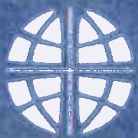


# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yehiel Curry".

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

— Colossians 2:6-7

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# **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

## **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**Sunday January 25, 2026**

### **Agenda**

Call to Order	Joan New, Council President
Opening Prayer	Pastor Froehlke
Approval of Minutes 2025 Annual Meeting	Joan New
Elections	2025 Nominating Team
Council Members	
Nominating Team for 2026	
Pastor's Remarks	Pastor Froehlke
Director of the House Next Door Remarks	Pastor Selover
Minister of Music Remarks	Dr. Doug Helvering
Reports of the Ministry Teams	Joan New
Constitution and Bylaws	Dave Herrington, Joan New
Approval of 2026 (Spending Plan)	Dunja Selah-Zaki, Dorothy Safranek
Thank Yous	Joan New
Lord's Prayer and Dismissal	Pastor Froehlke

# Prince of Peace Annual Meeting

## January 26, 2025

### Call to Order

After it had been established that a quorum was present the meeting was called to order by Council President Joan New. Joan then turned the podium over to Pastor Peter Froehlke who led the congregation in an opening liturgy and song.

### Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting

Berta Schott moved that we vote to approve the minutes from last year's meeting. The motion was seconded by Josh Grim. There was no discussion. Those present voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from our 2024 annual meeting.

### Elections

Representing the Nominating Team, Janis Haddock led the election for Council and our next Nominating Team.

### Council Members

Those people on the ballot were incumbent Council members who were up for re-election: Joan New, Christian Oehm, Dorothy Safranek, and Con Sweeney. Members voted by paper ballot. There were no nominations from the floor. Berta Schott moved that nominations be closed, which was seconded by Dave New. All candidates were elected with a majority of votes.

### Nominating Team for 2025

Janis introduced the members of the 2025 Nominating Team up for election: Carol Baldessari, Charlie Frantz, Lisa Schott, and Newman Wilson. There were no nominations from the floor. Berta Schott moved that nominations be closed, which was seconded by Dave New. All candidates were elected with a majority of votes.

### Pastor Remarks

Pastor Peter's remarks focused on several key themes:

- **Church Evolution & Faith Over Panic** – He spoke about the ongoing transformation within the church, referencing Phyllis Tickle's idea that the church undergoes major reform every 500 years. He emphasized that Prince of Peace is part of this shift and encouraged faith rather than panic when facing financial concerns. He reminded the congregation that the church belongs to God, not any one leader.

- **The Church of Misfit Toys** – He described Prince of Peace as a "church of misfits," meaning that they do not fit into cultural norms but are called to live out the gospel despite societal challenges. He referenced a past conference where a pastor suggested that churchgoers are the "weird ones," while the so-called "unchurched" are simply "normal people." He likened their role to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, whose unique traits ultimately served a greater purpose.

- **Gratitude & Financial Success** – He expressed gratitude for the congregation’s generosity, noting that they exceeded their financial pledge goal for the year. He also acknowledged the New Jersey Synod’s financial success.
- **Upcoming Bishop Election & Synod Assembly** – He highlighted the importance of the upcoming New Jersey Synod Assembly, where a new bishop will be elected. Prince of Peace will have two voting members, but they can send additional representatives, especially if a young person (under age 30) volunteers. He encouraged participation, noting that registration fees are unusually low this year.
- **Acknowledgments & Staff Appreciation** – He thanked various members of the church staff, including Office Administrator Sherri Daniels, Music Director Doug Helvering, the leadership team, and outgoing Treasurer Con Sweeney. He encouraged someone to step up for the treasurer position, acknowledging its importance. He also expressed appreciation for the church council and the congregation’s Christmas gift.
- **Personal Reflection & Commitment** – He concluded by sharing a personal moment with Pastor Dale, describing their early morning talks about the church. He reaffirmed their love for Prince of Peace and their commitment to serving wholeheartedly. Overall, Pastor Peter’s remarks were a mix of encouragement, gratitude, and a call for continued faith and engagement in the church’s mission.

