

A look at our Ministries and the impact they had on our church family and surrounding community.



WHAT
A
YEAR
2021
DID YOU KNOW?



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church welcomes all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socioeconomic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. We welcome all without regard to where you are on your personal faith journey, whether you are a life-long Lutheran, you come from another faith tradition, you are doubting, or whether you have no faith practice at all. **Our unity is in Christ, who embraces all.**

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.

2020-2021 POP COUNCIL

PRESIDENT – Walter Stridick

VICE PRESIDENT & STEWARDSHIP – Allison Arber Shingleton

SECRETARY & FAMILY EDUCATION – Kim Syvertsen

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE – Alex Groff *

HELATHY CARE MINISTRY – Lorraine Hoilien

BUILDING COMMUNITY – Beth Gebhart

SOCIAL MISSIONS – Josh Groff

FINANCE – Mindy Grant *

PROPERTY – Robert Herb *

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Michael Parker *

**Noted Council Members who will have completed their term – Thank you!*

Pastor – Brett W. Ballenger / **Director of Music** – Guy W. Kirk / **Office Administrator** – Laura Glatz



Greetings Members and Friends of Prince of Peace,

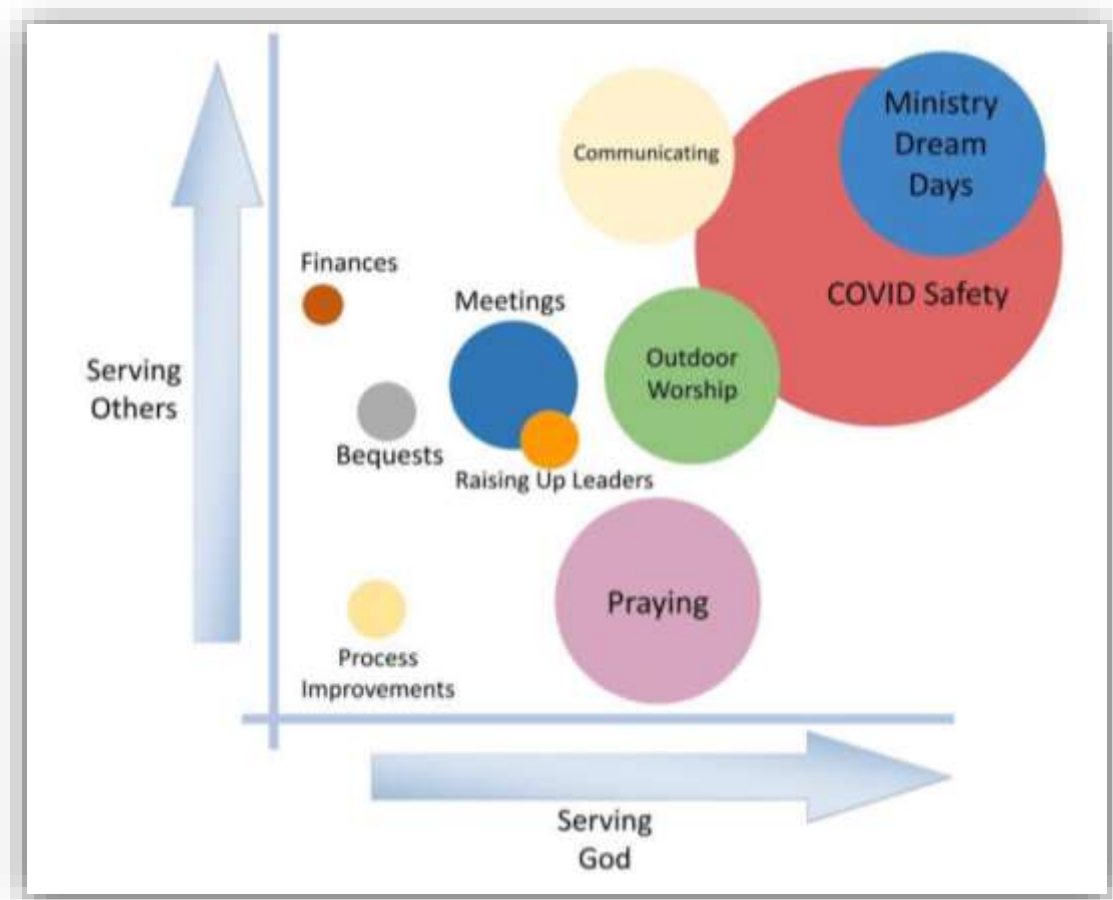
As we journey into our seventh decade of existence, I pray that we continue to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit to serve as disciples of Jesus, empowered by God's extravagant grace, growing in faith, serving in love, and living in joy.

