

Worship in December

Sunday Services at 9:30 am

Sunday, December 6

*Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:1-6*

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Sunday, December 13

*Third Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:7-18*

*One more powerful is coming,
baptizing with fire*

Sunday, December 20

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lessons and Carols
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]*

*Blessed are you among women
My soul magnifies the Lord*

Thursday, December 24

7:30 and 10 pm

*Nativity of Our Lord I
Christmas Eve*

*Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
God with Us*

Friday, December 25

9:30 am

*Nativity of Our Lord II
Christmas Day*

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds

Sunday, December 27

*First Sunday of Christmas
Luke 2:41-52*

*Clothe yourselves in love;
let the peace of Christ rule your hearts.*



Advent and Christmas Events

November 29

Advent Wreath Making

Pastor Conversation with Asian Indian Members

November 29 to December 13

Advent Giving Tree

December 6

10:45

Labyrinth Presentation

*West Windsor Christmas Tree Lighting
with Prince of Peace Bell Ringers*

December 2

Wednesday Away at Crossroads

December 2, 9, 16

Wonderful Wednesdays

December 10

Book Group Christmas Party

December 11 & 17

Quiet Days at the Church House

December 13

Caroling

The End of the Year ... The Beginning of the Story ...

Remember back to January 2015: Prince of Peace was embroiled in a financial crisis, unsure of our future and ministries. In faith, we forged a path forward, and in the process, we were forced to carefully consider everything we do ... down to the smallest logistics. A big part of our renewed path forward was a decision by the worship and music team to consolidate our worship services. Starting in September, we kept our combined service at 9:30 am. While I know that this time is inconvenient for some, the benefits have been exciting and tangible. Worship services are powerful and unifying when we all meet as one congregation. Our singing is robust, we get to see everyone every week, our Christian Education offerings have benefitted, and we are making more efficient usage of our resources.

My favorite aspect of Prince of Peace is the eclectic mix of families, young people and old, who are active in ministry. Take last month: the PoP Philharmonic had 14 players, including elementary age, teen, 20-somethings, 30-somethings, 40-something, and 'well-seasoned' musicians. Everyone worked together to



offer a special musical selection. Looking ahead, on December 20, we will again highlight musicians of all ages with a special service of Readings and Carols. We'll start with prophecy texts and music before continuing into the Christmas story. In years past, our kids have presented a nativity play. This year, they join as equals with the rest of the congregation in celebrating the Advent and Christmas story in verse, hymn, and song. This is an extremely exciting event for me because I see our young congregants not only learning and internalizing this story but feeling encouraged to participate in worship leadership.

On Christmas Eve, we'll again be having extended music preludes before the 7:30 and 10:00 services. If you'd like to offer a special selection during this time, there is a sign-up sheet on my office door, or you can email or talk to me.

Thank you for your support during this transition year. We've reached the end of 2015 with optimism and excitement. And, as we start a new liturgical year, taking our Advent journey, I know that this is but the beginning of what God has in store for our congregation and community. I want to wish all of you a happy Advent and a very merry Christmas!

Peace, Doug

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to loismcase@gmail.com.

Deadline for the January issue is Sunday, December 20

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor

Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music

Victoria Chow-Torres, Church Musician

Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator

Kyle Kirchoff, Student Seminarian

Wendy Schutzer, Cherry Tree Club Director

Tim Urbanek, Treasurer

Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Lois Case, President

Josh Grim, Vice President

(Wonderful Wednesdays & Christian Education)

David New, Secretary (non-voting)

Steve Bromberg (on leave)

Bob Durie (Property)

Brandi Hebert (Stewardship)

Beth Kaminski (Digital Team)

Kathy Morris (Youth)

Allison Safranek (Parish Care)

Shin Sawada (Communications)

Newman Wilson (Digital Team)

Worship Ensemble Schedule

December 6

Adult Choir/Bell Ensemble

December 13

Adult Choir/Celebration Ringers

December 20

*Adult Choir/Nightingale Bells/Kids of the Kingdom
Chimes of Worship/Joyful Noise*

December 24

Adult Choir/Nightingale Bells

December 25 & 27

No Ensembles

December Events

All Invited to Advent Wreath Making Event Sunday, November 29th

Prince of Peace congregants of all ages are invited to participate in the annual Advent Wreath Making event on Sunday, November 29th, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Each family can work on building an Advent wreath that they can take home to use throughout the Advent season. The hour will close with an Advent Wreath Blessing as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Christian Education will be providing fresh-baked cookies, coffee, and juice. There will also be an opportunity for the children of Prince of Peace to create greeting cards that will be distributed during our Christmas Caroling event on December 13th.