#### **Director of the House Next Door Remarks**

Pastor Dale's remarks focused on gratitude, mission, and the ongoing impact of "The House Next Door," a ministry of Prince of Peace. She began by expressing thanks to the congregation and God, emphasizing the miraculous growth of their work. She reflected on the life of Don Harvey, a member from a former congregation who embodied the spirit of invitation—"Come and see"—which Pastor Dale sees as central to their mission. She highlighted the continued success of The House Next Door as a safe space for healing, transformation, and spiritual direction, mentioning its growing influence beyond their local community. Programs include monthly spiritual direction sessions, support groups for LGBTQ+ parents, and outreach to pastors. Their mission has extended to teaching at United Lutheran Seminary and discussions on replicating the model in other congregations. Pastor Dale expressed deep gratitude to her team and supporters, acknowledging their dedication. She shared a powerful story of a seeker drawn to their community, reinforcing the idea that many are searching for God’s love and grace. Her closing message urged the congregation to actively invite others, ensuring that the church continues to be a place of refuge and transformation.

#### **Minister of Music Remarks**

Doug Helvering, Prince of Peace’s music minister, expressed his gratitude for the church community and the opportunity to provide music for worship. He reflected on his journey since joining in 2009, emphasizing the teamwork involved in creating meaningful musical experiences. He acknowledged the congregation's role in helping him improve his piano skills and shared his joy in making live music, which fosters unity and positivity. Doug

encourages participation in Prince of Peace's music ministry, inviting anyone interested to attend rehearsals or explore different roles. He closed with heartfelt thanks for the ongoing support and enthusiasm from the community.

### **Reports of the Ministry Teams**

(While Prince of Peace's team reports were printed in the distributed annual report, Joan invited any team leaders forward who wanted to address the congregation with additional remarks.)

Nancy Reyes highlighted the need for more volunteers for both the Peace Garden and the Racial Justice team. The garden has a small group and requires help with tasks like harvesting, weighing produce, and transporting supplies from Philadelphia. She also shared that the Racial Justice team will focus on immigration this year, given recent events, and encourages more people to get involved. She invites anyone interested to join and support these efforts.

### **Approval of 2024 Spending Plan**

- The spending plan discussion covered key financial updates, including the transition from QuickBooks to ICON for improved fund accounting. The church consolidated its funds from 25 to 7 for better management. The balance sheet showed assets of approximately \$1.7 million, primarily consisting of the church building.

- For 2024, the church ended with a \$21,000 deficit, which was lower than the projected \$66,000. Member and non-member giving exceeded expectations. However, for 2025, an \$87,000 deficit is projected due to lower income in several areas. Efforts to reduce expenses were discussed, but significant costs, including salaries, insurance, and maintenance, remain.

- A concern was raised about the church's cash flow, as essential expenses like payroll and mortgage payments must be met. The church is also limited in the amount it can collect from external groups due to IRS rules. The church council is exploring alternative revenue sources, including solar energy alternatives and donations through Thrivent programs.

- Membership and pledges have declined over the past decade, contributing to financial strain. The council is considering outreach strategies to increase community engagement and giving.

### **Dismissal**

Joan ended by thanking Con Sweeney for his service as treasurer, and also his predecessor Eric Jorgenson who served as treasurer for many years before that. She also thanked POP staff for their continued guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Herrington

## Pastor's Annual Report

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The timing of my retirement is right. It is right for me, and it is right for Prince of Peace.

I joke about forty years of ordination being biblical, but it is not a joke. Forty years is a generation. This is the time for relatives and organizations to pass the torch to those who follow. I am finding the wisdom in this biblical number.

Still, it is appropriate to ask, "why now?"

The easy answer is I am of full retirement age. The honest answer is, and I hate to admit it, I am tired. Ministry is all consuming and I am ready for it to be less consuming. I will still be available to the New Jersey Synod for preaching and teaching, but I look forward to not carrying the load that full time ministry demands. Plus there are other interests outside of church that I would like to pursue. Maybe now I will be able to keep the bird feeders full.

Now is the time.

Trust that the time is also right for Prince of Peace. The congregation deserves a pastor with new energy and new vision. The world has changed; the church has changed. I never could have imagined live streamed worship allowing my brother to listen to me preach on his big screen television in Idaho. I never could have imagined people still connected to our church who I no longer see. Neither could I have imagined a church where every word I speak and write comes under scrutiny on social media by people I do not even know.

In my view, it is time for Prince of Peace to be led by a pastor who knows how to better navigate technology and social media. It is time for Prince of Peace to be led by a pastor who has the creativity to address where this culture is and where it is going. I have never wanted to take advantage of the congregation and coast into retirement. Prince of Peace deserves a pastor who has the fire to proclaim the gospel in new ways.

Prince of Peace is a vital congregation. We have our challenges. We have not had a Sunday School Christmas pageant for years. Our church was not packed Christmas Eve. Our finances are stressed. But we are still ahead of the curve in who the church is called to be in these challenging times.