From the picture below, I hope you can clearly see how I've spent my time, over the last year, serving you as Prince of Peace Council President. Simply put, my actions are shown as serving others while serving God. The size of the circle is proportional to the amount of time spent on each action.

I am blessed by your continued support of this great faith community and I offer my appreciation to everyone in their effort to serve God as good stewards of His creation.

Peace be with you all.

Walter Stridick
Council President, 2021



PRINCE OF PEACE - 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.

"Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son."

~ Acts 20:28

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know Prince of Peace is blessed by hundreds of people, congregants, residents of our community, and strangers alike, willing to give their time, their talents, and their worldly possessions to support our ministries?
- Did you know that often, devoting my time to God through the ministries and people of POP, is the BEST part of my week and HIGHLIGHT of my day. Brings me happiness, a sense of accomplishment, and closer to the Holy Spirit.
- Did you know the Prince of Peace Safety Team has collectively spent over 100 hours in 2021 discerning how best to keep families, all the people of our congregation, our community, and God's creation safe and healthy during this pandemic?
- Thank you to the Covid Safety Team (Rob Herb, Karen Kramer, Jill Porter, Bob Price, Brother Brett and myself) that meet regularly to help sift through mountains of data and information to help advise the congregation council as to the safest ways for us to gather during this time.

"Our church council has worked tirelessly and has allowed our congregation to continue to worship and serve. My thanks and admiration for all the time and effort they put into their positions of leadership."

~ Florance Kerber



Social Missions Food Basket Helpers

**THANK
YOU!**



Vacation Bible School Kitchen Helper

Building Communities Ministry Description: Create more opportunities for members and friends to deepen relationships and connections with others in the congregation and expand our connections with the larger community outside the church.

**“For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.” ~ Matthew 18:20**

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Women’s book club met over zoom throughout the year to discuss a variety of books.
- Mary Magdalene Egg Hunt. The youth hid the eggs for the kids to find.
- Young-at-Heart group met to play games. They have a wonderful time and welcome anyone who wants to join.
- Had a booth at Evesham Harvest Festival – which allowed us to share information about the church.
- Held a book drive with Congregation Nafshenu. We collected 1,172 children’s books for the BookSmiles program. Additionally, we donated several boxes of books from the Church library.

Thank you to all those who coordinated Building Community groups and activities. Irene Borchert, Bob Price, Lincoln Hansen, and all those who helped with the Harvest Festival-whether designing stones, packing bags, working the parking lot and booth. We can’t do it without you! And our community of YAH’s in keeping connected and enjoying ourselves! Thanks to Suzie Rose for organizing the monthly book club.

Hopefully, 2022 will allow us to once again have our Community Picnic in the Spring along with an outdoor movie night.



Confirmation Class helped prepare for the Egg Hunt.



Church family & Community Egg Hunt.



Game Day under the tent.



POP Booth at Evesham Harvest Festival



*“Thank you soo much for all
of the wonderful books! All of
the children and their families
loved them!” BookSmiles*

Health Ministry: Create an environment of understanding and acceptance of people with addiction and mental health issues while generating awareness of programs and support groups that already exist for people struggling with these issues and their families. **Health Support Ministry:** Develop a new ministry area that provides services, education and support to those experiencing issues around health and wellness and those caring for others with chronic health care needs.

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” ~ Philippians 2:4

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Sending notes & calling church families.
- Joseph Blanket Ministry.
- Meal Makers & car rides when needed.
- A couple of online forums with a Health Care Specialist – Karen Kramer.
- Providing and Coordination Vaccine Appointments.
- PoP Little Library coordination & Installation.

Thank you to all those who coordinated Healthy Ministry Events: Ann Orcutt, Lorraine Hoilien, Allison Arber, Lori Hartley, Laura Glatz, Bob Price, George King, Ida Miller, Lisa Grant, Sharon Elliott and Karen Kramer. Thank for sending cards, making soups, driving people to their doctor appointments, researching and sharing Health Care Covid Information, helping making vaccine appointments, dropping off worship service materials, knitting blankets and delivering blankets, and so much more!



POP Little Library & Volunteers.



Soup Delivery - thanks Sharon Elliott!



Joseph Blanket Ministry.

Dear Joseph's Blanket team: We are so grateful for the beautiful blanket for my loved one. It is such a comfort to her and she was so touched to receive it. She said she will treasure it always.
My heartfelt thanks,
Carol Rineman

Family and Education Ministry: Create a network of services that support families at all stages of life and expand our Christian Education Programs to better engage children, youth and adults in the ongoing process of becoming disciples of Jesus.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” ~ Colossians 3:16

DID YOU KNOW?