Please sign up in the narthex if you if you plan on attending this annual tradition.



Wednesdays Away at Crossroads December 2 *Advent Attention*

Rev. Laurie Matarazzo will facilitate the December Wednesday Away at Crossroads Retreat Center on December 2 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Wednesdays Away are led by a variety of spiritual directors; each one focuses on a different spiritual practice.

The next Wednesday Away, *Ashes to Ashes*, is scheduled for February 10. It will be led by Rev. Rose Cohen Hassan.

Cost for each retreat is \$50, which includes lunch. For more information or to register, visit crossroadsretreat.com

West Windsor Community Tree Lighting To Feature Church Bell Choir

Sunday, December 6, 7:00 pm
Ron Rogers Arboretum
271 Clarksville Road (corner of Rte 571)
West Windsor

Prince of Peace bell ringers will offer three selections at the West Windsor Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 6.

If you would like to be part of this special handbell ensemble, contact Doug Helvering.

Also on the program are West Windsor/Plainsboro South High School's First Edition performance and a spectacular fireworks display. Free refreshments are also included.

For more information, call 609-799-6141.

Coming December 10 **Book Group Christmas Party and Dinner**

At the home of Anne Patterson
8 Greenfield Drive South, Princeton Junction
Please RSVP at 799-8849 or annepatt@att.net

The book Group meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted.

We welcome new members at any time.

Questions? Please call Phyllis Church at 799-0723.



December TASK Donation is Starkist Chicken or Tuna Salad & Crackers

The Social Outreach team has designated Starkist Chicken or Tuna Salad and Crackers as the contribution of the month for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). Donations can be placed in the wooden box in the breezeway.

Advent Quiet Days at the Church House

*Friday, December 11 and Thursday, December 17
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 pm*

In the busy-ness of the pre-Christmas season, treat yourself to some quiet time. Come catch your breath in our newly renovated Church House. The day is yours to do with as you please: Bring some knitting, read a book. Use this day to get out of the house or to stop in on your way home from shopping. Devotional books will be available, snacks will be served, and the tea kettle and coffee pot will be on. Come for an hour or stay for the day.

At 10:30, 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30, we will pause for Prayer with those who have gathered.

Please be sure to invite a friend and extend this invitation to others who are caught up in the stress of the season.

Join in Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 13, 2015

Prince of Peace congregants of all ages are invited to participate in the Christmas Caroling outing on Sunday, December 13th immediately following Worship service.

We will car pool, leaving not later than 11 am, to Acorn Glen and Stonebridge and will be visiting parishioners Carolyn Aldridge and Jim & Janice Kisthardt. Music sheets will be provided.

Join in spreading some good cheer in the community!



Advent Giving Tree and Gifts for Specific Children Served by LSM/NJ

As you have done it to one of the least of these...

Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of God's most precious gift, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, brings us opportunities to share gifts with persons who are served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ), children and families of the Cherry Tree Club, and possibly other families in our area.

Once again, beginning November 29th, the Advent Giving Tree will be in the Gathering Area, decorated with many stars, each naming an item to share with someone. LSM/NJ needs their gifts by December 16, so we have a very short time-frame this year. Our deadline for gathering gifts is Sunday, December 13. LSM/NJ has asked us to focus on folks in one specific location that they serve, so our Giving Tree Gifts will be going to families in Camden.

To participate, simply remove a star or stars, replace with a snowflake, purchase the gift(s), and place (unwrapped) under the tree. A receptacle will be available for you to return the star, or you may place it on your own tree.

LSM/NJ is also providing a specific wish list from 16 children in their care. This list will be posted in the Gathering Area with a sign-up sheet. If you would like to provide the desired gift(s) for one or more of the children, sign the sheet, purchase the gift(s), put the child's name and number on the package, and place it, unwrapped, in the box provided.

You may begin bringing Giving Tree gifts on November 29 without taking a star, if you'd like to get an early start. Some suggestions for those gifts are Nerf toys, action figures, dolls, games, craft kits, adolescent make-up kits, nail supplies, and the like. Additional items will be on the stars. Again, the deadline for all gifts is Sunday, December 13.

Thank you so much for being a part of these giving, gifting, sharing opportunities.

