



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ANNUAL REPORT

2019





A message from

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, reflects the increasing support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light-colored, slightly textured background.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17

Litany

- L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.**
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.**
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring. C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring. L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.**
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?," may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.**
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.
- C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.**
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.**
- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2019 Annual Book of Reports



**BOOK
OF
REPORTS**
2019





Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PURPOSE STATEMENT & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*We are disciples of Jesus who are empowered
by God's extravagant grace to grow in faith,
serve in love and live in joy.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

We are embraced by God's extravagant grace.

We celebrate Christ's life-giving presence through word and sacrament.

We live Jesus' way by welcoming and inviting all.

We are called to be good stewards-generously sharing God's gifts.

We are God's hands and voices at work in the world.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

61 Route 70 East
Marlton, New Jersey 08053

The Reverend Brett W. Ballenger

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**** Draft until approved at the annual meeting January 2020 ****

Minutes from the 57th Annual Congregational Meeting of Prince of Peace

Sunday January 26th, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Allison Shingleton at 11:55 A.M. Pastor Ballenger led the opening devotions and prayer from the Litany in the Book of Reports.

President Shingleton thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to share their views and opinions. Since ministry at POP is a partnership between members and staff, she thanked all the staff and council for their support.

Mary Scout was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for today's meeting. President Shingleton appointed Sharon Elliott as timekeeper, Robert McLellan as the head teller.

Mary Scout then explained to the congregation her role as Parliamentarian; to give advice to the chair and any other member who requests it. She also explained the procedures to be used for making a motion during the meeting.

President Shingleton explained that according to our bylaws, a quorum of 49, 10% of our voting members, is needed to conduct business. Robert McLellan reported that there are 70 voting members in attendance at today's meeting and a quorum had been met.

President Shingleton then stated that it has been our practice to limit debate on each topic under discussion to allow an opportunity for everyone who wishes to speak. A motion was made by Sharon Elliott and Seconded by Pauline Ahern, to limit the debate so that each person may speak only twice to an issue for only two minutes each time. Each person may speak only once on an issue until all have spoken that wish to do so, then a person may speak a second time. The motion to limit debate was adopted. President Shingleton requested a motion to limit meeting to two hours. Bob Price motioned and Ginny Fink seconded. The motion was passed.

President Shingleton next requested that anyone who wishes to speak should line up behind the microphones, wait to be recognized by the chair and state their name before speaking. The time keeper will notify those when speaking when there are 30 seconds remaining, as well as when the two-minute time limit has been reached. This is to ensure that all those who wish to speak will be heard, as well as manage our time efficiently.

President Shingleton then presented the minutes of the 56th annual meeting held on January 28th, 2018. Since there were no additions or corrections, the minutes will stand as presented.

Pastor Brett was then called on to present the report of the nomination committee. He thanked those that served on the nominating committee for their time and service; Bruce Easterly, Joan West, Russ Kramer, Emma Oettl and Pastor Brett. This year, three council members are up for re-election: Bob Price, Liz Dietz and Pam Hann. Three members are leaving; Allison Shingleton will be leaving as President after 4 years; Bryan Ressler will be leaving after one term as Family and Education and Emma Oettl will be leaving after one year as our Youth Representative. Scott Rush and Kim Syvertsen were nominated for a two-year term and Aimee Morin was nominated for a one-year term as the youth representative.

President Shingleton then explained the voting process and asked for nominations from the floor. Since there were none, the nominations were declared closed and she requested the tellers to distribute the ballots. After a few minutes the ballots were collected, and the voting was declared closed.

The 2018 Treasurer and Financial Secretary's reports were presented. Since there were no additions or corrections, the reports were accepted as presented.

The 2018 Book of Reports were presented. There were no additions or corrections and they were approved as written.

Allison Shingleton reported that we need two people for the Endowment Committee. Steve Hartley and Allison Shingleton were nominated for a three-year term. Allison and Steve were elected.

Pastor Brett presented his report to the congregation. He shared his love for everyone and shared about our caring congregation and our love for one another. He stated this makes him happy and thankful to be a part of POP. He reviewed our Stewardship booklet and stated how exciting it was to be a part of POP.

When talking about last year's budget of \$416,000, we underspent by \$17,600. We did not bring in enough income and we were \$11,000 shy of meeting our budget. Our Stewardship booklet shows how generous we are as a congregation. The council has reduced the budget by \$23,000. Pastor Brett stated three goals for this year.

1. This past year we borrowed from ourselves and we need to pay this back.
2. We need to do a better job of reporting and keeping the congregation informed and help focus on everyone giving time and talent.
3. As shown in the Stewardship Booklet, we as a congregation like to sponsor projects. We will develop a calendar of our projects; Easter Shoes, God's Barnyard, HVAC; etc.

Pastor Brett explained how excited he is that the Summer Meal Program will double this year. We have received a grant from the ELCA, and we want to get other congregations involved.

He explained how the different groups that meet in our church help us throughout the year.

We are planning a joint trip to Israel with Beth Tikvah next year.

New Visions closed. Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church has a food pantry but due to lack of food and staff they are only open one day a week. We are trying to collect more food and train some of our staff to help at their pantry. Also, Deb McClure picks up food from Wawa and drops it off at Bridge of Peace.

Pastor Brett asked if there were any questions and there were none.

At this time, Robert McLellan presented his report on the election of new council members. 416 votes were cast. 36 necessaries. Liz Dietz, Pam Hann, Bob Price, Scott Rush and Kim Syvertsen were elected to a two-year term and Aimee Morin for a one-year term.

Pauline Ahern presented the spending plan for 2019 and this is on pages 8-20. She started with salaries and benefits. The staff were given a choice to leave during this discussion and they chose to stay. The Personnel all received outstanding reviews and the personnel committee recommended a cost of living raise but this is not feasible due to our finances.

We are eliminating the Part time assistant position. Pauline Ahern volunteers her time to write the bills. During Adult Forum, congregant asked that the numbers for Substitutes be placed in the budget.

There was a slight increase in health insurance for the staff due to increases by the Insurance company.

Under the General Expense Plan on page 9, this was \$2,000 less due to Laura Glatz negotiations with office companies. Pastor Brett also stated that our phone system failed this past year and we needed a new system.

Benevolence was under budgeted last year and we cut back to 7 1/2% this year.

Mark Mullen proposed an increase in salary for the staff. Discussion followed.

On page 10 property budget was cut. Council felt we could not give to Reserve for Contingencies. There was a decrease by \$15,000. We will be working on ways to fund HVAC.

Service Ministries receive significant reimbursement: Building Community, Family and Education, Health and Support and Social Missions. Stewardship and Worship and Music cut their budget.

A motion was made by Pauline Ahern that the 2019 spending plan be adopted by the congregation if there are no questions.