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Discipleship Practice met online and outdoors both at the church and at Black Run Preserve this past year in effort to provide the greatest safety and engaging learning opportunities.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study was held outdoors under the tent, moved indoors, and is now on ZOOM. Women's Bible meet on ZOOM once a month.
- The Discipleship Practice Ministry Team created innovative Christ and creation centered curriculum for each week for their program called “Divine Encounter.” Each week, no matter the weather, in the Black Run Preserve we experienced various ways our God of life encounters us. The creation (water, rain, trees, toads, frogs, birds, deer, spiders, and plants, to name just a few) and our own experiences served as a springboard into the scripture and to greater learnings about life and faith. we observed changes in nature over time and through the seasons, and a family of deer ran past our group.
- During our Lenten return to Zoom, our theme was Encountering the Good News of the Reign of God: A Turning of Mind and Heart.
- Families received a Lenten Bag filled containing a devotional, a Lenten Map filled with activities for families to do together, connected with pen pals, and completed a portion of the church-wide giant art project.
- Family and Education Ministry created special online Lenten and Advent programs for our families.



Discipleship Practice at Black Run Preserve



Lenten Art Project 2021



Advent Wreath Making



Vacation Bible School

More DID YOU KNOW?

- The Great Friday Walk to the Cross, held outside was a wonderful learning experience for our children.
- The Mary Magdalene Egg Hunt brought out both confirmands and discipleship practice children for a great egg hunt.
- The 'Blanket Blessing Service' was held outside for our Graduating High School Seniors? Seniors also received 'Garden Flags' at their home to help them celebrate!
- Vacation Bible School was held outdoors this year. Twenty-five campers and twelve youth volunteers had a great time learning about Loving Kindness, while twenty of our adults led the learning experience. Thanks to Guy, Laura, and Brother Brett for their ongoing support of this important opportunity for our children.
- Ten of our children celebrated First Holy Communion this year? Thank you to Toby Jo Caven for creating the bible covers for the First Communion Students.
- Four young men were confirmed and enjoyed a day retreat at Camp Dark Waters with the other confirmation students.



First Communion Service



Blanket Blessing Service

This past year and a half has been a trying time for all of us and I am indebted to so many people at Prince of Peace Church.

I'm in awe of so many of the women of this congregation who always step forward when assistance is needed. Whether it be helping with council, Summer Meals, the Food Pantry, VBS, or any of the other ministries, they help with lots of positive energy and a smile. A special shout out to Kim Syvertsen and Sharon Elliott - I'm recalling the days of Zoom VBS (2020) and tropical VBS (2021). The countless hours of planning and actual occurrence of VBS was made possible by Pastor Brett and the many VBS Warriors (teachers, adult volunteers, teen volunteers) who gave so much of themselves and enabled the kids to enjoy a fun time while learning about our God and His world. I have to admit that I had my doubts that we could even accomplish getting VBS off the ground these past two years, but thanks to many people in our congregation, we were able to! ~ Florance Kerber



Confirmation Service



Confirmation Retreat



Confirmation Retreat

Property Ministry: The Property and Grounds Ministry Team is charged with maintaining the integrity and functionality of the church building, its grounds, and all operating equipment.

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” ~ Acts 4:32

DID YOU KNOW?

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Installed 4 iWave ionizers for air purification in the Sanctuary and the Office Area as well as cleaned HVAC ductwork (work performed by Hutchinson Plumbing & Heating). Property Ministry coordinated and supervised work. The cost was donated by a generous parishioner.
- Constructed rock retaining wall at steep slope behind sanctuary (work performed by Axten's Nursery). Property Ministry coordinated and supervised work.
- Constructed recycling container enclosure concrete pad and fence outside Food Pantry entrance (work performed by Well-Formed Concrete & Alenco Fence). Property Ministry excavated enclosure area, installed drainage pipe, coordinated and supervised work, and landscaped around enclosure when completed.
- Reconstructed outside steps at Luther Hall exit – Cooper St. side (work performed by Well-Formed Concrete). Property Ministry excavated enclosure area and coordinated and supervised work.
- Installed combination lock for Food Pantry entrance (work performed by Evesham Lock & Safe). Property Ministry coordinated and supervised work.



Rock Retaining Wall 2021



Pantry Combo Lock



Mulch Delivered



New Pantry Shelves

"I cannot say enough wonderful things about the POP Property Folks. They are always available to help take care of any issues or needs we may have. Their response to our needs are always immediate and prompt.

