family
Will Rambo
by The Stana Family
Fred Gates
by The Thomas Family
Rumo Johnson
by Karen Johnson Karner
Ken Koller
by Tina Johns
Leroy Pearson
by the Neil Pearson Family
Alonzo Widenor
by the Neil Pearson Family
Harrison M. Godshalk, Sr.
by Bill and Sara

In Memory of:

Elwood G. Moysey
by Bill and Sara
Harrison M. Godshalk, Jr.
by Bill and Sara
Percy (Nick) Reimer
by Bill and Sara
Jim Miller
by Sherry, Carissa, D.J.,
Staci, Josh and Grandkids
Val Fontanella
by Ray and Tara Flyte
Ray Flyte, Jr.
by Ray and Tara Flyte
Tony DeVito
by Betty DeVito
Earl Fraunfelter
by Betty DeVito
John Suranofsky
by John and Georgia
Franklin Brown
by John and Georgia
Wayne Lawler
by The Hughes Family
Leslie Ott, Sr.
by The Hughes Family
Joseph Comunale
by the Hughes Family
John Hahn
by The Hughes Family
John Hahn
by Diane
John Hahn
by Renee and Earl
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
Earl Steinmetz, Sr.
by Brenda and Larry Stauffer
Paul Stauffer
by Brenda and Larry Stauffer
Frank Thompson
by Carol, Holly and Stacy
Roy Leidy
by Carolyn, Holly and Stacy
William Jones
by Wayne and Lisa Jones

*Words
Alone*

...
Words
alone
cannot
even
begin
to
express
just
how
much
you
are
loved
and
missed.



JOIN US

Future Building Task Force Update

Pull out your calendars! The Future Building Task Force is planning a special event on Saturday, September 26th, from 9:30 a.m. – Noon. It's called a **"World Café."** A World Café is a unique way of gathering people together for conversation. Pastor Scholtes will facilitate this event, which will involve people sharing stories, listening to one another, and together finding shared wisdom. Together we will explore what "Mission" means to us.

Why are we doing this? The task force's job is to help the congregation discern whether or not we are called to build a new (or expanded) building. The Task Force is taking this call to discernment seriously. Before we can discern whether or not to build, we need to discern what God is calling us as a congregation to do and be in the future. And to do that, we believe we need to discern a few things:

- What is our congregation's deepest passion?
- What is our community's deepest need?
- Where do these two things, along with God's word, intersect?

The Task Force has already been working on the second question. A World Café will help us answer the first question. More info will be available as the date gets closer. For now, please get the morning of September 26th on your calendar, and plan to join us!

We are also having a "pilot World Café" in August, which is invite-only. We are holding this initial event specifically for young adults and newer members of the church. This smaller event will give us some crucial information from an important demographic and will help us practice for the bigger event on September 26th.



“Bless our Mess VBS” was held at Prince of Peace on five consecutive Wednesday evenings from June 10th through July 8th from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. The reason the Faith Exploration Committee decided to use this one night a week format, was to provide families who were on vacation on some of the weeks, the opportunity to still attend on other weeks. We also provided a simple dinner each night at 5:30 so parents wouldn't have to prepare dinner at home before coming to VBS if they chose to do that. The average attendance each night at VBS was between 12-17 children (although not always the same children). The attendance for the dinners was about 20-25, which included a mix of children and adults.

Tina Johns, Brittany Walters and Kim Jennings served as VBS Co-Directors, with Tina Johns taking the lead on planning many of the craft activities, snacks, and games, which all related to the VBS theme and the Bible stories for each evening. Some of the sub-themes of the “Bless Our Mess” were: “God is with us when our lives are messy”; “We can spread the good news of Jesus even though we are not perfect”; “Jesus has the power to take away our struggles”, “Jesus has the power to heal our messy wounds”; “God can use our messes for His glory”, and “Jesus can save us from our mess.”

Special THANKS to everyone who helped with VBS!! (We would list their names, but we don't want to forget anyone.) Thank you for your time and enthusiasm!! Thank you to the parents & grandparents for making time to bring their children, grandchildren & friends to VBS! Lastly, thank you to everyone who donated food items and other items for snacks, games, and crafts! Everyone had a lot of fun at “BLESS OUR MESS VBS”! --**Kim Jennings**

God's Work Our Hands Project 2026



God's work. Our hands.



Last year for God's Work Our Hands Project we made 100 birthday kits for P.U.M.P!

This year our goal is 50 again, and with the matching donation from the Helper's Helpers sub fund, we would like to make about 100+++.

If you have an action team available from Thrivent, would you consider applying for it so we could meet our goal? Please see Georgia Suranofsky if you want more information on using an Action Team.

The items that go into the birthday kit are: cake mix and frosting; aluminum cake pan; balloons; birthday napkins and plates; happy birthday banner, and a can of soda (cola or sprite depending on the cake mix). We will also need gift bags from Dollar Tree; there are 2 in a package for \$1.25. The items in the kit can be purchased at Dollar Tree. Look for the sign-up sheet on the counter in the Narthex, if you prefer not to shop for items envelopes are provided for monetary donations, or see Mary O'Meally, Sherry Hock, or Holly Blakeslee. Items need to be at church on September 6th.

