

Prints of Peace



June 2026

Volume 31 Issue 6

We've Always Been a "Warming Center"

Congregation Council recently approved a request from Upper Mt. Bethel Township that our building may be used occasionally as a "warming and cooling center." There's an article about that elsewhere in this newsletter – I encourage you to read it, especially if you have any questions about what it means.

I've been thinking about the phrase "warming center" a lot as council considered and approved the request. I've learned a lot about what a warming center is and isn't. It's not a shelter; it's not a place to stay overnight. That's not what Prince of Peace's building will be used for. A warming center is a place to warm up on a cold day, if your own home is without heat (like when a power outage happens). It's a place to have a cup of coffee or a bottle of water, put your feet up, and charge your phone. Providing a warming center is an important responsibility, but it's not as complicated as I originally thought. It's really about openness and compassion.

Council approved a very compassionate thing by allowing our church building to become a warming center. And I think that makes a lot of sense for Prince of Peace, because our church has long been a "warming center" in another way.

You may have noticed that I've referred to our "church building" several times in the above paragraphs. That was deliberate, because the church is not the building. The church *has* a building, but it *is not* a building. The church is the *people*. I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. The church is the people of God gathered together, with or without a building, and we *are* a warming center for one another, and for our community. Our fellowship warms hearts.

How often have people told me that this church is "like a family"? I think that means that they feel at home with the people of Prince of Peace. The compassion and openness of this church has warmed my heart, and has warmed the hearts of many of us, and of many in the community. I'll tell you a few of the times my heart has been warmed.

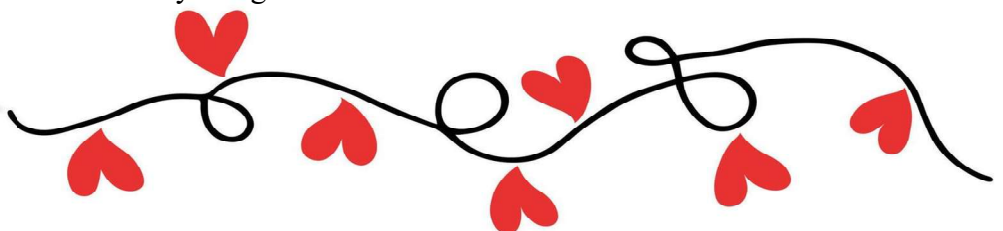
- This church embraced me when I needed to take some time off to attend to my mental health. I did not feel judged, but rather loved and cared for. My heart is warmed by that love.
- This church has taken my son Alex seriously as he's explored and discerned his identity. I am grateful for how many people have made an effort to adjust the pronouns they use when referring to Alex. It's confusing and strange to many of us (myself included!), but it is striking to me that, at Prince of Peace, we can *love* without fully *understanding*. My heart is warmed by that love.
- Every now and then, someone has taken me aside to let me know that something I've done or said was insensitive or hurtful. (In fact, this happened again very recently.) I am grateful for this honesty, as I continue to learn how to be a more compassionate and thoughtful person, and a better pastor. Every time this has happened, I struggle with it at first (few of us like hearing that we've messed up), but over time my heart is warmed by knowing that I can grow, and by knowing that the other person cares enough to let me know that I *need* to grow. I am grateful that forgiveness has come in many of these cases. These people have shared an important and honest kind of love, even while they were hurting or upset, and it warms my heart.

Those are just a few of the ways my heart has been warmed over the years by Prince of Peace. Not by the building, but by the *church* – the people. Prince of Peace – the people – have been a warming center for a long time, and I pray we continue to grow warmer and warmer as the years go on.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Michelle J. Scholtes".

Pastor Scholtes





From Social Ministry:

In an effort to get our youth more involved with our ministries, we will have 2 projects now thru June. The first will be "Coin Challenge", each of the Sunday School groups: Loaves, Fishes and Youth Group will each get a jar, each week they will put coins in their group's jar. These jars will be placed in the Narthex, so if you the congregation also wish to add some coins you may do so. The group having the most "coins" (not the total dollar amount) in the jar will then pick a charity they wish to donate the proceeds of all three jars to. The second project will be for Slate Belt Advocacy Group; this is a non-profit group that helps foster dogs. As of March, they had 19 dogs in foster homes. Their current need is dog food, dry is preferable for puppy, adult and senior dogs. Please see a member of this committee if you would like us to shop for you. Members are Mary O'Meally, Sherry Hock, and Holly Blakeslee. Council liaisons are Kerri Miller and Brittany Walters. Questions: see a committee member.