Their tireless effort in keeping the church building and the grounds in not only good shape, but beautiful as well is so appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who takes care of us inside the building and out!"

Laura Glatz

More DID YOU KNOW?

- Spread 10 cubic yards of mulch in Spring.
- Ordered, assembled and installed 15 metal storage racks for Food Pantry and side Office.
- Moved bookshelves and furniture in Library to facilitate painting.
- Faithfully cut the lawn throughout growing season.
- Planted flowers and maintained weed-free landscaping beds.
- Cleared sidewalks of snow and spread salt for deicing during winter season.
- Reviewed plans, held meetings and coordinated with Township and Church Council regarding potential Township acquisition of a rear portion of the church property for proposed Village Green park.
- Prepared design sketches for relocation of Food Pantry.



The Klos Library Renovation – 2021

Thanks to the Memorials Funds given in honor of Kristen Malmberg.

Social Missions: Provide services and support to those who are struggling to ensure basic human needs for themselves and their family.

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

~ Galatians 5:13

DID YOU KNOW?

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- The food pantry served 1,108 families this year (2,911 adults and 1,649 children, approximately 95,760 meals). We have 40 plus amazing and wonderful volunteers who keep our pantry running, and we are so grateful! Volunteers come from Prince of Peace, St. Joan of Arc, and Congregation Beth Tikvah.
- The Summer Meals Program served 234 children this summer, totaling 2,340 meals throughout the summer! Over 20 volunteers, including our own youth volunteers, packed the meals in record-breaking time and have lots of fun in the giving!
- For our backpack and school supply drive we collected, organized and distributed over 50 backpacks along with an abundance of school supplies to Urban Promise and local schools.
- The congregation covered tuition for 182 school children this year in Liberia through God's Precious Children. These tuition payments totaled over \$18,000! We believe this year's participation was the highest year yet, and our congregation continues to be the leading congregational partner in the program.



Food Packing Volunteers

"The Food Pantry is set up to help those who are in need, sometimes not just for food. Sometimes the volunteers are offering toothbrushes, feminine products and even a shoulder to lean on when it seems the world can be a very tough place. I haven't been helping long in this ministry, but I can tell the caring and concern evident in everyone from the people who pick the items and load up the bags to the people who greet those in the community coming to receive those bags.

~ Cindy Page

More DID YOU KNOW?

- We collected and distributed 32 food baskets at Thanksgiving this year.
- This year we were able to return to providing actual Christmas gifts to local families. As usual, Prince of Peace was very generous in stepping up to this challenge, and we were able to distribute food baskets and/or Christmas gifts to 42 families this year.
- Social Missions collects and delivers soda pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House which are then recycled and the proceeds support the children and families served at the House
- We remain in partnership with Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality) the only sheltering program in Burlington County that focuses on keeping families together and turns none away.



Thanksgiving Basket Packing

"This year, life at work got very busy and I had to step away from helping out at POP. Mid-summer, my spirit felt off kilter and after thoughtful prayer, I realized it was because I wasn't connected in any of our ministry work. I reached out to the food pantry folks, and they quickly got me into the volunteer rotation. From the first night back on the schedule, my heart knew this was exactly where I was to be. I felt such a loving connection with our guests; they lifted me with their friendly welcome as we chatted in the parking lot. I am thankful that our church and community is so compassionate and that we do our best to feed our neighbors in the most loving way we can.

~ Allison Arber Shingleton



Summer Meal Packing



*Soda Pop Tabs
for Ronald McDonald House*



Holiday Basket Packing

Worship & Music Ministry: Provides services and support to the Pastor and the Director of Music by maintaining worship books, vestments, paraments, communion vessels, candles, bread, wine, flowers, seasonal needs and décor. This ministry helps provide worship education, providing musical opportunities for the community, staying aware of liturgical trends and concerns within the synod, the ELCA, and among ecumenical partners.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”

~ Colossians 3:16

DID YOU KNOW?

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Altar Flower Team & Dedications returned with inside worship services – Thank you Lynne Kyriacos and Sharon Elliott for helping organize this service. The sign-up is now online for the Flowers and Eternal Candle.
- We have continually provided opportunities for people to worship in a variety of ways this past year from weekly printed booklets for those at home, downloadable booklets, online gatherings via zoom, outdoor and indoor in the sanctuary. Thanks to all who helped set up and put away items to make these worship experiences happen.
- We are thankful for our Banner Handlers & Creators: Nancy Pollock who has made many Baptismal Banners over the last 20 years (Nancy has decided to retire this year past year.). And Toby Jo Caven who creates all the Worship Banners that grace the sanctuary walls throughout the church calendar year. Toby Jo also creates the Bible Covers for the second graders. We are grateful for you and thank you for sharing your God given time and talents!
- We continued to have our faithful friend, Betty Wagner, help decorate the narthex following the church seasonal calendar. Many hours go into each and every detailed scene.

thank you



Baptismal Banners - Nancy Pollock



*Narthex Seasonal Displays -
Betty Wagner*



Worship Banners – Toby Jo Caven

More DID YOU KNOW?

