

Prints of Peace



January 2026

Volume 31 Issue 1

I want to let you know about three great things happening in January at Prince of Peace. I hope you can participate in all three. They're all about **money** in one way or another – and even more they're all about **faith**.

First, our annual Stewardship campaign begins on January 11. The theme of this year's campaign is "What we can do." Now, notice, it's not "What **can** we do?" but rather "What we **can** do." We'll be focusing on this theme in many ways over about five weeks. I hope that we are all inspired by the amazing things we can do together through faith in God, and through faith-inspired generosity.

Second, we will have a special **Fundraising Brainstorming Conversation** after worship on Sunday, January 11. Congregation Council announced this conversation as the congregation approved a deficit budget for 2026. We noted that we probably cannot count on rummage sales to provide fundraising revenue anymore, and so we need to come up with new and fresh ideas for fundraising to make up the difference. Council believes that **you** have those new and fresh ideas! So, stay after worship for the coffee hour that day, and we will talk about this for a while. Together we will come up with a great plan for the year.

And third, the **Future Building Task Force** will begin its work in January. You may recall that this group was formed by council to explore and discern what God might be calling us to do in the next few years at Prince of Peace, and to explore and discern if God might be calling us to build onto our building to make those things happen. I've said it before, but it bears repeating: **There is no secret agenda here**. This Task Force is tasked to do exactly what it says on the tin: help the congregation explore and discern together. We will be dreaming and brainstorming and imagining. Any talk of money or architecture, **if it happens at all**, will only come later. Please participate in the events and conversations the Future Building Task Force sponsors throughout the year.

Now, some people might ask, "How can we talk about a new building when we're asking people to come up with fundraisers and increase their offering?" Some people might ask, "How can we think about building on if we can't pay our bills now?" These are good questions! And in answer, I would say, "**We are a people of faith. We are a people whose faith is in God, not in money. And so, we can have conversations like this, and trust that God will guide us.**"

All three of these things I mentioned – the Stewardship Campaign, the Fundraising Brainstorming Conversation, and the Future Building Task Force – **sound** like they're about money, and certainly they are, to a point. But they're also about **faith**. About trust in God. They're all ways for us to explore what it means to trust in God, and about **what we can accomplish together through that trust**. I invite you to open your hearts and explore these things together. It might just be an amazing year...

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

every day is a new
Beginning



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

Doris Bachman
 Ashley Flyte
 Neil Pearson
 Bethany Reinhart
 Barry Yetter
 Diane Hahn
 Mary O'Meally
 Eli Hughes
 Joyce Chamberlin
 Susan Reinhart
 Wayne Jones
 Janet Martocci
 Hunter Ott
 Ethan F. Smith
 Karen Karner
 Pat Manicke
 Alex Scholtes
 Dennis Mullen
 Lisa Jones
 Sarah Reinhart
 Ashley Kessler
 Rhonda Montgomery
 Scott Schipps
 Jennifer Heitzman-Baggitt
 Dennis Horn
 Avery Reto
 Meghan McGowan

Recent Pastoral Acts:

Funerals: Bonnie Buskirk, December 11
 Erica Schuette, December 20

First Communion: Mckenna Baker,
 Maci Hock,
 Danielle Holecz,
 Adam Saunders, and
 Mason Schaarschmidt,
 all on December 21



Worship On-site (9:45 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).

December 2025 Council Meeting Highlights

1. Mark your calendar for a special Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 21 @ 11:00 am
2. Mark your calendar for the "fundraising brainstorming" meeting January 11 @ 11:00 am
3. Stewardship campaign is starting in January, watch for more details and activities.

NexTrex Update:

Can anyone guess how many pounds of plastic we dropped off?



Well, this was 152 lbs. It was quite a load!

We are already 1/2 way towards another bench with well over 500lbs collected since Sept. 15th. We weigh each bag and add and report the poundage we delivered to Trex. Thank you all for participating! Just take time to imagine how much plastic as a country we use and possibly how much of it doesn't get recycled! You all are doing a great job changing how we think about preserving our planet! —**Jackie Horn**



Flapper Hats:

This article is for all my hat ladies and girls. I would like us ALL to wear our hats on **Sunday, January 18th**. If you don't have one of my "flapper" hats, I'll be happy to give you one. It's almost like "fascinator" Sunday, but this will be "flapper" Sunday. Questions: see Mary O'Meally



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.