Narrative Offering

We have recently begun sharing *Narrative Offerings* during the offering time in Sunday worship.

What is a Narrative Offering?

It's a brief speech by a member of the congregation, a 2-3 minute "faith snapshot." For example, it could be something like one of these:

- A story about someone who was instrumental in teaching you about God.
- A Bible story that impacted you.
- A moment in your life when God was present.
- Or something else faith-related!

How is this an "offering"?

God gives everything to us, ourselves, our time, our possessions, our experiences, and so forth. Our "offering" is when we return a portion of that to God. Just as we share our money with God in the offering, now we are also sharing our stories!

Who will be giving these speeches?

Hopefully loads of different people. We'd like to have adults do this. We'd like to have youth and Sunday School kids do this. We'd like to get some video recordings of college students and homebound members. If you would be interested in sharing a brief story like this, please contact Tina Johns, Kim Jennings, or Pastor Scholtes, and we'll get you signed up!

Stewardship News

"God's Refrigerator Door." The Youth group was the first group to share with us about who the group is. One very important thing they do and showed us is their participation in "Youth" Sunday". Thanks for sharing! You are important to us!

Volunteering as a Pew Tender, written by Rhonda Montgomery

A pew tender is an arm of the Altar Guild that helps with clearing and maintain the church pews after the worship service.

Why do I volunteer? The answer is simple – to glorify God. We honor God with a tidy environment. It creates a welcoming atmosphere for others.

It gives me great satisfaction to know that I am assisting the Altar Guild with such a simple task that leaves such a huge impact. It is so much more than cleaning for one. It is a time I can spend with God in the peace of the sanctuary. It's a time I can say a prayer before I leave.

Special thanks to the pew tender team, Sara Godshalk, June Jones, Traci Rumsey, Sherry and Maci Hock, for all their hard work and dedication. *Thanks for all you do to create an inviting worship space!*



Joyful Noise Good News!

Collection for April totaled: \$109.00!
Your giving in 2026 through April totals \$427.00!
Thank you for our continued generosity!

Happy Birthday

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

Gordon Brozina
Maverick Baggitt
Cory Jennings
Raelynn Baggitt
Brooks Baker
Tina Johns
Joanne Robinson
Diane Searfass
Walter Harrison
Heather Scholtes
Richard Kessler
Jeremy Smith
Matthew Dotta
John Martocci
Holly Blakeslee
Magdalein Streisguth
Christopher Brands
Kathy Lane
Jarrett Ott
Madison Klinge
George Brown
Patricia Heard
Katie Waszmer

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 May 31, June 14 & 28; July 12 & 26; August 9 & 23; and September 6. In case of inclement weather, we will hold worship inside that day.



May Council Meeting Highlights

1. Approved the Church to be used as a Warming/Cooling Center.
2. Approved the Minister of Youth and Worship Job Description
3. Approved the applications for a portion of the funds from a defunct cub pack account of the Church to send 3 scouts to summer camp.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptism of: Beresford Anthony Edwards, Jr., Naomi Elizabeth Lopez, Taelor Elizabeth McCollum, all on April 19



Weis Receipt Slips ... As per a recent conversation with Weis, we may include Weis grocery receipts that have been paid with Weis Gift Cards! Please include these slips and we will receive an additional 1% on these receipts. Thank you everyone for supporting this program.—*Janet Martocci*



Graduate Recognition

We will recognize those in our midst who are graduating in 2026 on **Sunday, June 7.**