Prince of Peace is faithfully responding to the needs of our community and our world. We have a faithful core of special needs families devoted to our Joyful Noise ministry. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation who has intentionally voted to be a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community. We work hard partnering with I-Rise doing the gospel centered work aiding our Haitian family through our Racial Justice Ministry. We partner with St. Bart's feeding the hungry and meeting the needs of the South Ward of Trenton. The Peace Garden provides fresh produce for St. Bart's. Neighbors walk the labyrinth. The House Next Door continues to thrive offering spiritual direction and care to the congregation, the New Jersey Synod, and the community at large. We still

proclaim the gospel every Sunday. We still take care of our own through parish care. We still offer stimulating adult education. We still sing. We still ring bells. We still pray. We still knit. And we still eat.

All said, Prince of Peace deserves and needs a pastor with new energy, a fresh perspective, and a continued love for the faithful people of this congregation.

In the months ahead my intent is to prepare the congregation for this time of transition. I am grateful for the church council who will take a leading role as the process for calling a new pastor begins. We have a faithful, wise, and experienced crew able to lead the congregation through this time of discernment.

Many of you have experienced a pastoral call, but for others this will be a new experience. Know that the New Jersey Synod and Bishop Compton will take a leading role in guiding the congregation and assisting in the call of a new pastor. Most importantly, I invite you to open yourself to God's leading, and God's timing. And pray. Please pray for one another and for the vision, mission, and ministry of Prince of Peace in this time of transition.

Finally, as I mentioned in my letter, I will save my thanks and my appreciation for the congregation in the days and months ahead. Prince of Peace has blessed my ministry in untold ways. This call has turned into a call for our entire family. It has been a privilege to lead you all. Thank you for calling me to serve as your pastor these thirteen years. I look forward to what God has planned for both of us in our next chapters.

Pastor Peter Froehlke

January 9, 2026

## The House Next Door

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let your love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
~ Evangelical Lutheran Worship #798*

"Will You Come and Follow Me" is one of my favorite hymns. In each verse Jesus invites us to follow...Will you?

### ***Will you say yes?***

For the past twelve years Prince of Peace has been saying "yes" to God's call to a new vision of church:

Yes! to creating a Spiritual Formation Center      Yes! to renovating the House Next Door  
Yes! to building the Labyrinth                      Yes! to calling a Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Yes! to constructing the Tree of Life Chapel

What might God be inviting us to in the weeks and months ahead? Will we continue to say yes?

### ***Will you listen?***

One of the exciting parts about the House Next Door is that it looks different every year.

Why? Because we listen for God's invitation, and we listen to the needs of the community.

As a result of our listening, this past year new programs were added and favorite programs returned.

New programs included: Women's Christmas Retreat, Jazzio Divina (an online offering), Group Direction for Pastors, Lent and Advent Dinner Church for Pastors, Caring for the Caregiver: The Grief of Covid, and a Time for Peace at the Peace Pole.

Returning programs included: Retreats, Dinner Church, Group Direction, Communicating Love for the LGBTQIA+ Community, Beyond Book Club, Art.full Prayer, Individual Spiritual Direction, Service of Lament and Hope on National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, Gathering the Graces for Spiritual Directors, and World Labyrinth Day.

### ***Will you invite others?***

Every year the ministry of the House Next Door continues to grow and touch the lives of others.

Why? Because every person who attends a retreat, participates in spiritual direction or walks the Labyrinth shares their experience with others and invites them to participate. Every person.

327 People participated in HND programs this year

61 First-time participants (19%!)

825 Visits to the HND this year

***Will you continue to provide a safe space and a place of grace?***

When people talk about the House Next Door, they do not talk about the ministry. They talk about *the house*, like it is a living being. Time and time again, our guests witness to the presence of the Spirit, and they talk about the safety and grace they experience whenever they are at the house. Along with program participants, this past year we continued to welcome others to the house for meetings, retreats and respite:

Live Well Church Leaders, Abiding Presence Women's Group, yoga4sobriety, St. David the King Spiritual Directors, Dutch Neck Presbyterian Guests, Cross Roads Day Camp Staff, Mercer Clergy Cluster, Windsor Area Hightstown Ministerium, and a number of pastors.

***Will you look beyond your own four walls?***

The House Next Door was on the road throughout the year offering retreats for:

The women of God's Love Lutheran Church, Newtown, PA; the women of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Red Bank, NJ; the women of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, Swarthmore, PA; and the women of Allentown Presbyterian Church, Allentown, NJ.