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1
Greeters	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Brenda Hughes, Sara Godshalk	Lisa and Wayne Jones	Sherk and June Jones	Sue Reinhart, Holly Blakeslee
Council Greeters	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lay Readers	Quincy Miller	Mark Grusso	Isabel Baker	April Miller	Brooks Baker
Assisting Ministers	Marlene Stana	Kale Baker	Tina Johns	Connie Itterly	April Miller
Com. Assts.	Tina Johns, Diane Hahn	Brooks Baker, Jim Jennings	April Miller, Marlene Stana	Diane Hahn, Tina Johns	Brooks Baker, Marlene Stana
Ushers	Sue Reinahart, Sara Godshalk	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart	Kale Baker, Sara Godshalk
Power Point Camera	Antonioli Family	Cathy Mullen	Tara Flyte	Jim Jennings	Tina Johns
Acolytes	Fabian Vargas	Ben Scholtes	Fabian Vargas	Landon Horn	Taylor Baker
Offering Counters	John Suranofsky	Connie Itterly	Jean Janosa	Mary O'Meally	Tina Johns
Pew Tenders	Traci Rumsey	Sara Godshalk	Traci Rumsey	June Jones	Sherry and Maci Hock
Bread Baker	Connie Itterly	Phyllis Campbell	Sherry Hock		Diane Searfass

January Altar Guild: Tara Flyte, Ashley Flyte, **February Altar Guild:** Connie Itterly, Diane Searfass



The church offices will be closed from December 25th through January 4th.

Pastor's Vacation: Pastor Scholtes will be on vacation from Thursday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 7. In case of pastoral need during this time, please contact our Lay Licensed Minister Candidate Tina Johns.

Vacation: Annette Buss will be on vacation from Friday, December 26 through Friday, January 2, returning to the office on Monday, January 5th.

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

Our book list for 2026:

January 8 – “What the Wind Knows” by Amy Harmon (Kim)
 February 5 – “Educated” by Tara Westover (Linda)
 March 5 – “Raising the Titanic” by Marta Molnar (Sherry)
 April 2 – “Only by Your Touch” by Catherine Anderson (Liz)
 May 7 – “The Women” by Kristen Hannah (Jean)
 June 4 – “Sandwich” by Catherine Newman (Sandy)
 July 2 – “Clear” by Carys Davies (Karen)
 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)



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

God's PROMISES ARE New EVERY MORNING

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!

Holy Name of Jesus (1/1)	Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Friday, January 02	Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12;
Saturday, January 03	Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22;
2nd Sun. of Christmas (1/4)	Jere. 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
Monday, January 05	Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2;
Epiphany of Our Lord (1/6)	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12
Wednesday, January 07	Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21;
Thursday, January 08	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9;
Friday, January 09	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a;
Saturday, January 10	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31;
Baptism of Our Lord (1/11)	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
Monday, January 12	Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48;
Tuesday, January 13	Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13;
Wednesday, January 14	Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21;
Thursday, January 15	Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12;
Friday, January 16	Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5;
Saturday, January 17	Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11;
2nd Sunday after Epip. (1/18)	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinth. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Monday, January 19	Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40;
Tuesday, January 20	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4;
Wednesday, January 21	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17;
Thursday, January 22	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24;
Friday, January 23	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10;
Saturday, January 24	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32;
3rd Sunday after Epip. (1/25)	Isaiah 9:1-4; Ps. 27:1-6; 1 Corinth. 1:10-18; Matt. 4:12-23
Monday, January 26	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14;
Tuesday, January 27	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18;
Wednesday, January 28	Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79;
Thursday, January 29	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12;
Friday, January 30	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24;
Saturday, January 31	Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35;

Thank You

THANK YOU:

POP's Treasures would like to take the time to THANK YOU for your patronage! Our outreach program began with thoughts of helping others within our community, and the world at large. Because of your generous donations, and your visits to our "boutique" where your donated treasures can find a new home, we are able to fulfill our mission.