June and July Altar Guild: Carolyn Leidy, Terry Stiso

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5
Greeters	Mary O'Meally, Sara Godshalk	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Brenda Hughes, Sara Godshalk	Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker
Lay Readers	Tina Smith	Justine Saviet	April Miller	Brooks Baker	Sherry Hock
Assisting Ministers	April Miller	Alex Scholtes	Tina Smith	Kale Baker	Tina Johns
Com. Assts.	Laraine Brands, Brooks Baker	Marlene Stana, Tina Smith	Alex Scholtes, Laraine Brands	Jim Jennings, April Miller	Brooks Baker, Tina Johns
Ushers	Marlene and Butch Stana	Brooks Baker, Kale Baker	Sue Reinhart, Sara Godshalk	Sadie Baker, Justine Saviet	Georgia and John Suranofsky
Power Point Camera	Tina Johns	Kim Jennings	Antonioli Family	Cathy Mullen	Jim Jennings
Acolytes	Taylor Baker	Ben Scholtes	Landon Horn	Tina Smith	Taylor Baker
Offering Counters	Tina Johns	Jean Janosa	Georgia Suranofsky	Traci Rumsey	Mary O'Meally
Pew Tenders	Sherry and Maci Hock	Traci Rumsey	Rhonda Montgomery	Sara Godshalk	June Jones
Bread Baker	Petrina Billger		Connie Itterly		Alex Summy

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...

- 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)



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church Picnic!



Save the Date and Join us for a Church Picnic:

Sunday, August 9, 2026 after 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. There are brightly colored index cards on the counter in the Narthex for you to take and fill out. I realize that not every volunteer opportunity is listed on the front side of the card but feel free to turn the card over and add anything that may have been missed. Once completed, you can give to me on Sunday mornings.

It's not too early to think about the Jacktown events on July 17-19th and October 17 & 18. The Blue Valley Farm Show will be held on August 11-15th. 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: June 27th, July 25, 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! —Stella Nelson



Health Aids Collection for June for P.U.M.P.:

Suggested items include toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, Q-tips, band-aids, liquid soap, bar soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, etc. Social Ministry wants to thank you for the items donated, and your continued and generous support of P.U.M.P!



Many thanks to all who donated/contributed to the success of the Annual Easter Breakfast this year. Many thanks especially to Holly, Sam, Olivia and Saba for cooking and serving and to everyone who came to enjoy the meal and fellowship. God's blessings at POP never disappoint. —Laraine Brands

POP'S Treasures:

Come, Shop, Donate

Our next sale will be on June 12th (10 a.m. -2 p.m.) and the 13th (9 a.m. -Noon) with drops on May 15th and 22nd, (1-2 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.)

—Jackie Horn



Endowment News

Council is now accepting ideas for new sub accounts for 2027. 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.

The new heating and air conditioning system was installed. The final 2 payments totaling \$27,000 were paid from Property Sub Fund of the Endowment Fund in April. Also, \$1,349.15 was released for delegates registration lodging and meals to attend Synod Assembly from the Congregational Education Sub Fund.

DID YOU KNOW?.....Year to date releases from sub funds total \$50,195.15

*Your word is
a lamp to my
feet and a light
to my path.*

Psalm 119:105

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!

Monday, June 01	Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3;
Tuesday, June 02	Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13;
Wednesday, June 03	Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26;
Thursday, June 04	Psalm 50:7-15; Lamentations 1:7-11; 2 Peter 2:17-22;
Friday, June 05	Psalm 50:7-15; Lamentations 3:40-58; Acts 28:1-10;
Saturday, June 06	Psalm 50:7-15; Exodus 34:1-9; Matthew 9:27-34;
Sunday, June 07	Hosea 5:15 – 6:6; Ps. 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matt. 9:9-13, 18-26
Monday, June 08	Psalm 40:1-8 ; Leviticus 15:25-31; 22:1-9; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2;
Tuesday, June 09	Psalm 40:1-8; Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2; Hebrews 13:1-16;
Wednesday, June 10	Psalm 40:1-8; Hosea 14:1-9; Matthew 12:1-8;
Thursday, June 11	Psalm 100; Exodus 4:18-23; Hebrews 3:1-6;
Friday, June 12	Psalm 100; Exodus 4:27-31; Acts 7:35-43;
Saturday, June 13	Psalm 100; Exodus 6:28-7:13; Mark 7:1-13;
Sunday, June 14	Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35 – 10:8
Monday, June 15	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Joshua 1:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5;
Tuesday, June 16	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5;
Wednesday, June 17	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Proverbs 4:10-27; Luke 6:12-19;
Thursday, June 18	Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 18:12-17; Hebrews 2:5-9;
Friday, June 19	Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 18:18-23; Acts 5:17-26;
Saturday, June 20	Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 20:1-6; Luke 11:53-12:3;
Sunday, June 21	Jerem. 20:7-13; Ps. 69:7-10, 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matt. 20:24-39
Monday, June 22	Psalm 6; Micah 7:1-7; Revelation 2:1-7;
Tuesday, June 23	Psalm 6; Jeremiah 26:1-12; Revelation 2:8-11;
Wednesday, June 24	Psalm 6; Jeremiah 38:1-13; Matthew 10:5-23;
Thursday, June 25	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6;
Friday, June 26	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:8-14; Galatians 5:7-12;
Saturday, June 27	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28:1-4; Luke 17:1-4;
Sunday, June 28	Jeremiah 28:5-9; Ps. 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matt. 10:40-42
Monday, June 29	Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12;
Tuesday, June 30	Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:17-29; 1 John 4:1-6;