Appreciatively, the Social Outreach Team

Wonderful Wednesday Schedules

Midweek Advent Services Return

Midweek Advent services will return for the first time in many years. The liturgy and hymn selections have been carefully considered to provide a meaningful and poignant pause amid the hustle and bustle of the season. These services will take place at 7:30 pm on December 2, 9, and 16. In a similar way to our Lenten Soup Suppers, we will gather to share food and fellowship at 6:40 pm. We're asking people to bring their favorite casserole dishes on these nights. A sign-up sheet for the dinners is in the church narthex. If you're interested in helping lead music for the Advent midweek services, please let Doug Helvering know.

December's Wonderful Wednesdays

December Wednesdays Include

All Youth Ensembles

And Confirmation

December 2

Casserole Night (potluck)
Midweek Advent Vespers

December 9

Casserole Night (potluck)
Midweek Advent Vespers

December 16

Casserole Night (potluck)
Midweek Advent Vespers

Wednesday Evening Schedule

5 to 6 pm

Confirmation

5:30 to 6 pm

Joyful Noise (K-1st grade)
Chimes of Worship (2nd-5th grade)
PoP Tots (Newborns-4 years)

6 to 6:40 pm

Kids of the Kingdom (2nd-5th grade)
Celebration Ringers (6th grade-high school)
Celebration Singers (6th grade-high school)

6:40 to 7:20 pm

Community Meal

7:30 to 8:30 pm

Adult Education or Worship



Congratulations to Julia Luczak and her Cheerleading Team

Julia's team (Junior Pee Wee, pictured above) for Pop Warner Hightstown Rams Cheerleading won first place on November 14 at the Eastern Regional Competition held at Sun Bank Arena. They now advance to the National Pop Warner Cheerleading (<http://www.popwarnersb.com/15superbowl/pop.asp>) in Florida at Disney the week of December 7.

Dates Announced for 2016 Hand in Hand Days

These are all dates for volunteers from New Jersey Lutheran church members (and others) to do Sandy Recovery work.

The dates are confirmed but the locations are not since these dates are a long way off. We will provide updates on the locations of each event as the date moves closer. Here are the dates:

January 18th

February 13th

April 16th

June 18th

August 20th

October 15th

December 10th

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these future dates. A flyer is being created to share with family, friends, or colleagues and will be sent out to all once completed.

Alex Elefante
Assistant Disaster Recovery Coordinator

If you would like more information about the Hand in Hand volunteer experience, contact Nancy Reyes (609-259-1517 or reyesn@ufrsd.net)

A flyer describing all the fall Wonderful Wednesday offerings is available in the narthex.

Thanks Received

For Help with Christian Ed This Fall ...

A big thank you to all Prince of Peace disciples who participated in Christian education opportunities this fall.

Look for additional information on winter opportunities later this month. A flyer will be distributed and information will be communicated via the January Tidings and at worship.

Christian Education for Prince of Peace's Youngest Disciples *Super Heroes of the Bible*

A special thank you to Anne Patterson, Meaghan Grim, MaryFlora Samuel and Jasmine Samuel for sewing the super hero capes and designing the super hero patches for the *Super Heroes of the Bible* series launched this past November.

So far, Prince of Peace's youngest disciples have studied Ruth, Hannah, and Esther (Way to go female super heroes!)

This winter/spring there will be additional opportunities to study other super heroes of the Bible.

Want to join in the 'super hero' conversation? Please don't hesitate to contact Brandi Hebert at brandiandnoel@gmail.com or 609-647-4393.

Dear Prince of Peace family,

I can't thank you enough for all your cards, prayers and calls during my illness and recovery process. I was truly touched by all your outpouring support. This cheered me up and encouraged me to get better. I could feel God's presence in all of you. God bless you!

Love, Lisa Schott

For Backpacks ...



Beth Gebhart, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey has sent thanks for backpacks and school supplies donated by Prince of Peace:

A fresh start to the school year is so important and makes a real impact. As you can see on the faces of these boys, they are thrilled to have a new backpacks.

Your compassion and concern for those in need is an incredible gift. We appreciate that you give of your time, share your talents, and offer gifts with which God has blessed you.

— Beth Gebhart

Rescue Mission Clothing Drive a Huge Success AND a Record was Broken!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated clothing to our fall Rescue Mission Clothing Drive.

The Rescue Mission was delighted with the response to their endeavor to break the Guinness Book of World Records' current record for the most donated used clothing items in a single drive.