John McDonald asked, where was the deficit in the budget? And If we give time off- don't we need to pay substitutes? Allison Shingleton and Pauline Ahern answered these questions. Pastor Brett explained that there was a decrease in worship attendance and a decrease in giving. The question was posed by Pastor Brett- How do we get others to come to worship?

Nancy Bacon stated that at Adult Forum we spoke about "Simply Giving" and that there is a 7% service fee that the church pays for this service.

If you use bill pay at your bank- we do not pay a fee if you use the automatic bill pay. Credit cards also charge a fee.

Kristina Orta questioned page 2 of regular envelope giving. Pauline and Allison explained.

Pauline Ahern reported that we started the year in a deficit.

Motion by Pam Hann: I move on behalf of the church council that the 2019 spending plan be adopted as present. This motion was passed.

Motion from made that the staff receive an extra 5 days off in lieu of salary increase.

Suzie Rose made a motion that going forward we will revisit the motion that we will give the staff time off instead of a salary increase. The motion be amended by striking "from this time forward" and inserting "for 2019". Walter Stridick seconds and supports this motion. We will now vote on the amendment. The motion was approved

Steve Hartley - I move that the vote on the motion for "time off in lieu of salary increase" be by secret ballot. Sharon Elliott seconded. The congregation voted and the motion was defeated. We will not vote by secret ballot.

Allison read the motion that the staff receive an additional 5 days off in lieu of a salary increase. Motion passed.

President Shingleton asks if there is no other business and if not, the meeting will be adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hann, Council Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

During the year 2019, our congregation saw many times when we were needed to help those among us dealing with illness and the passing of friends and loved ones. We were called to reach out into the community to serve and to welcome all to share God's extravagant grace and gifts. The Holy Spirit moved us to accomplish much within this year.

Some of the highlights of 2019 are:

Social Missions grew in the number of people and families helped through the stewardship of those who assisted with the Food Pantry, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and the Summer Meals Program and other programs within the church. Between the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and presents, the holidays were made brighter for more than 400 people and the Summer Meals program provided approximately 1000 more meals than last year. The Holy Spirit has surely moved within this congregation to be able to make this happen. We also thank the people from outside our congregation who have lent their time and talent to help us in this mission. Part of this was made more efficient by the reorganization of the food pantry storage space, making it easier for all to access the resources we have. We indeed have been called to be good stewards, generously sharing God's gifts.

Worship services have involved many people from the congregation through music with the various choral groups and readings, but have also provided experiences for children with the Children's Sermon each week. The "Busy Box" case has enabled parents to concentrate on worship while their children are kept occupied. Discipleship Practice enables families to grow together as they discover ways to enhancing worship in their homes. Interfaith worship experiences such as the June Shavot / Pentecost service, joint meal and study program with Nafshenu brought God's presence to those participating. The congregation's stewardship during Lent with their contributions to God's Global Barnyard was outstanding and this generosity continued in August with God's Precious Children Scholarship Program for Liberian children. We continue to be a church heeding Jesus' call to be welcoming and inviting to all.

In this spirit, we have invited the community to learn about Prince of Peace and our mission through our June Community Picnic, our booth at Evesham's Harvest Fest and the sharing of our parking lot, a Chili Cook-Off. Many outside groups use space in our building for meetings.

We are working hard to keep Prince of Peace a safe and welcoming building. After many long years of planning, the church finally has a new electronic sign out front to provide welcoming messages to passers-by. Because of the generosity of the congregation to the Sustain Campaign, we have been able to replace the HVAC units, bring new lighting in some church areas, repave the parking lot, and will soon have windows replaced in the part of the building east of the Narthex. With 93% of the money pledged for the six projects and 70% already given, we have also been able to cut our deficit in half. With God's blessing and our continued stewardship, we should be able to reach our goal and complete the other projects.

To be good stewards of God's gifts, we have become more aware of being eco-friendly in our use of disposable items, substituting reusable items whenever possible. The Council is looking into what we, as a congregation, can do to make that happen in and around our building.

These are but a few of the highlights of this past year at Prince of Peace. None of these accomplishments would be possible without the leadership, support and example of our Staff: Pastor Brett, Guy, and Laura.

Equally important are the extraordinary efforts of our members who continue to volunteer their countless hours of time, as well as their talents and treasure, to continue our mission of doing God's work and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Staff, Council, and members of the Prince of Peace community for your support and contributions to the life of our congregation. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Council President this year. You are all truly a blessing from God.

Robert Price

2019 Council President

Council Retreat 2019



The Council Retreat is a working retreat and is scheduled the month after the new council members have been elected. The Church Council gathers for a Saturday to discuss policies, changes, and future plans for the ministries of the church. This is a time to get to know each other and envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the ministry of the congregation.



ADDICTIONS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND HEALTH MINISTRY

Members: Ann Orcutt, Pauline Ahern, and Lori Hartley

2019 was another interesting and active year for this ministry. Here are the highlights:

- Conducted one socks, hats, and gloves collection for Faces of Change in Camden, New Jersey. They are very appreciative of our support of their outreach to people suffering from homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse issues. The collection provided over 120 items.
- Workshop provided by Evesham police Straight To Treatment program during Adult Forum. Focus was on destigmatizing the disease of addiction and offering options for treatment.
- Workshop on Fall Prevention presented by Susan Cohen from Bacharach Rehab. Over 20 people attended and 4 were referred to Bacharach for personalized fall assessments.
- Continued to check and update POP first-aid kits.
- Ann Orcutt attended the initial meeting of the Parish Health Ministry at St Joan of Arc and continues as the POP liaison.
- Researched options and provided information for staff CPR training.
- Maintained the Ministry's bulletin board and provided announcements of important resources and activities in the community related to health, mental health, and substance abuse.



Future plans include:

- Additional workshops provided by Bacharach Rehab focusing on physical health issues.
- Workshop provided by Wayne Grant from Thrivent on financial health.
- Continuing support to Faces of Change ministry.
- Coordination of support to church members in need of assistance during health issues.

Our ministry greatly appreciates all the wonderful support we have gotten from the congregation.

We welcome new members to our ministry at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hartley

BUILDING COMMUNITY

All Are Welcome, All Are Welcome In This Place

First, thanks for everyone on the team: Bob Price, Irene Borchert, Link Hansen, Nancy Bacon and Pam Hann.

In 2019, we planned and executed THREE events!

Our annual Community Picnic, held in June was our best yet!(many comments agreed!!) Good food, great people!

In September, we once again had a booth at the Marlton Harvest Fest and gave our friends and neighbors our parking lot for the day! Thank you to everyone who painted stones to give away and for your help setting up, working and manning the parking lot.

New this year, in October, we held a Chili Cook-off and Family Game Night. Good food, great fellowship and lots of laughter! Hope to do this again in 2020!!