Warming/Cooling Center

Congregation Council recently approved making Prince of Peace's building a warming & cooling center for Upper Mt. Bethel Township. This is something that's been talked about for many years. (In fact, Pastor Scholtes remembers conversations about it during his first month here, right after Hurricane Sandy went through in 2012.) Among the things that kept us from doing it was concern about what it would mean to do this, and how we would get power if there is a power outage.

It came about now because of the work of the Future Building Task Force. One of our tasks was to reach out to community leaders and talk about the needs they see in our community. When two leaders from UMB Township came to Prince of Peace for this conversation, they were immediately impressed with our building and asked if we would consider becoming a warming/cooling center. It was explained to us that there is a big difference between a **warming center** and an **emergency shelter**. An emergency shelter is an overnight facility for people in crisis -- we are **not** becoming an emergency shelter.

A warming/cooling center, on the other hand, is a place that is open for a certain amount of time during an emergency (usually a power outage). We will be open for certain hours during the day (**not** overnight) and will simply be a place for people to get warm (in the winter) or cool (in the summer). We need to provide rest rooms, places to sit, and outlets for charging phones. We will also need to have one or two church members available during the time we're open. The township will provide everything else -- snacks and water, and a generator if the church is without power. Township officials will always be on hand -- this is a partnership. They expect that we might be asked to provide this service once or twice a year, if that. No more than 10-20 people would probably be expected to drop in.

Council was delighted to partner with the township in this way. We hope it will rarely be necessary, but we are glad to share our building with our community in this important way when it is. If you have further questions, please speak to me or any member of council. --*Pastor Scholtes*



Bless Our Mess VBS is geared to ages 4-11. It will be held on five consecutive Wednesday evenings from June 10-July 8 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. (Dinner is optional 5:30 – 6 p.m.) Registration forms can be found on the counter in the church Narthex or email the church office at poplcbangor@gmail.com. Registering early helps us plan materials and activities. Questions can be directed to Tina Johns, Kim Jennings, or Brittany Walters

Father's Day is just around the corner: June 21

Would you like to remember/honor your Father and/or Men who are special to you by listing their name in our announcement folder, on the bulletin board and in the Newsletter? A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex. Suggested donation: \$1 per name benefits the Sunday School. **Deadline is: Sunday, June 14th.**





*The following individuals made a Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School
In Loving Honor of...*