Each year we find programs/nonprofits that could use a little help. Whether it be by financial, food, clothing, or other ways, we try our best to help as many people as we can. You will be able to view our donations on Facebook soon after our December sale.

One change we made this year was to start collecting clothing for Valor Clinic Foundation servicing veterans with support, food and housing. They provide all these services along with 'stand downs' where they feed and clothe those in need at multiple locations. Even if you are not a veteran, they will help anyone in need. Instead of our yearly free clothing giveaway, we will be donating to Valor. They have created a system that can service more people than we can.

We will continue helping the foster care program, Safe Harbor, fire victims, the luggage program, collecting food for PUMP, and so much more!

Again, we can't begin to stress how our partnership together has and will continue to help others. Without your support we could never have touched as many lives as we have. We facilitate this program, but you all have made this outreach program something we can ALL be PROUD of!

See you all again, at drop-offs, and at our sales. Thank You, —*POP's Treasures Committee*



You should have received a letter in the mail announcing the campaign. We hope you took the time to look at what we have planned each week during the campaign. We want to thank Traci Rumsey again for writing a poem to reflect the elements of scripture that all our activities are based on. Check out our Facebook page and website for information.

At the end of the month, you will receive another letter giving you details for making your intentions to give financial support to the ministries here at Prince of Peace. Please complete the commitment card for your offering this year and return it via one of the ways mentioned. We pray you will consider *what you can do to respond to God's generosity*.

Save the date of February 8th for the fellowship gathering celebration. We will enjoy a meal and time with each other after the Commitment Sunday worship service. Hope you will come!

Stewardship Committee and Special Campaign team
Sherry Hock, Brittney Walters, Tina Johns, Justine Saviet,
Georgia Suranofsky and Pastor Scholtes

Good News!

The Joyful Noise Collection in November totaled \$118.00.

So far this year the total given is \$1,357.00!

Thank you for your continued generosity!



Join Us for POPS (Prince of Peace Seekers) in the conference room - Thursdays @ 10 a.m.



Coffee, tea, and snacks are available. We meet for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. Please join us as we continue to walk along our spiritual journey together for the month of January, when we continue to discuss selected Women in the Bible, with Georgia Suranofsky as our leader. We shall meet again on January 8. Any questions, please contact Karen Karner or Janet Martocci.



Join Us for Coffee Hour!

The Hospitality Committee will always provide coffee and tea and will be providing "sweets and treats" the first Sunday of each month. Congregation members are invited to supply some treats the balance of each month. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex for those who wish to participate. Coffee hours resume on January 11th until May 17th. Thank you, —*the Hospitality Committee*

POP's Treasures Corner:

Many continue to support "POP's Treasures" with their treasures that they donate to us during drop offs, and with our displays shining new light on these items, others find, purchase and provide a new home where they are treasured again! Starting this outreach ministry in May of 2023, has allowed this ministry to touch others in many ways. We thought we could help others through our donations, but each sale, each day that we are at POPs, we have truly been given something miraculous! Allowing people to believe in this ministry; sometimes they create their own outreach plan, where we can help them, and also just a safe place to come. Being there for individuals that struggle with things, where they now feel comfortable enough to share with us, and feel safe. Truly kind individuals, that we invite into our POP's building each day, not just sale days. Each month we plan on sharing info about POP's Treasures, whether it be about the finances, accomplishments, benefactors of our ministry, and just stories of kindness we have experienced along the way. While our donations to those in need are wonderful, it is all the other happenings that really make this mission shine. How it has touched those of us that help at POP's, far outweigh the original plan. And that's what measures success...a mission that has become something we could have never imagined! We humbly thank council and our congregation for allowing us to be involved with something truly miraculous. We are experiencing a true mission from God.



Thank You

THANK YOU: The POP's Treasures crew thanks ALL who donated homemade goodies for our December sale! They all looked delicious and they went to new homes to be shared over the holidays! We started this our first December, and they are constantly asking for it to happen more months. We also continue to sell soup for the church, bringing in \$120 during our December sale. Thanks to all who continue to support us and the ministry we hope to share with others in need!