We are looking forward to 2020 and welcome ALL to consider joining our team to plan these and other events to join together-as a community within and without our wall at POP.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve!!

Catherine Salender, BC Team Leader

YAH report for 2019

The YOUNG AT HEARTS group - better known as YAHs is a fellowship of men and women age 50+ that enjoy getting together socially. The Young-at-Heart group met during 2019. We enjoyed fellowship together throughout the year. Movies, luncheons, covered dishes as well as a pool party and working together with Building Community Team on the Chili Cook-off in October. We helped put together the annual Ash Wednesday luncheon and joined with friends at Lord of Life.

We have lots of fun together at Game Day, which is now TWICE a month (2nd and last Tuesdays)



Game Day



Evesham Harvest Festival 2019



Chili Cook-off 2019

We grieve the loss of friends this year, especially our beloved Ernie Bareuther. We saw new life come about in the new grandchildren (and great grands!) to many of our members.

If you are 50+ and like to have fun and learn new things, please keep an eye out for upcoming events in 2020!! We would love to have you join us!!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have friends and fun at POP!! Peace, Catherine Salender

CIRCLE LYDIA 2019

Circle Lydia Women's Retreat

Our annual retreat was held on Saturday, March 23 at Prince Of Peace. The Rev. Dale Selover was the facilitator and our topic was "Renewal".

There were 21 women in attendance, and a few "friends" of POP joined us for an inspirational day of song, conversation and meditation.

We shared many experiences in our lives and came away from our day together refreshed and renewed.

We collected Women's Needs for Bridge of Peace. Thank you to Thrivent Action Teams, which helped us with our breakfast and lunch.

Our Retreat for 2020 will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Prince of Peace and is open to all women over 18. We encourage you to invite your friends to join us for a wonderful day to spend with your sisters of faith.

In addition to our Retreat, Circle Lydia has held game, movie and dinner nights. We enjoy spending time with each other as well as serving others.



Circle Lydia Women's Retreat

If you have suggestions for us to host an event or projects, please feel free to contact me.

Sue Rokes, Circle Lydia Coordinator

Circle Lydia Bible Study

A group of ladies meets on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss various stories of the Bible.

Beth Kerr - Coordinator

Circle Lydia Book Group

Do you enjoy reading? Discussing books that you read with other women who have read the same book? Then this book group is for you!! We read all genres of books, including short stories, and poems and all types of authors. The group submits suggestions to vote for reading during the next year.

The meetings are on a monthly basis from September through May or June. We select a lengthier book for the summer. The group takes turns volunteering to hostess, which is optional, and provides a snack along with preparing some conversation starters for the meeting. Sometimes we meet at POP or a local restaurant.

Suzie Rose – Coordinator

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A.

Peace Circle's monthly meetings have been held at Noon on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through June except November when we slide the meeting date so we can fill out name tags to be hung on the Christmas Giving tree by Thanksgiving weekend.

Each month we gather at Noon in the Rainbow Room, bringing our own lunch and enjoying dessert provided by a volunteer member. Generally coffee and water are provided also.

It became our tradition to provide gift items at Christmas and fun Easter "baskets" for girls living at Robin's Nest, located on the Delsea Drive in Glassboro. Robin's Nest is a home for children with unstable family situations. When the girls return to Robin's Nest from holiday visits, we try to provide a little distraction and enjoyment for them with these gifts.



Baskets for Robin's Nest

Over the past several years our circle has taken an entire family from the Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by Social Missions and provided them with gifts. We also assist Social Missions with various projects throughout the year. For example, we package personal care items to be distributed as needed, pack shoe certificates and socks at Easter to be distributed to the needy. Our talents really lie with scissors, wielding them oh so carefully, cutting the hundreds of shapes to be hung on the Christmas Giving Tree, punching holes in the tags and tying the hanging strings. That is an October project. November's job is to write the names, ages, and sizes of recipients on each tag. Every year, in June and December, we have a special luncheon at a local restaurant.

Ash Wednesday Luncheon



Peace Circle plans and hosts the annual Ash Wednesday luncheon in conjunction with YAHS, this year having been our 50th. This luncheon is open to everyone and is an opportunity for anyone who cannot make it to Ash Wednesday evening service to have some fellowship and partake in communion. When the luncheon is over the pastor offers imposition of ashes in the sanctuary for those who wish to participate.

Our thanks again this year to Catherine Salender who has been offering a special prayer or short lesson at the opening of each meeting.

It is with heavy heart I tell you that as of the end of December Peace Circle is disbanding. We are growing smaller and finding we have responsibilities much different than in the past. We will however continue to support Social Missions to get ready for the Christmas Giving tree by cutting out and labeling the hang tags. We are the last of the original Circles.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Fink, Chair

FAMILY EDUCATION

LIBRARY MINISTRY

The POP library continues to be a resource for the members and friends of the congregation. Books are available for all ages and cover a variety of topics, including such subjects as Bible stories, theological studies, and titles that can support individuals and families as they face many of life's ups and downs. Please take a moment to browse the offerings!

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum meets most Sundays in the Rainbow Room from 9:45 to 10:45, where we can bring a cup of coffee or tea to enjoy a variety of topics and presenters. We welcome adults of all ages for learning, fellowship and discussions that help us relate to the issues and concerns that we face as Christians in our world today. Church weekly announcements for publicity and information on topics.

During 2019 some of the following topics were presented by a variety of leaders that For Adult Forum:

- Pastor Bruce Davidson – Personal Pronouns
- Pastor Brett – Love One Another, Racism, Poor People's Campaign, Angels
- Allison Shingleton – Year of No Extra Spending
- Pastor Sarah Liliya
- Scott Rush – The ELCA Genetic Statement, The POP Green Team
- Book discussion led by Sherron Davis – "The Five People You Meet in Heaven"
- Meeting with Discipleship training for several joint events.
- Ripped from the Headlines led by Andy Ruymann
- Evesham Township Police Department – Straight to Treatment
- Kim Syvertsen and members of Congregation Beth Tikvah and St. Joan of Arc discussed partnering for Summer Meals Program
- The Sanchez Family discussed Bridge of Peace

We try to develop a program that is interesting, timely and will generate a lively discussion among those who attend. Bring your coffee and join us!!

Suzie Rose - Coordinator

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Bible Study is the place to find resources designed to help adults grow their faith, refresh their spirit, and equip them for ministry. This study focuses on group reading and discussion of Scripture, branching off in different directions. We typically read a particular book of Scripture over a good number of sessions, sometimes months. Pastor Brett leads this study and has volunteer help with educational videos and topics when he is unable to lead. Thank you to everyone who helps make this a successful learning experience.