- We had 2 families transfer to Prince of Peace this past year.
- We celebrated 6 Baptisms.
- We had 12 new families joined the congregation this year.
- Pastor created a special video driven Lenten program that was supported by take home bags offering a variety of activities.
- We had offered our outdoor space to help celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the New Jersey Synod's Bosnia International Servant Trip with a concert by Larry Olson.
- We offered an 'Animal Blessing' to the community and POP Family.

We'd like to thank Prince of Peace for offering its lovely outdoor worship space last June for a concert celebrating the 20th anniversary of the New Jersey Synod's Bosnia International Servant Trip.

It was a joyful day to share stories, music from Larry Olson, and celebrate this ministry, especially amid the pandemic, which has forced the cancellation of international servant travel. Thank you for the warm welcome.

Cindy Henry, team leader, and the Bosnia Leadership team



Outdoor Baptism Service



Animal Blessing



Holy Communion



Larry Olson Concert at POP

*Pastor Brett, Thank you so much for baptizing Aiden this past Sunday. We truly appreciate everything you did to make his baptism happen during this extraordinary time!
~ Albert Family*



All Saints' Honor Display on Route 70

The All Saints Ribbon memorial gave me so much joy to see. It reminded me that Jess was free. Seeing it at night lite up with the solar globes was a representation of let your light shine. I know she continues to work through those that loved her and even some that did not even know her. I visited it often while it was on display.

~ Nancy Korhumel

More DID YOU KNOW?

- We have continually provided opportunities for people to worship in a variety of ways this past year from weekly printed booklets for those at home, downloadable booklets, online gatherings via zoom, outdoor and indoor in the sanctuary. Thanks to all who helped set up and put away items to make these worship experiences happen.
- We had a Sing Along service during the summer.
- All Saints' Day lanterns, streamers and the Flower Cross to honor those who have died.
- We had several funerals service held out doors under our new tent.
- We were able to offer 4 in-person Christmas Eve Services. We offered a new 3 pm service which was highly attended. Over all we had over 280 people worship in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.



All Saints' Cross

"Our family celebrated many happy occasions at POP. I can't say enough about the ministry and the people there. When it came to grieving for my husband, thankfully Prince of Peace was there for me with the gift of love and caring when I needed it the most."

~ Janice O'Neil

Youth Ministry: seeks to involve and engage with young people in and around Prince of Peace. In exploring questions of faith and life in our contemporary society. Youth involvement is typically ages 6th grade up to and including, 12th grade.

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

~ 1 Timothy 4:12

DID YOU KNOW?

A sampling of opportunities that occurred in 2021:

- Did you know that over the summer the youth group stayed overnight behind POP to raise awareness for homelessness? After learning more about the food pantry and ways to get involved during Covid-19 we got together to learn how the pantry works and how we can help.
- Did you know that the youth group has been getting involved in the food pantry? Youth members from POP help stock shelves, pack bags, and take orders directly from those in need.
- Did you know that the POP youth group volunteered as helpers during Vacation Bible School this summer?
- Did you know that the POP youth group went Kayaking?
- Did you know that the youth members are currently looking into going to Minneapolis, MN during the summer of 2022 for the ELCA Youth Gathering? Here we will work to grow in our faith by volunteering, listening to speakers, playing games and other fun activities, alongside thousands of other youth nationwide.



Youth Volunteers for Vacation Bible School.



Youth Volunteers for VBS Food Duty.



Youth Kayak Trip.



Youth Kayak Trip.



Youth Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas.



Confirmation Class in the Black Run Preserve.



Youth Volunteers for the POP Pantry.



Youth Volunteers helping construct the POP Little Library.



Youth exploring mind and body spirituality.



Youth volunteer helping fill the eggs for the Egg Hunt.



The Youth group stayed overnight behind POP to raise awareness for homelessness. They raised more than \$400 dollars for Family Promise.



“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.. . proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.”

~ Psalm 98:4 4

THE KEY WORDS FOR 2021 WERE ADAPTABLE AND FLEXIBLE!