Thanks to all for participating in the 1% Weis Receipt Donation program. I submitted the final lot of Weis receipts for 2025. The last packet contained slips with a total of \$37,295, which should give Prince of Peace another \$372. This will bring our end-of-the-year total grocery slips submitted to \$2,392,224 with a net received of \$2,392. for 2025. Previous years' 1% donations: \$1,355. (2024) \$1,664. (2023) \$1,230. (2022). If you shop at Weis don't forget to bring in your slips for the 1% donation program or you can always purchase Weis gift cards, which will net Prince of Peace 5% upon purchase. Thank you to all for your participation in these fundraisers —
Janet Martocci

Update to the November 2025 Annual Meeting Report Booklet:

On page 9 of the annual report, with this date 3/23/2025 there was a mistake concerning payment of signage for POP's. As discussed at the congregational meeting, this was about the repainting of the 50th anniversary sign in the yard. The sign was updated and repurposed for POP's Treasures to enhance our ministry and to free up space on our church sign by the road. Endowment paid \$225 and POP's Treasures paid the difference, not the general account. *—Jackie Horn*



Social Ministry Project for 2026:

2025 was a busy year for us, but the needs of our local community keep growing, and we are God's army to do what we can to help! For the first quarter (January thru March) we will be collecting socks and underwear for our veterans, both male and female. As you know most of our veterans sleep in tents in the woods, and since this is winter, thermal underwear is probably best, but any will do. You can place your donations in the box in the narthex. The project will start on **Sunday, January 4th and end on Sunday, March 29th**. As always, if you prefer not to shop a committee member will be happy to do it for you. Committee: Mary O'Meally, Sherry Hock, and Holly Blakeslee

Luke 3:11: Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.

Thank
You

Dear Prince of Peace Church Members,

Your continued support for P.U.M.P. is deeply appreciated. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to keep pantry shelves stocked with healthy food options. Thank you for your latest food donation. Recurring donations like yours are the backbone of our mission, and with your help, we are meeting our mission of no family or individual going hungry. Your commitment inspires us, and we are so grateful to have you as a big part of the community. Warm Regards, —*P.U.M.P. Volunteers*

P.U.M.P Special Requests Update:

P.U.M.P. requests peanut butter, cereal, rice, and any kind of pasta. As always, staples are always appreciated too. Social Ministry wants to thank you for the items donated, and your continued and generous support of P.U.M.P.!

Endowment Fund News

UPDATES ON DISBURSEMENTS:

- Improvements to the Grove Area
- Refurbishing of Playground Area
- Outdoor lighting enhancements
- Matching donation for the God's Work Our Hands Project of Birthday Kits to kids at P.U.M.P.
- Matching donation for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits
- Matching donation for Christmas at Sea Satchels to go along with handmade wool caps made by members
- Registration Fee paid for Justine Saviet, Parish Nurse to attend training
- Materials to paint POP's Treasures outside storage containers



DID YOU KNOW?.....Releases from sub funds through December 1, 2025 totaled \$34,109.61

Future Building Task Force Talk

A few months ago, Pastor Scholtes led congregation council through a devotion in which they thought about the future of Prince of Peace. What if money was no object? What if finding volunteers was no object? The ideas flowed, and a lot of them involved things we could provide if we had a bigger building. Things like a community center, ministries for senior citizens in the community, ministries for youth in the community, an expanded POP's Treasures ministry. We wondered if it was time to start a congregational conversation about this. We think it is.

Now we want to be crystal clear here. There is no plan for a new building. There are no secrets here. Council is not trying to push anything through – there is nothing to push through. Council wants to have an intentional and prayerful conversation among the whole congregation about what kind of ministries God might be calling us to undertake. And what kind of building that might require.