*Thursday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am
in the Rainbow Room*

CONFIRMATION

The class of seventh, eighth and ninth graders attended a retreat at Camp Dark Waters where they did activities in a group setting helping each other team build and developed great friendships. Matthew Ott received confirmation in a beautiful service in November. The confirmation program is now comprised of ten students. So far, they have completed service projects such as arranging flowers for the fellowship service, decorating the church for the Christmas season and sorting food for families during the holidays. Students are looking forward to upcoming events throughout the rest of the year.



Matthew Ott's Confirmation



Confirmation Retreat 2019



DISCIPLESHIP PRACTICE

This year Prince of Peace Discipleship Practice continued the family-based education format. Specifically, parents and children attend Discipleship Practice together each Sunday morning. The hope is that parents and children would participate in activities and lessons, which they could then apply during their private worship time at home. To kick off the new year, Pastor Brett and Council members held a "Sundae Funday" ice cream party at the end of August. Beginning in September, Pastor Brett provided instruction on new "opening" and "closing" prayers during Discipleship Practice. Pastor Brett provided parents with the Discipleship Practice format and encouraged each family to volunteer to assist with the weekly teachings. Following last year's successful breakfast practice, Discipleship Practice families now prepare and enjoy "Waffle Sunday" once a month. Our wonderful waffle makers include Lori and Steve Hartley and Barry Ota. Florance Kerber has been working quietly behind the scenes to ensure a smooth waffle experience for all. This event has been very popular and regularly attended by the majority of the Discipleship Practice families. Other impactful events held during Discipleship Practice consisted of music, Advent Wreath creation, and saying "Thank You" to our members with hand-made thank you cards and homemade cookies. (Thank you Allison Shingleton, Debbie McClure and Sharon Elliott.) In December, Discipleship Practice families joined with the ukulele group to sing Christmas carols with the residents of Spring Hill Senior Living. All enjoyed a wonderful time of music and fellowship, cookies and hot chocolate.



'Waffle Makers'

All Saint's Day Event



Impromptu Christmas Pageant



Waffle Sunday



Bird Feeder Family Event

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was once again a great success in 2019! Our theme was "Who is my Neighbor?" There were 80 children in attendance this summer, and every one had a fantastic time. Florance Kerber helped keep us organized, and our amazing volunteers kept everyone safe, well-fed, engaged in learning and fun activities, and of course singing their hearts out! Special thanks to Pastor Brett and Guy ~ VBS would not be the same without your exuberant joy!



Finance Ministry: 2019 Year in Review

Prince of Peace was blessed in 2019 with remarkably generous giving by members of the congregation, its friends, and the wider community. Thanks be to God for your abundant expressions of love, hope, and caring for others, in all its forms, through Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I thank the Financial Audit Team (comprised of Rob Herb, Melinda Ota, Carol Repetto, Melissa Rossner, Catherine Salender, and Walter Stridick) for their excellent, diligent work. They completed the financial audit of POP's 2018 transactions and procedures, and their findings were approved by the Church Council and submitted on time to the New Jersey Synod. Therefore, POP is once again covered by bonding insurance for the new year. The team advised that the Council continue to work on the suggested improvements given in last year's audit and to keep their recommendations in the Council's monthly meeting minutes. In response to one audit recommendation, Prince of Peace received a most generous, anonymous gift of a brand-new drop safe, which is already helping to make our weekly offerings and related paperwork more secure between services. I also thank our Offering Counters (Ginny & Ron Fink, Lee Dennison, Jessie Ebischbach, Ernie Bareuther, Betty Guerin, Carol Kammerer, Bob Kibler, Lynda Lathrop, Larry Laubach, Susan Michaelides, Mark & Judy Mullin, Janet Ruoff, Allison Shingleton, Mary Hansen, Joanne Toback, and Kim Tzap), who did a wonderful job in 2019, counting your generous monetary gifts after Sunday and holiday services and depositing these offerings to the bank. Special thanks to Lynda Lathrop, who stepped in mid-year to learn the ropes and become one of the team!



Some of the POP Money Counters

And heartfelt thanks to Jessie Ebischbach and Ernie Bareuther for their many years being part of the team. Jessie and Ernie each stepped down from their participation during 2019 due to health limitations. We deeply mourn Ernie's passing in late 2019. To each of you counters, your help has truly been appreciated! An important note: We are in need of several additional offering counters to become part of the team, so please consider this opportunity to serve in 2020.

Finally, I express my thankfulness to God for having known Mary Drumheller. In 2012, Mary took over the Financial Secretarial duties for Prince of Peace. Mary worked diligently each week to get the offering and other income records properly recorded. She produced and distributed all of the required income reports periodically and annually, including your Giving Statements. Many of you have known Mary for decades through Prince of Peace. I started to assist Mary about 3 years ago, as her tasks had become more daunting during her illness. I found Mary to be a kind and wonderful teacher, and we became close friends. Over the past 3 years working together, we had lots of ups and downs, questions followed by "ah-ha moments," and many triumphs together, all with the goal of getting the numbers to work out to the penny.



Financial Secretary - "Mary Drumheller"

My favorite thing about working with Mary was, she always made the work fun; she was God's very special blessing to me. I know I speak for the whole congregation when I say, Mary was a treasure to Prince of Peace and she will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dietz, Council Liaison for Finance Ministry

KNITTING & CROCHETING GROUP

Anyone is invited to join us on Wednesdays at noon in the POP Conference Room to knit, crochet, or work on any hand stitching project! We are small but mighty! We completed many projects and sent several boxes of scarves and gloves over to Bridge of Peace in Camden during 2019.

There is a lot of love and laughter that takes place during the making of our projects but knowing that we are helping to provide warmth to others is what is most important. We also helped complete over 40 scarves for the Giving Christmas Tree project. If you are in need of a scarf, hat or gloves (or blanket) let us know – or if you know of an organization that needs items such as these, we will be happy to help.

Submitted by – **Laura Glatz**



Scarves, hats & gloves donated to Bridge of Peace.



JOSEPH'S BLANKETS

Our ministry outreach continues to touch the lives of those in crisis. We were fortunate to have received donations of new yarn as well as cash (from a stranger) to purchase supplies in order to further our efforts. Those little 6" squares make a difference, be assured.



One of the many beautiful blankets.

In 2007 a mustard-seed size idea germinated within a group of women at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We wanted to use our time and talents to reach out to those in need of comfort. But we were all too busy to attend more meetings. We talked a bit and came up with the idea of knitting or crocheting "Prayer Squares" on our own time and then we would get together once every few months to assemble blankets. As we knit or crochet, we pray for those on our personal prayer lists and the congregation's prayer list. When we get together to assemble the blankets, we thank God for all of our blessings and engage in fellowship and friendship. The first year, we had enough squares to assemble 6 very colorful blankets, which were then named Joseph Blankets, after Joseph's Coat of Many Colors.