Anne Marie Cerusso

By Monica Spero and Mark Grusso

Anna Clemenza

By Monica Spero and Mark Grusso

Sandy Butler

by Stephanie, Colleen and Evan

Brenda Stauffer

By Larry and Brenda Stauffer

Laraine Brands

By Saba and Liv

N. Zaheer

By Saba and Liv

Ingrid Levisay

By Levi

Sue Flyte

By Ray and Tara Flyte

Jackie Horn

By Brooks and Janessa

Georgia Suranofsky

By Brooks and Janessa

Janessa Baker

By Brooks

Laurie Smickle

By Charlie

Connie Comunale

By Charlie

Janie Smickle

By Charlie

Tara Flyte

By Tyler, Ashley and Lauren

Connie Comunale

By Justine, Marc, Jeff and Eric

Connie Comunale

By Zach, Autumn, Olivia, Bean,
Reagan, Hailey, Lily and Daniel

Greta Johnson

By Karen Karner

Petrina Billger

By Neil Billger

Jane Ann Reimer

By Sara

Gladys Steinmetz

By Tom and Connie Itterly, and family

Stephanie Hemak

By Dennis and Cathy

Denise Wess

By Dennis and Cathy

Samantha Ring

By Tina Johns

Pat Koller

By Tina Johns

Gladys Steinmetz

By Sue Reinhart

Janet Martocci

By Sue Reinhart

Kay Lawler

By the Hughes Family

Mary Hughes

By the Hughes Family

Connie Silvius

By the Hughes Family

Brenda Hughes

By the Hughes Family





*The following individuals made a Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School
In Loving Memory of...*

Helen Lane
By Kathy A. Lane
Hazel Weidman
By Kathy A. Lane
Dorothy Lane
By Kathy A. Lane
Ruth Lane
By Kathy A. Lane
Irene Weaver
By Kathy A. Lane
Our Mother, Betty Leininger
by Louise, Jane & Carolyn
Joyce Weidlick
by Joanne Robinson
Jeanette Johnson
by Joanne Robinson
Ethel Fuls
by Joanne Robinson
Helen Smith
By Manus Smith
Ada McLean
By Manus Smith
Emma Eichlin
By Manus Smith
Leona McLean
By Manus Smith
Beverly Nicely
By Monica Spero and Mark Grusso
Mary Mann
By Monica Spero and Mark Grusso
Norma Bellaney
By Monica Spero and Mark Grusso
Wanda Riley
By John and Georgia Suranofsky

Theresa Suranoafsky
By John and Georgia Suranofsky
Laura M. Collins
By Dennis and Cathy
Laura B. Collins
By Dennis and Cathy
Charmaine Collins
By Dennis and Cathy
Jennie Widenor
By the Neil Pearson Family
Pauline Pearson
By the Neil Pearson Family
Olive Gates
By the Thomas Family
Esther Godshalk
By Rich & Sue Reinhart and Family
Jean Reinhart
By Rich & Sue Reinhart and Family
Joyce Comunale
By the Hughes Family
Betty Lou Hughes
By the Hughes Family
Esther Ott
By the Hughes Family

*But we remember now in love,
Your life from start to end,
And we're just glad
We knew you,
As Mother and as Friend.
-unknown*





*The following individuals made a Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School
In Loving Memory of...*

Betty Fuller

By Sandy Butler

Gloria Steinmetz

By Larry and Brenda Stauffer

Elizabeth Stauffer

By Larry and Brenda Stauffer

Dot Rambo

By The Stana Family

Joann Saviet

By Lily and David

Alice DeVito

By Betty DeVito

Viola Fraunfelter

By Betty DeVito

Marian Saddler

By June and Sherk Jones

Esther Jones

By June and Sherk Jones

Brenda Smith

By Ray and Tara Flyte

Frances Fontanella

By Ray and Tara Flyte

Ann Stana

By The Stana Family

Christina DeSalvo

By Mary O'Meally

Ruth Hearn

By The Hearn, Comunales, Savietz and Barths

Pearl Komunale

By The Hearn, Comunales, Savietz and Barths

Sonja Saviet

By Rob, Ken, Nicole, Lily, Daniel, Jacob and David

Lily Levenstein

By Rob, Ken, Nicole, Lily, Daniel, Jacob and David

Someone is Missing

Let this be a loving reminder

That someone is missing today,

Someone our hearts still hold on to,

As we travel along life's way.

Someone who made life so special,

For all those who gather here,

Someone who won't be forgotten,

But cherished from year to year.

And now, we pause to remember,

Let us all fondly recall,

How dearly each of us loved her,

And oh, how she loved us all.