The motion passed by council reads:

*Create a Future Building Task Force (FBTF) effective January 1, 2026, to explore the possibility of adding on to our existing building in coming years, to enhance and provide for our growing needs for outreach and ministry, **including but not limited to** POP's Treasures. The Task Force is **not** tasked with providing detailed plans or actual building proposals, but rather to guide the congregation to prayerfully think and dream about the future, especially in regard to our building.*

- *The Future Building Task Force will be comprised of at least three members of Congregation Council, plus at least two other members of the congregation. The Pastor will be an ex officio member of the Task Force. At least one representative of POP's Treasures should be on the Task Force. There is no maximum limit to the size of the Task Force.*
- *The FBTF will provide opportunities for the congregation to prayerfully and creatively discern how God might be calling us to use our property differently in the coming years. These opportunities should attempt to engage as many people as possible.*
- *The FBTF will reach out to community leaders (e.g. township supervisors, school district, etc.) to discern what community needs a new Prince of Peace building might address.*
- *The FBTF will do research to discover what sorts of grants might be available for a building project. The Task Force will not apply for any grants, just collect information.*
- *The FBTF will use all this information to create a "mission plan" for a new building, to answer the question: What do we believe God is calling us to **do** with a new building?*
- *The FBTF will report to council regularly throughout the year and will make a final report to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in November 2026. If deemed necessary, an additional Congregational Meeting earlier in the year may be called.*

The purpose of the Task Force is **not** to design a building. The purpose of the Task Force is to lead the congregation in a discernment process. It's very possible that the Task Force will determine that we're **not** ready to explore a new building. But it will still bear some great fruit in terms of having a sense of where we're going. Hope you can participate in the events and discussions the Task Force sponsors throughout 2026.

–Pastor Scholtes

Important Dates



POP'S Treasures:

At this time, we want to remind everyone that there will be **NO drop offs until Monday January 19th**, as we are taking off some time to relax. Our next sale will be on January 16th (10 a.m. -2 p.m.) and the 17th (9 a.m. –Noon) with drops on the 19th and 26th, (1-2 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.. The February sale is on the 13th-14th. By now I'm sure everyone at POP knows about this ministry because it has been made abundantly clear that people are talking at work and community events, etc. about the mission work done at POP's Treasures. The growing number of volunteers put in A LOT of time making sure this program fulfills the mission that was approved by council 2 1/2 years ago. We all should be very proud of this little church in the country that is making a difference in many lives by our outreach. Make sure you reach out to the workers at POP's so they can tell you all about it. —**Jackie Horn**



Join us...

Help us Prepare Baby Care Kits!

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 8:30-9:30am, join us in the fellowship hall to assemble Baby Care Kits. Lutheran World Relief will distribute our gifts around the world to newborns and families in need.

You can help by donating items for the layettes, giving a monetary gift to help purchase items, and/or share your time to prepare the layettes at the baby shower. **Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used.** If you want to make sweaters or diaper, go to www.lwr.org/beinvolved and click on Baby Care Kits for patterns. They specify that we are not permitted to add other items to the kits.

- lightweight cotton t-shirts
- long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet (pajama top/pant sets may be substituted)
- receiving blankets up to 52" square
- cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- jacket, sweaters or sweatshirt with a hood or baby cap
- socks
- hand towel, dark color recommended
- bath-size bars of gentle soap in the wrapping (like Ivory or Dove)
- diaper pins or large safety pins

Look for information in the narthex where items can be placed.

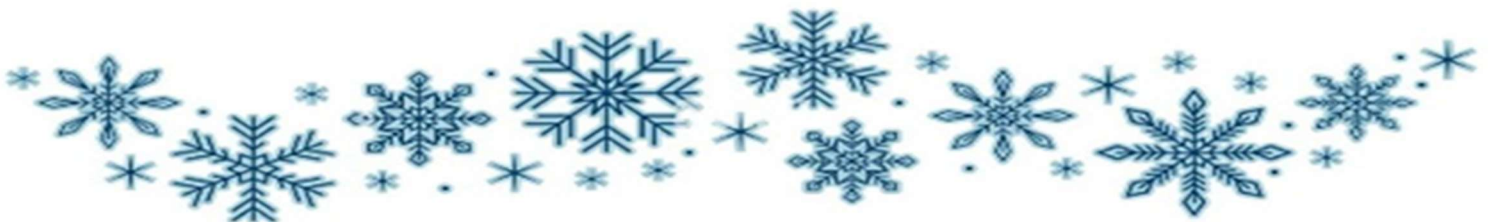
For more details contact Michele Harrison or Joanne Schipps.