Now, in 2019, it's hard to remember all of the people who have contributed squares – and impossible to name all who have donated yarn to this project because many donations were anonymous. We thank God for every person who has contributed. Peace be with you, **Penny Jaffe**

PROPERTY MINISTRY - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

2019 Accomplishments

Church Council initiated the "Sustain Campaign" at the beginning of the year to raise funds to upgrade and/or replace existing items for the church building and grounds. The campaign thus far has been a tremendous success, with over \$93,000 of the total \$96,000 goal pledged, and over \$68,000 already received. Of the \$96,000 goal, \$81,000 is dedicated to six capital improvement projects and \$25,000 is reserved for reducing the continuing deficit. The six projects to be completed under the campaign are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Projected Cost</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
1. Sanctuary/Office Rooftop HVAC Unit replacement (2)	\$20,000	\$20,941	Completed Dec. 2019
2. Seal & Restripe Parking Lot	\$9,000	\$8,150	Completed Oct. 2019
3. Replace Windows in original section of church	\$15,500	N/A	Scheduled Spring 2020
4. Replace Wood Siding	\$11,500	N/A	Scheduled Spring 2020
5. Painting Trim, Parking Lot Poles & Church Steeple	\$12,500	N/A	Scheduled Fall 2020
6. Luther Hall Floor Repair	\$2,500	N/A	Scheduled Winter 2020

The HVAC unit replacement was completed under PSE&G's Energy Saver Program which pays for 70% of the total project cost if it is shown that there is a reduction in energy usage upon completion of the upgrades. Since the HVAC upgrade alone would not meet the energy reduction requirements, Tri-State Light & Energy (PSE&G's certified contractor) conducted an energy audit of the building to evaluate where lighting could be replaced with energy-efficient bulbs to lower energy usage. High-usage areas were identified, and existing incandescent and florescent bulbs were replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs. Some areas of the church were not upgraded (Sacristy, bathrooms, storage areas, Mechanical Room, Nursery, and Luther Hall classrooms) since their limited, occasional use did not result in energy savings sufficient to offset the upgrade expense. The lighting upgrades, coupled with the HVAC replacement were completed before Christmas for a total cost of \$69,803, of which PSE&G paid \$48,862, leaving our church to pay only \$20,941. Of course, nothing in life is free; in this case, PSE&G recoups their cost with a monthly surcharge on residential and commercial energy bills, so the church members are paying for the upgrade one way or another.



The parking lot seal coating was originally scheduled for Spring 2020, but with the campaign's initial success, sufficient funds were raised to complete the project this past Fall. In advance of the paving work, our neighbor's sump pump pipe, which discharged overland to a storm sewer drain in the rear parking lot and created icing conditions in the winter, was redirected underground to connect directly into the storm drain. The sump pump

pipe trench repair was then added to the paving contractor's scope of work. The contractor did not offer much advance notice of the work, so the church staff had to scramble to notify all of the community groups and other church visitors of the schedule for closing parking lot areas and entrances. The rear parking lot was done first, and Property Ministry proactively created two temporary handicapped parking spaces in the front lot to replace the ones that were inaccessible in the rear lot. Unfortunately, the paving contractor mistook the temporary handicapped spaces as permanent, and striped the two spaces with blue paint and wheelchair symbols, designating them as being reserved for handicapped parking. The error ended on a positive note as Council decided to keep one handicapped space in the front and convert the other to a handicapped van accessible loading area so that there is now convenient parking for physically-challenged visitors in the front parking area. In addition to the Sustain Campaign projects, Property Ministry has undertaken numerous smaller, less visible projects in the past year to upkeep the church building and grounds. This work is a year-round effort, a brief summary of which is provided below:

- January:** Stored Christmas decorations in attic. Serviced and readied snow removal equipment. Replaced Narthex TV digital timers with manual timers.
- February:** Coordinated tinting of church office windows by contractor to produce one-way viewing. Coordinated chaulking of Narthex skylights by contractor to eliminate leaking. Replaced non-functioning dumpster latch.
- April:** Property Work Day was held to spread over 7 cubic yards of mulch in planting beds, trim shrubs, clean narthex skylights, and plant seasonal flowers. Replaced rotting wood trim on old sanctuary door with PVC trim.
- May:** Purchased and installed new dishwasher in kitchen. Repaired non-functioning Route 70 digital sign.
- June:** Coordinated energy audit by Hutchinson Plumbing, Heating & A/C for Energy Star program funded by the State, which offers discounts for energy improvements if there is a reduction in energy usage upon completion of the upgrades.
- August:** Coordinated Township fire inspection and removed obstructions from building exits.
- September:** Repaired loose and cracked tiles in Copy Room.
- October:** Installed new stainless-steel countertop over dishwasher.
- November:** Property Work Day was held to rake and remove leaves and trim shrubs. Coordinated installation of new sidewalk to Luther Hall rear door and switching of external doors between Luther Hall and Nursery for Food Pantry.
- December:** Began installation of outdoor speakers and wiring in bell tower for playing programmed music. Disassembled two rooftop HVAC units and recycled metal components for which we received \$250. Unpacked Christmas decorations.

These projects were completed in addition to the ongoing building and grounds maintenance which includes cutting grass on a weekly basis during the summer growing season, planting seasonal flowers in foundation beds, performing repairs on lawn maintenance equipment, removing dead and diseased trees, painting, light bulb replacement, winterizing the irrigation system and readying snow removal equipment for the season.



Property Ministry is called upon to perform diverse painting, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and landscaping trades within the church building and its property. We do our best, but help is needed, either with physical labor or monetary donations. The Property Ministry faces the obvious need to draw upon our congregation and fellow ministries for support. We welcome anyone's help at one of our three (3) designated Work Days throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

Property Ministry Chairperson Bruce Easterly, and Council Representative Joe Chiarulli would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Thursday Morning Men's Group volunteers Joe Chiarulli, Bob Davis, Ron Fink, Dick Hutchins, Eric Malmberg, Perry Peloubet, Jill Porter, Tom Rose, Greg Tzap, and Len West, and everyone else who volunteered their services during the Property Work Days. Property Ministry wishes to especially acknowledge and thank Jill Porter for her devotion to maintaining the church cleanliness during days when the cleaning company is not scheduled to work and helping the environment by encouraging recycling, Sharon Anthony for weeding the church grounds, and Tom "Green Thumb" Rose for his dedicated care of the church grounds (especially the Memorial Garden) and for growing prized tomatoes each year.

Faithfully submitted,

Property Ministry



SOCIAL MISSIONS REPORT

Social Missions was blessed, as always, with generous donations from our congregation and our faith partners in the community.