- Unknown





*The following individuals made a Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School
In Loving Memory of...*

Leah Saviet

By Rob, Ken, Nicole, Lily, Daniel,
Jacob and David

Grammy Grace

By Carolyn, Holly and Stacy

Grammy Annie

By Carolyn, Holly and Stacy

Grammy Ruth

By Carolyn, Holly and Stacy

Joan Miller

By Sherry Carissa, D.J., Maci,
Mia, Freddy and June

Anna Difilippantonio

By Neil and Petrina Billger

Betty Billger

By Neil Billger

Katherine Fair

By Neil and Petrina Billger

Lauretta Alicea

By Kim and Kevin Hennings

Joan Hennings

By Kim and Kevin Hennings

Alta C. Moysey

By Sara and Bill

Madeline Klinzing

By Sara and Bill

Betty (Becky) Godshalk

By Sara and Bill

Sherma LaBarre Godshalk

By Sara and Bill

Bonnie Abbott Buskirk

by Sara

Stella Steinmetz

By Janet and John Martocci

Nora Martocci

By Janet and John Martocci

Marwood Hill

By Sharon Hill

Frances Poliskiewicz

By The Poliskiewicz Family

Ruth Begies

By Chris and Mark

Lela Reimer

By Chris and Mark

Florence Cotturo

By Chris and Mark

Carol Cuono

By Chris and Mark

Lynn Rych

By Chris and Mark

Edna Smith

By Annette Buss and Family

Bessie Bartholomew

By Annette Buss and Family

Nellie Smith

By Annette Buss and Family

Rose Buss

By Annette Buss and Family

Pearl Buss

By Annette Buss and Family

*Always on my mind
Forever in my heart*

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace as you
trust in Him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13



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	Jackie Horn
April Miller, Secretary	Justine Saviet
Tina Johns, Vice President	Brenda Hughes
Alex Scholtes, Youth Rep.	Connie Itterly
Jean Janosa	Kerri Miller
Mary O'Meally	Brittany Walters
Rev. Michael J. Scholtes	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!**

July 2026 Newsletter is:
**Tuesday,
June 9th 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

Meeting Neighbors Where They Are

Written by Pastor Jim Farnsworth of St Mark Lutheran Church, Birdsboro



When congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod share Mission Support, they are participating in something much bigger than any one ministry. Together, we are making it possible for congregations to dream, collaborate, and step into new ways of loving, healing, and engaging like Jesus.

One powerful example comes from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro, whose Witness & Service Grant helped support their Our Daily Bread Mobile Food Ministry. What began as an idea discussed for years became a reality through faith, partnership, and community support. Within just a few months, they raised \$54,000 to launch a fully equipped mobile kitchen, allowing them to bring meals directly to people in need.

Today, that mobile kitchen is on the move, serving at veterans' events, supporting local outreach efforts, partnering with other ministries, and showing up in places where people may not otherwise experience the Church. Rather than waiting for neighbors to come through their doors, St. Mark's is going out to meet people where they are, offering both nourishment and connection.

Through this ministry, relationships are being built across congregations, nonprofits, and community organizations. Volunteers and partners are working side by side, and new connections continue to grow. As those involved share, they see God at work in the faces and stories of the people they serve, reminding them that those they encounter are "the treasures of the Church."

This is what Mission Support makes possible.





Through your shared gifts, the synod is able to invest in ministries like this through initiatives such as Witness & Service Grants, equipping congregations to respond to real needs in their communities. These are not just projects, they are expressions of the Gospel in action, rooted in relationships and shaped by the hope of Christ.

Together, we are connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry, so that, as a synod, we can continue to love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus, bringing the good news beyond our walls and into the world.

Thank you for the ways you make this work possible through your Mission Support.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA 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 godslove.org/missionsupport.

???

Would you like to propel an idea into action, engaging both congregation and broader community leaders?

A variety of learning opportunities are available including:

- Small- and Large-Scale Context Mapping
- World and Spirit Cafe Methodologies
- Launching Fresh Expressions
- Demographics Research
- Biblical Models of Evangelism
- Forming Action Plans
- And More!

QUESTIONS

Pastor Jennifer Hope-Tringali

Director for New Ministries

jennifer@nepsynod.org

610-266-5101 ext. 121

EXPLORING & CREATING NEW MINISTRIES

Do you have an idea that you would like to explore with other leaders?