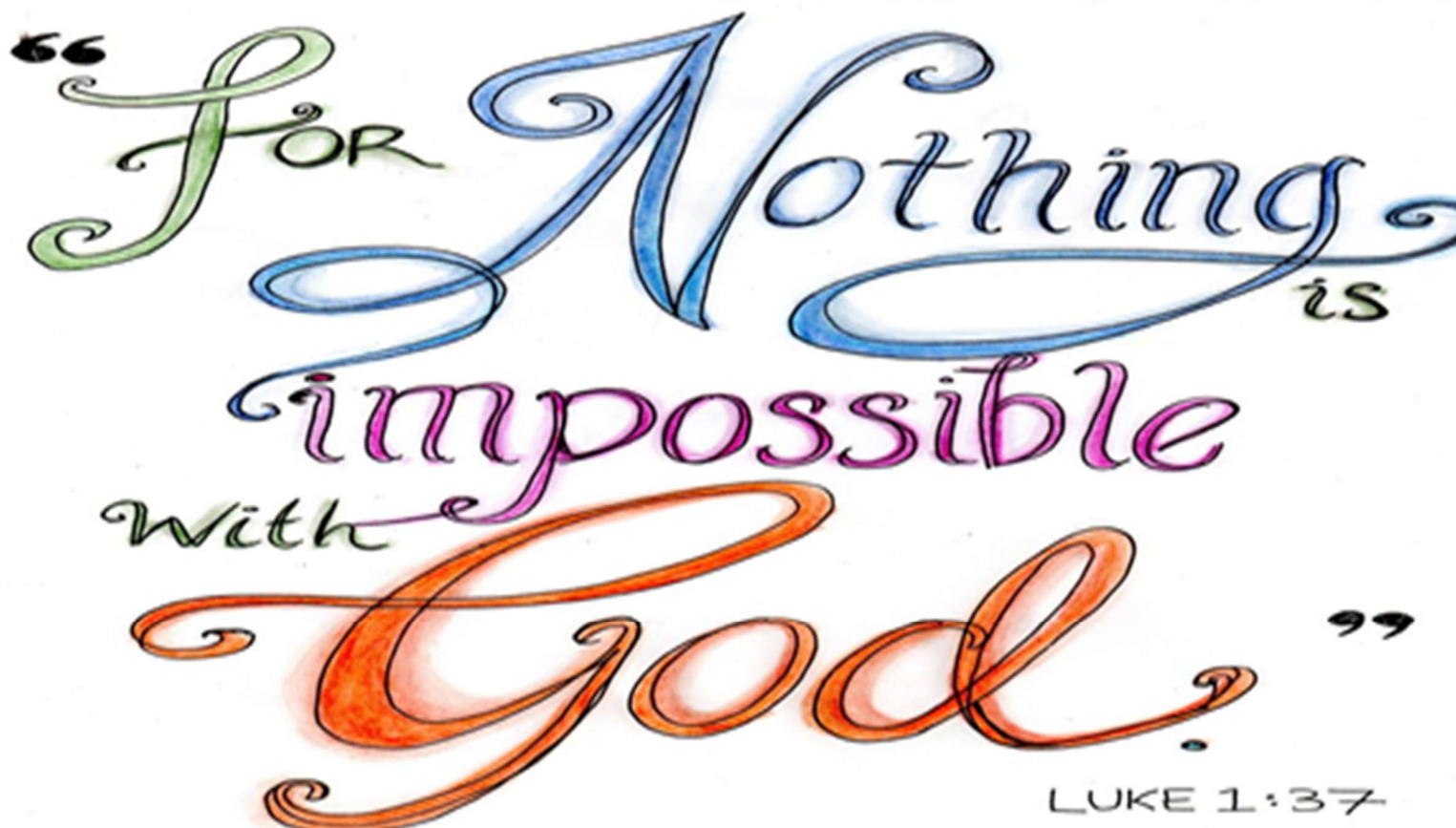
Note: Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. • Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. •