Food Pantry – The food pantry had an exciting year! We consolidated the “pig” pantry and assorted satellite storage areas into the Augsburg and Wittenberg rooms off of Luther Hall. Sturdy commercial shelving was donated for the new location and a new walkway now allows pantry clients to park in the back of the church and wheel a cart with their food out to their car. We also revamped our intake and distribution procedures to be more relational and provide more food (now 5-6 days per visit). We have also set maximum inventory levels so we can alert the congregation of specific needs and transfer excess inventory to Bridge of Peace. The early feedback from clients is they are VERY pleased with the increase in food and it appears that we are serving more clients as well.



The New POP Pantry.



Summer Meal Program - We had a VERY successful year. In addition to winning a \$15,000 grant from the Synod, we increased the number of meals served from 4,000 to almost 5,000! We capitalized on lessons learned the prior year and made the program more user-friendly. Our packing parties and distribution hours were truly an ecumenical affair, with congregants from Christ Presbyterian, St. Joan of Arc, Beth Tikvah, and Nanshan all pitching in to help. A side benefit to the Summer Meals Program is that we have developed a relationship with the Evesham school district nurses, who are helping us better serve those in need in our community. The success of this program has allowed us to win a second grant for next year, worth \$10,000.



Summer Meal 'Packing Party'

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) – We hosted for 7 weeks, providing shelter to 9 families consisting of 12 adults and 20 children. In an exciting development, we kicked off our new partnership with St. Joan of Arc! We now host for two weeks per rotation, with POP providing the volunteers for week 1 and SJA providing them for week 2. It's a significant convenience for our guests as they don't have to move for one week. Our partnership has been so successful that other host churches are now modeling our process. We continue to solicit help from other local faith communities, with Christ Presbyterian, Faith Presbyterian, and Beth Tikvah regularly filling in as meal preparers and social hosts. Midway through the year, there was some concern about IHN's viability as fund raising was lagging and host churches were dropping out. Happily, fund raising has improved, a few new churches have signed on as hosts, and a re-energized Board of Trustees (including our own Scott Rush) has committed to not only continuing IHN's work but expanding it.

Wawa Food Program – We continue to pick up weekly food donations from Wawa. The bulk of the donations go to Bridge of Peace but our IHN guests and pantry clients have benefitted as well. With the renewed strength of our food pantry and a developing network of partners in the community, we are considering picking up a second day of donations.

Bridge of Peace Church (Camden) – We continue to regularly transfer food to their pantry. Frozen food from the Wawa Food Program has made up a significant part of the transfers but, with the new max-min inventory levels in our own food pantry and promises of support from SJA and the business community (thanks to Dr. Lou Persichetti), those transfers should become more substantial in the coming year. POP is also supplying food to their Youth Nights on a regular basis, including the Annual Trunk or Treat which provided food and treats to over 150 people this year.



Pantry Collection from 'ELCA Day of Service'

Backpacks for back to school – We distributed over 130 backpacks with school supplies to local schoolchildren in need, IHN families, food pantry clients, Bridge of Peace, and UrbanPromise. In addition to providing a record number of donations, we are able to continue offering school supplies to our food pantry clients.

School Supplies heading to UrbanPromise!





Thanksgiving Food Packing.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Thanks to the generosity of our congregants, we were able to provide holiday meals for over 50 families.

Christmas Baskets and Gifts – We provided food and gifts to a record number of families this year. As usual, our own congregation was very generous but St. Joan's contributed \$600 worth of gift cards so we could meet the needs of some last minutes additions from the Evesham school district. We served 265 people in 56 families, supplying them with gifts and food.

Purple Heart/Veterans – We continue to coordinate regular clothing drives, which produce significant donations to these veterans' charities.

Easter Shoes Campaign was changed to **"EASTER GIVING for CHILDREN IN NEED"** – We modified our annual Easter giving campaign to reflect the bankruptcy of Payless and the shifting needs of families in the area. Since some families may need underwear or coats or clothing, instead of shoes, we purchased Walmart gift cards to give the receiving families maximum purchasing power and the most flexibility. We collected a record number of donations and served a record number of families.

Liberia Students – We sponsored 171 students this year, supplying over \$17,000 in tuition payments to support them. Sixteen students will graduate from high school this year, due to the sustained support of this congregation. Kudos to all who participate in this ministry for your very real contribution to the futures of these students!

Environmental Stewardship – Prince of Peace already had already undertaken a number of "green" initiatives, like recycling and composting. However, there was a strong interest in doing more. So, the congregation created its own Green Team, modeled after the team at St. Matthew's. The team will be focused on education and activities in our own Prince of Peace congregation. A couple of initial meetings have been held, with hopes for more sustained activity in 2020.

The congregation has also joined the effort to form an area GreenFaith Circle, which will be focused more on environmental advocacy on a state, federal, and global level. Several meetings have been held and the group will elect officers and ratify a mission statement at its January meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Prince of Peace. Once these initial formative tasks are complete, we will recruit additional faith communities to the Circle.

The Social Missions Ministry Committee would like to thank all our team members, our volunteers, our interfaith partners, and our generous supporters for their contributions to our outstanding success in making a difference in the lives of our neighbors this year.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The purpose of Worship Ministry is to keep weekly worship running smoothly, be actively involved in decisions made to change (improve) our worship experience, evaluate worship experience, and provide an appropriate worship environment for each season and for special services. Here is a review of our worship year.

LENT

We took on the "Bishop's Challenge" to participate as a congregation in the "Global Barnyard". We decided to involve the children, and began by creating a farm environment using a Fisher Price Farm set and other props representing farming to use as a backdrop for children's sermons. The children helped to collect donations from the congregation. We met the Bishop's Challenge with great success.

Mid-week Lenten services saw more children in attendance. We provided them with art materials and let them participate in set-up and clean-up. We also had a participant from the community who learned of the services by reading the post on our sign. He enjoyed being with us and we were so glad to have him.



Bishop's Challenge "Elca the Cow"

A new service, The Anointing of Hands, was introduced the 5th Sunday of Lent and was well received.

Tuesday Mid-week Lenten Services Soup Supper



Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew leading a Saturday Night service.

PENTECOST (1ST SUNDAY)

Small red flags were purchased and displayed beside our sign on Rt 70. The large flags were also displayed out front, and some new banners in the sanctuary. The youth Sunday presentation on the same day added to the feeling of celebration.

ADVENT

The families assisting in the lighting of the Advent Candles were given a microphone this year, which helped the congregation to hear and enjoy the presentation.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve saw the return of the star mobile, which was missed last year. We also saw a rise in attendance at the 5:00 service!

EPIPHANY (1ST SUNDAY)

OTHER SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Reformation included a special litany, and we used the red flags to celebrate reformation for the first time.

All Saints Day was made more meaningful by the use of the memorial ribbons created by our members. More were added this year. Another new addition was the invitation to light a candle in memory of a loved one.