They succeeded by breaking the record of 153,240 items, set by Comfort and Omo brands of Unilever FZE in the United Arab Emirates, with an impressive total of 179,550 items. The count was confirmed by an official Guinness representative at the collection site on November 15. Prince of Peace was a part of the Rescue Mission's success, and the Rescue Mission sends deep appreciation for our participation.

Not only was a record broken, but, more importantly, many, many people will benefit by the items donated.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

The Social Outreach Team

Parish Care Notes

As Advent begins and we prepare for our Christmas Season . . .

During the advent and Christmas seasons, we think of and spend time with our families. Some members of our church family may appreciate a little extra care during this time. If you are able to share a little time, make a call, deliver some holiday cheer, assist a member with some holiday tasks, read a Bible story, or say a prayer with a member of our church family, please let the Parish Care Team know, we can provide details.

Care Notes

Care Notes are available in the gathering area. Please take, read, and pass along to another as needed. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for helping to keep the display organized and current.

Current Needed Transportation Opportunities

Sunday transportation to and from the Monroe/Clearbrook area to our Sunday church service.

Caroling around the Town

Plan on joining us and Christian Ed as we go caroling in the area on Sunday, December 13, following Sunday worship. This will be a special treat for those that we visit. All voices welcome. Come spend some time with your church friends and some of our older friends in the community.

Cookie of the Month

We are looking for folks to bake one batch of cookies. We will then have cookies delivered to our homebound members. If you can bake and deliver or bake or deliver, let us know so we can start our ministry.

The Advent Calendars to our young adults are in the mail. Many thanks to the families who provided us with addresses.

Valentine Care Boxes (yes Valentine!)

Our next big project is our annual shipment of Valentine Day Care Packages to our young adults away at school and in the military. Watch for the details in the gathering area in January 2016. We will need lots of donations: baked goodies, school supplies, snacks, dollars for shipping and current addresses to fill and send our POP care boxes. We are planning on filling at least 35 boxes this year!

Please check with us to make sure we have a current year address for shipping. (When all are home for Christmas is a great time to get an address). The deadline for getting addresses to us is January 15, 2016. Packing and shipping will on February 8, 2016. Look for the details in the gathering area.

Military Box of Care



Many thanks to all who provided goodies to help fill a 20x20x16" box to the brim. All of the items will be a wonderful treat from home to those serving our country.

The High School youth gathered on November 8 to help fill the box and to write some notes of thanks to our military friends in Jordan. On Tuesday the 54 pound box was shipped from the Princeton Junction post office to Nick Lally and his unit (pictured above, with Nick second from the right) in Jordan. At the time of this writing it has arrived at the APO in Amman.

Diapers have been Delivered

Thanks to all who helped fill our changing table with lots of Baby Diapers and Wipes. During the month of October we collected 685 diapers and 1136 wipes. The packages were delivered to Womenspace in Lawrenceville and the Crisis Ministry in Trenton. They greatly appreciated the diapers Without diapers, children cannot go to day care and with no day care, parents cannot go to work; and the diapers are expensive. So thanks for your generous support.

New Opportunities: Soups On

Soup is a warm filling meal, feeding both the body and the soul.

We would like to gather some folks together in the church kitchen to make some soup. We would spend some time preparing the ingredients and put the pot on to cook. Then deliver soup to a few families and put some in the church freezer to use as needed. Young and old, those who know how to make soup and those who want to learn are all welcome. We can try different soup recipes throughout the year.

This will be a fun way to spend some time at the church, get to know some of our church family and get some great soup recipes. Interested in participating? Let me know ASAP.

Phone Calls

We are looking for some folks who would be willing to make a few phone calls throughout the year. Just to say Hi and check in with our Church family members.

— Martha Winder
maw14jpw@aol.com
609-792-7280



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753
Fax: 609-799-0958
E-Mail : email@popnj.org
Website: popnj.org
Worship: Sunday, 9:30 am
First Wednesday, 7:30 pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am
Education Hour at 10:45 am

Office Hours

M -Th 9 am - 2 pm
Fri 9-noon

2015 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Please complete the information below to order a poinsettia for Prince of Peace's Christmas Worship Room adornment.

Name _____

I would like to contribute : _____ (#) plants @ \$7.95 each. (6")

_____ (#) plants @ \$14.95 each (10")

_____ Given in memory of _____

_____ Given in honor of _____

_____ Given in thanksgiving for _____

_____ Given to the Glory of God

** Orders should be placed by December 15*

** Please make a check payable to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.*

** Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Day Service.*