**Volunteer
needed**

From Social Ministry:

Michele Harrison and Joanne Schipps have been organizing the Layette shower for 20 years. Michele has informed me that 2026 will be their last one. They have done an amazing job through the years, and we're sorry to see them give it up, but understand their decision to do so. It's Social Ministry's hope there's an individual in our congregation that would like to take it over. Prayerfully think about it, and if it's you, we invite you to attend the Layette shower on Sunday, January 25th and speak to Michele and Joanne, or you may see me, Mary O'Meally.





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

Online Coordinator: Evelyn Diabo

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
 Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!

- **Pastor:** Rev. Michael J. Scholtes
- **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, Acting President	Jackie Horn
April Miller	Justine Saviet
Tina Johns, Secretary	Brenda Hughes
Alex Scholtes, Youth Rep.	Eleanor Rideout
Jean Janosa	Kerri Miller
Mary O'Meally	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!

February 2026 Newsletter is:

Tuesday,
January 13th 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

Sharing the Story: An Invitation to Experience Mission Support

Written by: Georgia Suranofsky, God's Work, Our Hands Storyteller



DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund important initiatives across the synod? 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 values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus.

As a God's Work, our Hands Storyteller (formerly Mission Interpreter) for over 13 years I have had the privilege to share stories and say Thank You to many congregations in our synod. Charlotte Gross and I currently coordinate the storytelling ministry. We are invited to visit congregations for worship, meet with congregation councils or be part of faith formation.

2025 Adventure Camp, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by participating congregations of the Pretzel City Parish.

I have learned about all the ministries in our synod and the ELCA including our ecumenical partners. When I first started exploring the ministries, it was overwhelming to know the support that changed many lives by doing God's work in the world. The Witness and Service Ministry Team receives a portion annually from your Mission Support giving that is used to fund grants for outreach projects and events. My own congregation has applied and used grants for outreach in my community. If I would not have been involved and understood how mission support giving is used, our outreach may not have happened. In my role, I receive the evaluations after a grant is completed. This gives me the opportunity to contact the sponsors and find out more about how the money was used. Many of the conversations are turned into stories that are shared on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support on the synod's website.

There are many ways you could be part of the team of storytellers. I have met many people in the pews through visits or on the phone/zoom to hear how their ministries are helping others because we all share our Mission Support giving. We can do so much more together than any individual can do alone.

When I first started sharing stories and saying thank you to congregations, I had no idea that my life would be enriched by their stories and eagerness to do more. Many times, I have heard, “I can’t believe our mission support giving helps do this. I had no idea.”

Mission Support can be understood better and communicated with the help of various resources. The resources can be found on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support. The resources are designed to be used in various media formats. The best way to gain insight into the vital importance of Mission Support is regular sharing of stories, including an in-person visits from a God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller. Please Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com to schedule a visit from a storyteller.



2025 technology upgrades project, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by Ziegels Union Church

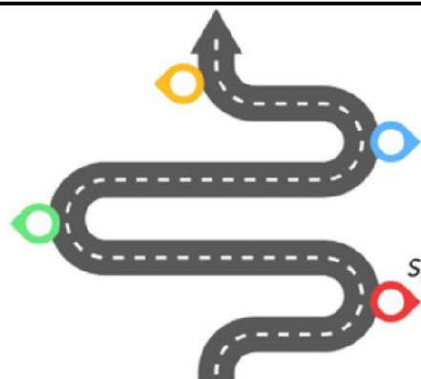


Georgia Suranofsky at the God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller display during the 2025 Synod Assembly.

**GOD’S WORK
OUR HANDS
STORYTELLERS**

Want to hear stories of mission support impact?

Consider inviting “God’s Work Our Hands Storyteller” to a Council meeting, faith formation, Sunday morning, or coffee break! Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com



Engaging Generosity: *A Roadmap for Vitality*

A Generosity Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

January 24, 2026 + Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale

REGISTRATION OPEN

godslove.org/events