Christmas Eve 5 pm Service



A special Saturday night service, with the Nafshanu congregation, celebrating Pentecost and the Jewish day of Shavout. The two celebrations are closely related.



Agape Service



Pet Blessing Service



Walk to the Cross "Great Friday Service"



Scout Sunday



ELCA DAY OF SERVICE

The service was followed by a luncheon during which people were invited to decorate canvas bags which they would return to the church full of food for our pantry.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

We decided that our Busy Boxes, to be used by children during the sermon in worship, needed to be updated. We cleaned, labeled and refilled the boxes with new materials, and bought books for older children. Friend of POP Dave Kerr built a movable cart to place them in. We placed the cart in the Narthex, where it is easily accessible, resulting in more children using the materials.

The Council requested new "Guiding Principal" banners for the sanctuary. Thank you to Toby Jo Caven for her wonderful creativity!

GOALS MET

The sound system problems were seen to and solved, thanks to former member Steve Kerr for offering his expertise in this situation.

Our weekly attendance is showing a slight rise!

All of these things happen because we have a network of volunteers that help make our weekly worship run smoothly and provide the appropriate environment and decoration for special Sundays. We are grateful to all of them. But we could use more! If you are looking for a way to serve, consider being a worship volunteer or a worship ministry member. Anyone who is interested in joining us can contact me, Beth Kerr, or speak to Pastor Brett.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Kerr, Ministry Chairperson

Email: bethdavek@verizon.net

church mail box 148



Busy Box Holder



New Banners for the Guiding Principals.



Graduating High School Senior 'Blanket Service'

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - ANNUAL REPORT 2019

But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress.

Psalms 59:16

This past year has been one of growth and success. We kept our groups intact and added a new group. We reinstated a Cherub Choir for our 4, 5 and 6 year olds. It has been many years since we have been able to successfully have a group for this age group. Thanks to the interest and support of our parents, this has been possible. Our Children's Music Ministry (2nd – 6th grades) was renamed Jubilation Choir in the fall and they, too, have been a wonderful group with whom to work. Again, thanks to the support of our parents, this group is possible.

Many choirs and individuals have helped to shape our Music Ministry in 2019. Among them: Senior Choir, Gospel Choir, Peals of Praise, Sounds of Glory, YAH's Ringers, Chorale, our Ukulele Group, Jubilation Choir (singing & ringing), Cherub Choir and Festival Choir. Individuals sharing their gifts as soloists, in duets, small ensembles or accompanying a choir were: David & Lisa Ahern, Annette Burke, Max Castner, Chase Cataldo, Toby Jo Caven, Jo Ann Cubberley, Mark & Tamara Duffy, Sharon Elliott, Margot Hansen, Phillip Hansen, Laura Kearney, Marilyn Keith, Aidan Kennedy, Kiera Kennedy, Lynn Kennedy, Florance Kerber, Beth Kerr, Karin Krueger, Greg Palmer, Elizabeth Reimer, Catherine Salender, Faith & Nicholas Sirdashney, Kim Syvertsen, Kim Wilcox, and Debbie Zellers.

Some musical highlights of the year:

- How Far Is It to Bethlehem arranged by Beth Kerr with Kiera Kennedy, soprano and Chase Cataldo, Lynn Kennedy & Florance Kerber, flutes
- Gospel Choir singing African Psalm with Florance Kerber on flute
- Senior Choir singing Beautiful Savior, Greg Palmer on organ and Florance Kerber on flute
- On Easter Sunday, our Festival Choir and orchestra performed Haydn's The Heavens Are Telling (with trio: Tamara Duffy, David Ahern, Mark Duffy). Also John Rutter's The Lord Is My Shepherd with Phillip Hansen on saxophone was presented.
- Our Gospel Choir performed Robert Ray's Gospel Mass under the direction of Jo Ann Cubberley with Lincoln Hansen on piano.
- Sopranos Laura Duffy and Kiera Kennedy sang Andrew Lloyd Webber's Pie Jesu accompanied by Margot Hansen on saxophone as part of Youth Sunday
- Jubilation Choir (2nd – 6th graders) and Senior Choir jointly sang Joseph Martin's As a Little Child accompanied by Debbie Zellers.
- Our Festival Choir and orchestra performed Ralph Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols
- As part of our Christmas Cantata, our congregation and orchestra sang Do You Hear What I Hear
- The season of Advent saw all but one of our choirs participate in worship or a special event.



Jubilation Choir (2nd – 6th graders) and Senior Choir

On a personal note, 2019 has been a year filled with love, joy, sadness, loss and grief. I cannot remember a year that has had so much loss. Some are people whose names you will know from Prince of Peace: Frank Dickel, Charlotte Syvertsen, Pastor Brett's mother LeaAnn Bishop, Jessica Korhumel, Louisa Smalls, Richard Colfer, Jim Worrell, Elizabeth Orth, Dan Fish and Ernie Bareuther, several of whom were supporters or participants in our Music Ministry over the years. Others include people from my own life, chief among them, my brother-in-law, John Doherty. Through all of it there has been love, care, support and many, many prayers. God sustains us with unfailing love and is our refuge, a place of promise with faith in what joy awaits us all. And that is something to sing about, to ring about and to offer praise through song to our God. And offer praise we did with so many voices and instruments; together we lifted our collective song to God all year long. With smiles, with tears, with joy, with sorrow, with hands clasped in prayer, we continued forward. Life has its many challenges but never do I believe that God sends us sorrow or gives us tests. In the same way a parent must eventually send a child out into the world, unable to protect them from difficulties so God sends us through life. Yet in the same way a parent will enfold a child in love during tough times, so, I believe, God enfolds us in times of trial and sorrow. We see and feel this through our family and friends who care for us; they are God's embrace. We are loved...always! This Prince of Peace community of faith is an extraordinary example of how to be our best selves. Perfect? Not at all but ultimately caring, loving and supportive.

I am blessed and sustained by Jo Ann Cubberley, who for 33 years has been by my side working to build and maintain our Music Ministry and who calms me through difficult times; by Pastor Brett and Laura Glatz who, together, are a constant support both professionally and personally; by Michelle Hack who, despite her own struggles with Ménière's disease, continues to teach and grow our Ukulele group; by Lincoln Hansen who shares with joy his gift of accompanying; by Beth Kerr who shepherds our Faithful Flutes; by Greg Palmer who is a rock of reliability during our Festival Choir offerings; by Elizabeth Reimer who with humor and great musicianship conducts our Prince of Peace Chorale and who stepped in as soloist at the last minute for our Christmas Cantata; by our Music Patron who loyally gives support to our ministry both financially and with words of encouragement and, finally, by every single person who offers their talents and sustains our Music Ministry throughout the year to the enrichment of our worship. I thank you and I thank God for you.

May God continue to bless us and guide us to be our best selves. May we grow the church, serve our community and support one another through times of struggle and rejoice together in times of triumph.