We will celebrate with a birthday party and put the kits together on Sunday, September 20th.

Thank you for always supporting our projects and ministries!

And he said to him, "You shall *love* the Lord your God
with **ALL YOUR HEART** and
with **ALL YOUR SOUL** and
with **ALL YOUR MIND.**

This is the great and first commandment.

MATTHEW 22:37-38

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)

Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013

Office Phone: 610-588-2355

Website: www.popbangor.org

Web Master: Evelyn Diabo

Social Media Manager: Nick Walters

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!

- **Pastor:** Rev. Michael J. Scholtes
- **Minister of Youth and Worship:** Tina Johns
- **Minister of Music:** Martin Yazdzik
- **Bookkeeper:** Rev. Joyce Weishaupt
- **Financial Secretary:** Brenda Hughes
- **Custodian:** Brittnee Evans
- **Parish Nurse:** Justine Saviet, RN
- **Administrative Assistant:** Annette Buss

Congregation Council Members

Kale Baker, President

April Miller, Secretary

Tina Johns, Vice President

Alex Scholtes, Youth Rep.

Jean Janosa

Mary O'Meally

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

Jackie Horn

Justine Saviet

Brenda Hughes

Connie Itterly

Kerri Miller

Brittany Walters

Holly Blakeslee

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!**

September 2026 Newsletter is:

**Tuesday,
August 11 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

Building Community from InsideOut

Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications



"God is a creative God. Don't be afraid to tap into the gifts God's given to you." Those words from Pastor Rashon "Woody" Santiago capture the heart of the InsideOut ministry, a community-centered ministry based at Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn PA, where she currently serves as transitional pastor. Rooted in relationships, creativity, and collaboration, InsideOut is reimagining what it means to gather, connect, and serve.

For Pastor Woody, ministry is about creating spaces where people can be known, heard, and valued. Whether around a game table, a shared meal, or a Bible study, InsideOut invites people into conversation, encouraging them not only to hear God's Word, but also to share their own experiences, perspectives, and faith with one another.

Every Wednesday evening at Advent Lutheran Church, people gather for a shared meal followed by an InsideOut Bible study. Rather than simply hearing a lesson, participants are invited into conversation, sharing their own experiences and perspectives while learning from one another. Pastor Woody believes these conversations create opportunities to experience God's love through

community while reminding participants that everyone has something to contribute.

That same spirit extends beyond Wednesday evenings. Through community meals, video game nights, partnerships with local nonprofits, and creative gatherings, InsideOut creates welcoming spaces where people of all ages can build relationships, learn from one another, and experience God's love in community. Pastor Woody describes it as a place where people are welcomed for who they are before anything else. Whether someone is a lifelong church member, new to faith, or simply looking for connection, everyone has a place at the table.

Community video game nights are another way InsideOut creates spaces where people feel welcome. While children and youth gather around the games, parents, caregivers, and neighbors build relationships, creating connections that extend well beyond the evening's activities.

That welcoming spirit extends beyond the walls of the church through partnerships with organizations such as Café Esperanza and other community groups. Pastor Woody believes ministry is strongest when congregations and organizations work together, sharing their gifts to meet both spiritual and physical needs. One example of that community-centered approach is a growing suitcase ministry that provides suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks for children entering foster care. After witnessing a child packing their belongings into a trash bag, Pastor Woody felt called to respond by collecting luggage that offers dignity and hope during an already difficult transition. What began as a simple response to one child's experience has grown into a ministry that has collected more than 1,300 suitcases through partnerships with congregations from multiple mission districts.

The suitcase ministry is only one expression of InsideOut's broader vision. Looking ahead, Pastor Woody dreams of expanding InsideOut into a community gathering space where people can celebrate birthdays, learn together, play basketball, create media, partner with nonprofits, and simply spend time with one another. At the heart of every dream is the same goal: creating places where everyone belongs.

Pastor Woody sees InsideOut not simply as a program, but as a calling. "God put this on my heart to do," she said. She believes some of the most meaningful moments happen when people have the opportunity not only to hear God's Word, but also to share how God is at work in their own lives.



Ministries like InsideOut are strengthened through the shared ministry of congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Through Mission Support, congregations invest in relationships, collaboration, and creative expressions of ministry that help communities experience God's love in new and meaningful ways.

Learn more about how one conversation at Synod Assembly sparked a collaboration between congregations across multiple mission districts, resulting in hundreds of suitcases being collected for children entering foster care by reading the companion story on the synod's website.

To learn more about the ministry and future partnership opportunities, watch for upcoming stories in the synod's communications or reach out to Pastor Woody at Advent Lutheran Church.



Help Make Ministry Possible

Through Mission Support, congregations share resources, support leaders, and expand ministry. Thank you for helping strengthen congregations, support leaders, and launch new ministries. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at godslove.org/missionsupport.