Learn More

godslove.org/new-ministries

Graceful Generosity

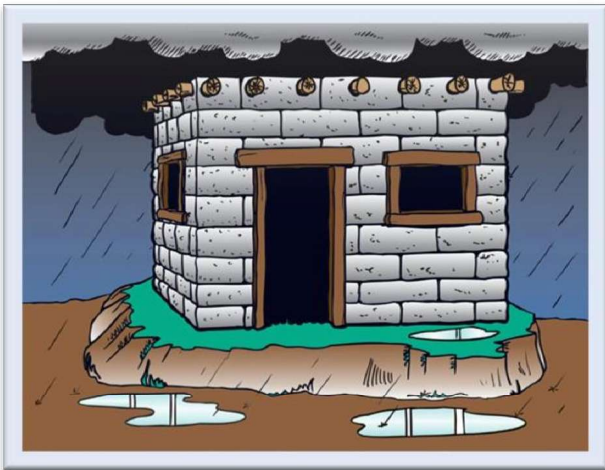
Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Worshipping God through Giving

We worship God through our worship services as we pray, sing, and give him praise. We can live lives that give him honor and glory; however, in some ways, the money that we give to God is one of the most special ways that we can worship him. It is difficult to give money because there are many things that can be purchased with our money to make our lives easier and more comfortable. The giving of our money is a testimony of our praise and gratitude to God. Is there anything more worshipful than honoring God with our money?

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

What parable could the following picture refer to?



If you said the Parable of the Two Builders, you were right. *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the*

winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Matthew 7:24-27).

The wise builder selects a site on a rock. Then he will not need to worry about heavy rains or strong winds. A house built upon rock has a foundation that lasts. A foolish builder constructs his house as though he is pitching a tent.

Through this parable, Jesus is telling us that a person who hears his words and puts them into practice is like the wise builder. It is foolish to hear the words of Jesus and not obey them. Such a person may be compared to a builder who builds his house on the sand without a foundation. Jesus wants us to hear his words and obey them.

The Pump Needs to be Primed

If you've ever been on a farm, you may be familiar with old-fashioned water pumps. When pumps have been out of use for a time, they can often be pumped fruitlessly. The problem can be solved by priming the pump with water, which expands the cork, bringing up water, rather than just air.

Life can be compared to that pump. In order to receive, one may need to give first. We have to put something into life to get something out of it. Paul stated this principle in Galatians 6:7: *“A man reaps what he sows.”* Rewards and successes in life are earned; they result from hard work and time.

This principle of priming the pump, of sowing and reaping, applies to our giving as well. It is true that God provides for all. Jesus himself said, *“He [God] causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* (Matthew 5:45). However, he also promised a special blessing on those who are generous in their giving: *“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes*

others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25).

As redeemed children of God, our main motivation for giving is our desire to respond with grateful hearts to him for his marvelous gifts to us, especially the gift of his Son, Jesus, who brought us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. We will desire to give, not for reward, but to honor him with our lives and our time, our talents and our treasures. We will find that we cannot out-give God. Speaking through the prophet Malachi, God challenged, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”* (Malachi 3:10). Accept God’s challenge: put him to the test. Prime the pump.

Your Final Message

Most people want to put off thinking about and preparing for the time when the Lord will take them to his eternal home. You should be prepared because only God knows each person’s timetable. Whether you are given a short or long life, you can have a final opportunity, through a will or trust, to share a message of your love for Christ and a gift to continue your faithful stewardship.

Your last will and testament can proclaim your love of the Lord and provide an encouragement to your families and friends to grow in their faith. Through a Christian Preamble, which is the way you can begin a will or trust, you have your last opportunity to witness to your loved ones.

If your will or trust gives a final testimony of your trust in the Lord, it will be a real source of encouragement to those you leave behind. It will comfort your family and friends to know that you believed and trusted in the promise that Jesus gave in John 11:25-26, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me*

will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. If your Christian preamble is in a will, your message will go beyond your family and friends, because a will is filed in probate court which is public record.



A will or trust is also a wonderful time to put your love for the Lord into action with a gift for the Lord’s work through your church. For many Christians, this may be the biggest gift they make. A bequest in your will gives the message of Christ’s importance to you. A gift for the Lord’s work acknowledges God’s ownership of your life and things and that you are simply returning them to God who provided them for your use. As J. Gregory Pope said, *“Planning an enduring gift that supports and perpetuates the Gospel message is a significant ... sometimes final ... witness of a faithful and maturing disciple in response to the grace of a loving God.”*

May God grant us all an abundant measure of his grace so our final messages will bring glory to him.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!