Soli Deo Gloria ~ To God alone be the glory

Respectfully submitted,

Guy W. Kirk

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

This year was an unending roller-coaster ride and I'm glad to get off it. I prefer merry-go-rounds over roller-coasters. This was a very emotional year and without the calls, hugs, cards and words of encouragement, I'm not sure I could have managed. Trying to stay upbeat and positive was definitely a challenge for me. Focusing on God's love and the hope of new things to come, helped.

A new poster sign was hung on the office wall a few months ago and I read it everyday: *'When you enter this office you are: amazing, wonderful, tough, kind, important, loved, cared for, safe, brave, wonderful, respected, smart, special, extraordinary, strong, understood, super ~ you are the reason I am here.'*

"You are the reason I am here." For sure!

I think that my job is to make things go as smoothly as possible even in the confusion of chaos. I do my best, and that is all I can do. I am so thankful to be here and to do what I do. Thank you for entrusting me with this position and allowing me to share the gifts God gave me.

The job description for the POP Office Administrator varies greatly; from hostess of the church to the Information Technology (IT) contact person, from calendar/room organizer to bathroom cleaner, to emotionally supporting those in need to handling stressful situations in a heartbeat. I have many things going on at one time and have situations come up every minute. I am so thankful God uses my gifts to help keep things running.



One night last winter, I got a terrible call. I stayed on the phone with a mother who just had the worst possible news a mother could get. We talked on and off throughout the night – I answered every call and every text. It was incredibly heartbreaking but I was so thankful I was there – a voice in the night, my heart heard her heart. I've given more hugs this year to people who have lost loved ones, lost beloved pets, who are making life-changing decisions and others who are fighting illnesses. I am so thankful God uses me to give support to those in need.

More of the things I am thankful for at POP:

- **Pastor Brett and Guy Kirk** – their friendship, support, laughter and love are vital to my days.
- **Jill Porter** – her friendship and care for the church is immeasurable.
- **The Thursday Morning Group** – their constant upkeep for the church is endless and so appreciated!
- **The Church Council** – a wonderful caring group of people who offer a thousand tiny, daily givings.
- **The Congregation** and their generous nature of time, money, and spiritual gifts which changes lives! Also their constant understanding – that I am only human and I am doing my best.
- **The AWESOME** Volunteers who make everything happen!
- **POP outreach programs** – we are making a difference and it is wonderful to see!
- **POP Community Groups** – they are so grateful to the people of POP for allowing them a safe place to meet. Their gratitude is humbling.
- For **HONEY** (my puppy) – who is my continual emotional support as well as everybody else's! Honey says thank you for supplying her with treats and loving attention!



To end my report, I would like to encourage everyone to share their gifts, no matter how little their acts may seem to them. One of my favorite quotes, **"Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds, and learn to find Him there."** ~ A.W. Tozer.

Best wishes for a better New Year! ~ Laura Glatz

Pastoral Letter for Annual Meeting

by Pastor Brett

January 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

While meeting with someone this year they made the following comment about our congregation, **“Even though we are getting smaller in number we are growing in love.”** What wonderful and insightful comment! Indeed, we are growing in love; not just among ourselves but among those in our community as well. This year we have seen significant growth in our local inter-faith relationships, our feeding ministries, our care and support of one another, and in our children’s music programs.

Two Jewish Congregations, two Protestant and one Roman Catholic congregation have joined us in accomplishing our summer meals program for local hungry children enabling us to serve over 1,000 more meals than last year totally over 5,000 meals. We are excited to see how these strengthened relationships will blossom this summer. Our partnership with St Joan’s Roman Catholic parish has afforded us the ability to add an additional three weeks a year to host homeless families here at POP through IHN (Inter-faith Hospitality Network.) We continue to work collaboratively with other congregations during our host weeks for this program. In less than two weeks sixteen people from POP will join twenty-eight from Congregation Beth Tikvah as we travel together to Israel on an amazing inter-faith trip. I invite your prayers for those of us who will be traveling and those of you who will continue serving in our ministries here at home while we are away.

This summer we saw again the expansion of our feeding ministry as we expanded both the size and scope of our food pantry enabling us to serve more people with more abundance. Thank you to each of you who continue to support our life-giving feeding ministries.

During Lent last year you may remember our young people who lead us in “The Bishop’s World Hunger Cow Challenge” helping us to raise \$4,606 from this challenge alone.

I have time and again heard from our members how grateful they are to have received life-giving support from individuals and groups within the congregation during times of difficulty.

If you have been a regular worshiper this year I am certain that your heart was lifted not only by our regular music ministries but especially this year by the revitalization of our children’s music program.

Indeed, worship attendance has gone down over the last several years here at POP but last year it did actually go up slightly. Friends, it is important to understand that as the times change so must the gauge by which we measure “success” in church life. We ought not to only measure the vitality of a congregation by worship statistics but by the quality of our ministry and its accordance with the mission of the Lord Jesus. Another fact, is that we continue to have more and more people (who are not always in worship) join with us in loving service to our neighbors. **While it is most certainly true that we are growing in love I would also say that we are not so much experiencing a decline in size but rather a redistribution of participation in the body of Christ.** ²⁸

Last year there was a radical cut back in the Budget of almost 20k. This year we have ended the budget year in the black by over 5k. This is awesome! Hence, the Congregation Council is proposing to add back some funds to certain ministries.

We are so thankful for the wonderfully generous response of giving to the **Sustain Capital Improvement Campaign**. Please see the Property Ministry Report specific project updates.

This has been a full year for me personally, emotionally, and spiritually. I wanted to say thank you again for your fantastic support of me following my mother's death. The many deaths I have encountered this year has affected me in ways I am still uncovering.

One of the things that I have uncovered is that I need to change how I take care of myself. This is the first time that I have felt burnout so acutely since serving at Prince of Peace.

If I am to serve Christ's Church as a whole, grounded and filled leader I must be very diligent and intentional about creating and guarding, time and relationships wherein I can be renewed.

This requires support from both inside and outside the congregation. Prior to Pastor Overcash's retirement we each had at least two times a month when we had two days off in a row, however, since his retirement, I have had one time a month with two consecutive days off (Friday and Saturday – by having a supply pastor one Saturday a month.) Therefore, after consultation with my support groups in and outside the congregation I have determined that it is essential for me to have two sequential days off much more often. Therefore, the first, second, fourth and fifth weeks of the month I will take Mondays and Tuesdays off, which also are the same days that Marvin has off. The third week of the month I will take Monday and Saturday off, affording me one weekend day a month to be able to gather with friends who have Saturdays off; as well as have appointments and host a Bible study that Tuesday night.

I appreciate your support as I work towards creating greater self-care for myself and ultimately for us all.

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Brett