The methods of worship continually changed according to the COVID Positivity Rate. We worshipped via zoom (January to March 21) then outdoor & zoom (March 28 to June 27) to indoor/outdoor/zoom (July 4 to August 22) back to outdoor/zoom again from **August 28 to September 26 to December 26 - INDOOR/OUTDOOR/ZOOM TO INDOOR/ZOOM.**

What I provided as we navigated each form of worship:

Zoom: January to March 21

For all Saturday evening and Sunday evening Zoom worship services:

- Provided quality YouTube videos with hymns containing lyrics (YouTube videos proved to be more easily adaptable for use with Zoom then the recordings I created on my phone.)
- found appropriate YouTube videos as Music Ministry anthems
- sent the selections to Pastor Brett prior to the zoom worships

For Sunday Morning Zoom services:

- I was in the sanctuary:

(1) played prelude live

(2) having pre-recorded the accompaniment to the hymns, I could then sing to the recorded accompaniment while others, though muted, could sing along at home



"Guy's beautiful music always moves me and makes me grateful to be part of his music ministry. Whether he's serving as cantor while playing piano and/or organ, working the microphone or recorded music on Zoom or simply playing a Prelude or Postlude, his musicianship continually inspires me." ~ Florance Kerber

Outdoor/Zoom: March 28 to June 27

- We returned to outdoor worship on March 28, Palm Sunday. I pre-recorded a prelude to be played through the sound system as well as parts of the liturgy, the hymns and a postlude.
- Selections for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were also all prerecorded for outdoor worship
- Special selections were recorded with Laura Kearney on violin for Holy Week and some hymns for use on Easter Sunday were recorded with Katy Akinskas singing
- Recorded some bell selections safely with Peals of Praise members for use during the Lenten/Easter season.
- Made sure the prelude and hymns were sent to Pastor Brett for the Saturday night outdoor service for use with the sound system
- During this time, I continued to provide selections for the Zoom worship on Sunday evenings, sending them to Pastor Brett prior to the worship



- It was during this period of time that I began to incorporate elements of the sung liturgy again. All of these were prerecorded and played through the sound system. This continued into the fall, changing Liturgy settings throughout the summer/fall months

Indoor/Outdoor/Zoom July 4 to August 22

- When Saturday night service came indoors, I continued to record the prelude and hymns and they continued to use the sound system that had been used outdoors
- For Indoor Sunday worship, I returned to playing the full service with liturgy, hymns, anthem, prelude and postlude.
- For Zoom, I continued to provide appropriate YouTube videos

Outdoor/Zoom August 29 to September 26

(See March 28 to June 27)

Indoor/Outdoor/Zoom October 3 to December 26

(See July 4 to August 22)

Though I would have liked to have others provide special anthem music, the changing nature of worship plus the unpredictability of the weather when outdoors were too great a challenge to plan.

2021 Music Highlights:

- Got in 2-3 handbell rehearsals in December
 - o Peals of Praise and Sounds of Glory Bell Choirs
 - o Did so safely following protocols
- Recorded some selections with Laura Kearney
- Recorded some Easter hymns with Katy Akinskas
- Brought Peals together to record some music for the Lenten/Easter season
- Was able to bring back sung liturgy
- Ukuleles continued weekly throughout the year on Zoom
- Christmas Eve – The Duffy family sang at 9:00 service
- Presented a Christmas String Program
- Laura Kearney played for us at indoor worship
- Larry Olsen provided music for Sunday worship on the weekend of Michelle Smith's funeral
- Ukulele program outdoors during summer
- Meeting to talk about highlights, future and what we can do now in our music ministry (although a positive meeting, realizing these things was tougher, as plans began the COVID numbers changed allowing us to open up again, then as plans were made to capitalize on that, the rug was pulled out from under us again – disheartening
- Prayer emails sent out to try to keep people in touch and aware of challenges in people's lives
- Advent Ukulele program at wreath-making gathering
- Music links were sent weekly as inspirational offerings
- Vacation Bible School was a great success, done safely in person following protocols

2021 Congregational Highlights:

- Several new members
- Lenten partner letters
- VBS volunteer leaders & participants
- The Food Pantry continued its mission to the community with great support from the congregation as well as many community participants
- 3:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service had the highest attendance of the 4 Christmas Eve services and was greatly appreciated by all generations

What I am looking forward to in 2022 for our Music Ministry:

- Bringing choirs back – vocal, bell & children when possible
- Trying to rebuild our music ministry
- Seeing and interacting with people at in-person rehearsals
- Bringing new people into the ministry
- Having choirs participate in worship
- Building the music ministry community support network again

How my time was spent in 2021

- Worship preparation:
 - o Practicing Preludes & Music Ministries: 20%
 - o Recording Hymns & Preludes & Music Ministries: 20%
 - o Choosing music (Preludes/Music Ministries): 15%
 - o Finding videos for Weekly Emails & Zoom Worship: 15%
 - o Hymn selection: 10%
- Leading ukulele weekly: 5%
- Communication and sharing: 8%
- Meetings: 5%
- Miscellaneous: 2%

MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our ever faithful and generous Music Patron continued weekly notes of thanks and encouragement as well as weekly donations to support our Music Ministry. Some of these monies were used to help pay for our string players at the Christmas Program
- I completed 35 years of service at Prince of Peace in October 2021, I am greatly blessed to be a part of this uniquely wonderful community.
- Our weekly Staff Meetings were a source of support, encouragement and much needed humor during these difficult times. I am grateful for Laura and Pastor Brett.

"Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ." ~ Colossians 3:23-24

Highlights if my ministry & congregational life:

- Klos Library Redo (Funding by Kristen Malmberg Memorial Fund) Painting, purchasing furniture & organizing.
- "Lending Library" suggestion and support. (Supported by Health Ministry)
- Cleaned and Organized Property Office Area / shelves, etc. (Thanks, Ida Miller)
- Had photos organized and labeled. (Thanks, Nick Sirdashney)
- Suggesting combination locks for exterior doors for easier access. (Supported by Property)
- Beautifying of the church continues with painting and décor.
- All Saints Day display, suggestions and implementing. (Supported by Worship & Music Ministry)
- Reaching out to members. (Supported by all!)
- Through Thrivent Financial my family supplied \$1250 for various ministries.
- Many, many historical church papers were scanned and transferred to a safe external drive for future reference and safe keeping. (Thanks Ida and Bruce!)

Looking Forward:

- Continual organizing and cleaning of old files and rooms.
- Reorganization of rooms (nursery for outside community groups, etc.)
- Having people in the church building.
- Community Outreach and community connections.
- New Ideas to reach out to POP Family & Community.
- Starting my ninth year as the Office Administrator.
- The new council members and their ideas for POP's future.

Spending Time:

A: Helping, serving, counseling, supporting all Ministries: 25%

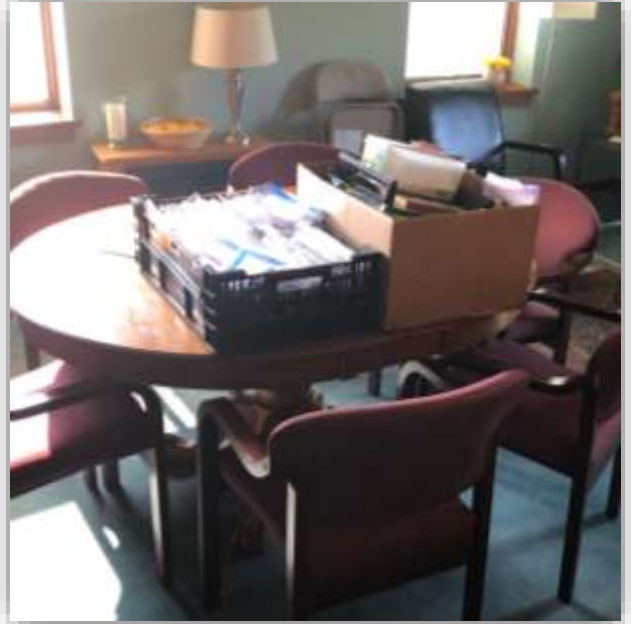
B: Faith Learning and worship: 35%

C: Communicating and sharing: 40%

thank you



Klos Library Renovation



Photos categorized and organized for scanning.



Side Office (Property Office) new shelving and organizing.

- *Thank you to all who gave me a Christmas Present – It is nice to be remembered and appreciated!*
- *Thank you to every single one of you for surrounding me with a loving, supportive, giving and kind work environment.*
- *Thank you to Allison Arber, Sharon Elliott, Debbie McClure, Ida Miller, Catherine Salender, Nick Sirdashney and Kim Syvertsen, and everyone else that helped me organize and keep the church building beautiful.*
- *Special Thank You to Bruce Easterly, Guy Kirk, Jill Porter, and Pastor Brett. Your support and love help more than I can say.*

"... proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching."

~ 2 Timothy 4:2

IT'S BEEN A ROLLERCOASTER!

For me this is how I've experienced this past year; year two of ministry during the pandemic. This time last year we were amid a surge of the virus without people having the benefit of vaccination. We were also on the edge of hope for a time of stabilization as the vaccines began to roll out. We continued to live under our Sovereign Jesus' ethic of loving all people always. Through Lent we created an innovative program of videos, a support packet, online gatherings, and pen pal program to assist one another to notice God's love is reigning in and around us.

On Palm Sunday we began easing back into in person worship outdoors. The cold of Holy Week gave us who came out the smallest glimpse of the suffering of Jesus. Worshiping outdoors was a unique experience inviting us to connect with our God in new ways. It provided us with the opportunity to be nurtured not only by the sacrament of communion once again, by with the word, by one another's presence, and by the very creation itself.

In July we began gathering for worship inside the sanctuary for the first time since March of 2020. We continued to provide outdoor and online opportunities. As the summer progressed, we were still quite cautious as our children we're yet to be able to receive vaccinations. We held our first ever completely outdoor VBS which ultimately was a success. Many around us and even some of us began to act as if it was all over and, in our fatigue, and frustration let our guard down. Then August brought the delta wave of the virus. At this, we moved back outdoors for worship during September, which was perfect timing for us to mark "The Season of Creation" under our new tent.





This was an especially challenging time as we were gearing up for a fall that resembled a little more of the past but alas, we had to change paths abruptly. It was what we must do yet still frustrating and exhausting. Creative solutions take work and energy. I am thankful for all those who continued to help create innovative solutions.

In October the delta surge subsided, and we moved back to offering worship indoors as well as began to reintroduce wine for the sacrament. We looked forward to a Christmas celebration within the sanctuary, which we did as the new omicron surge began to swell in late December. The surge became so great after Christmas necessitating that we move all our worship online as the infections skyrocketed; doing our part to help to not spread infection and thereby as supporting to our health care workers.

It indeed felt like we had hit yet another dramatic twist and on the roller coaster ride once again. We were preparing for our upcoming annual meeting which we anticipated to be in person and now, due to the surge, it is online. Once again, we had to shift plans abruptly. Thankfully we have done this before, but it is still a lot of work. Thank you to all of those in leadership who have been working so hard to make this happen.

I am sure that we can each describe the variety of ways that our personal, work, and social lives have felt like a rollercoaster this past year. Roller coasters can be fun as they provide a short burst of unexpected thrill but conventional roller coaster rides usually last less than five minutes, after which we disembark perhaps a little disoriented. We've been on an extended ride, and we are tired and more than a little disoriented.

It has been a very hard year for us all. This year, more than any other time in my ministry, I have struggled deeply and questioned whether I could continue. Thanks be to God for the grace, love and support that was continually offered to me by so many of God's good people here at POP and in the other circles of support on which I rely. Thank you! We have shown forth the truth of God that amid our own struggles we are still able to provide life giving care to ourselves and others. Amid our struggle let us celebrate our God given resilience during this year!

The best thing to do when life brings us waves is to surf! We have indeed surfed this past year, not perfectly but as one who is learning, trying again and again even during those moments we just wanted to go home. I hope you have read closely this booklet which gives a sampling of our ministry over the past year. I hope you are as inspired and thankful as I am for how we have worked in union with Christ to be a blessing.

Let me share a couple surfing highlights of mine from this past year.

- Innovating a creative curriculums and process for educating our young people in a safe manner during the pandemic predominantly outside: Discipleship Practice, Confirmation, First Communion Instruction, Divine Encounter Adult Education
- Guided the leadership of the congregation to conduct a massive evaluation of our ministries considering the community and societal concerns raised up during this time. We held a series of dream days to bring together the congregation and the community to discern how God is calling us to serve.
- Made a shift in my self-care: changed diet, exercise routine and other practices resulting in the loss of 20 lbs. and a general sense of groundedness. I know that this indeed was essential in keeping me afloat.
- Continually adapting worship to the current conditions that allowed us to gather in the safest ways possible; often having to navigate worship in three different venues each week: online, outdoor, and indoor. Plus, being very flexible in the conducting of wedding, baptisms, funerals
- The continuous facilitation of two and now a third grief group.

One area of surfing where I presently need improvement is connecting with a greater number of people. I'm going to focus a greater portion of my energy in this coming year to this. I have evaluated with others what some of the impediments are for me and considering these have created a training plan to improve this.

Thank you all my friends in Christ! As you can see from this booklet Prince of Peace has been anything but closed! We have been doing the work of love in creative and impactful ways. May we continue to be faithful to Jesus' way of transforming love in 2022 and let's pray the roller coaster ride is less dramatic.

Pastor Brett



At Home Worship Area