We also partnered with Cross Roads to offer the Fall Women's Retreat and Wednesdays Away.

***Will you celebrate?***

This past year, on behalf of Prince of Peace, it was my joy to receive from United Lutheran Seminary the Witness to the World Excellence in Community Ministry Award, as well as an award from New Jersey Angels in support of their mission. What a blessing and what a witness to have the ministry of the House Next Door recognized by the community and by the church!

***Will you give thanks?***

There are many people who make the ministry of the House Next Door possible. We extended our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them this year by inviting them to a Thank You Tea. Please join me in giving thanks to God for each of them:

- +Laura Glatz, House Manager, my partner, without whom this ministry would not be possible
- +Our retreat and workshop leaders: Cathy Campanaro, Terry Dunn, Teresa Knipper, Rev. Laurie Matarazzo, Pastor Lynn Miller, Pat Pickard, Dr. Zan Struebing, and Dr. Audrey West
- +The Spiritual Formation Team: Jen DiGioia, Nancy Herrington, Ellen McBrearity, Audrey Oehm, and Nancy Reyes
- +The Vision Team: Beth Mitchell, Elizabeth Wagner, Pastor Peter Froehlke, Pastor Brandi Hebert, Pastor Kayla Hopgood, and Rev. Laurie Matarazzo
- +Our partners: Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center and New Jersey Angels
- +Our donors who gave \$28,000.00 this year to support HND programming
- +All who participated in our annual Work Day

***Will you be open?***

We are in a time of transition. Everything around us is changing – in the world, in the nation, in the church. Once again, Jesus asks, Will you come and follow me? Once again, may we faithfully respond, “Yes, we will!”

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.*

*Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.*

*In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.*

*Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

Faithfully Submitted,

*Pastor Dale Selover*

## Music Ministry

The Music Ministry at Prince of Peace is one of our most visible and active ministries. On average, we involve approximately 20 disciples in weekly participation. During our worship services, the offering of music plays a central role in our worship experience.

In 2025, the work of our Music Ministry continued to provide music for our worship services. In an ongoing effort to minimize costs, we purchased no new musical selections in 2025. Instead, we relied on our great library of musical titles to offer cherished classics and still new-to-us gems to the glory of God and for the enhanced worship experience of our parishioners. We will continue to offer vocal/choral, instrumental, and handbell music for all 2026 worship services.

Throughout the year, Minister of Music Dr. R. Douglas Helvering led the worship services from the piano, selected liturgies, hymns, and special music, rehearsed the Adult Choir and the Nightingale Bells, and participated in other planning and church-related functions. Dr. Helvering remains on staff in 2026.

We would like to thank all our ensemble musicians for their participation and dedication to this ministry. Navigating the emotional act of music making amid in this volatile world is somewhat tricky, and we're thankful for the support and collaborative spirit of our volunteer musicians. The Music Ministry will continue our rehearsals and worship activities in 2026, keeping a high attention to the sincere intent and offering of music to God. If you have any questions for me, please email [rdh@rdouglashelvering.com](mailto:rdh@rdouglashelvering.com)

– Doug Helvering (Music Minister)

## Council President's Report

Your congregation council meets 6 times a year, with the executive team meetings in between those meetings. We start all meetings with a devotion and time of prayer. We pray to be faithful and responsible.

Prince of Peace continues to be blessed with vibrant ministries. Thank you to all team leaders and team members! Please do read the ministry reports and you will find within them a desire

- to be faithful.
- to reach out to those in need,
- to address the ills of our society,
- to try new things, and
- to be generous in a variety of ways.

**Plastics Collection:** We achieved the goal of 1,000 pounds of soft plastics in July and received our bench a few weeks later. Many thanks to all who contributed, especially Joan Prins & Peter Perkuhn and our friends at St. Bart's. We have continued collecting, weighing, and delivering these plastics as St. Bart's began reporting on their own account in August. At the end of December, they only need 364 more pounds to reach their 1000 pound goal! Once they do, Prince of Peace will start reporting on our account with the goal of earning another bench!

**Community Solar:** We engaged with Neighborhood Sun to enroll the House Next Door in a community solar program. We also became a Community Partner which allows us to offer the same plan to anyone with a PSE&G residential account. Several POP folks have taken advantage of this!

We do have our challenges on the financial front but the deficit for 2025 is less than projected thanks to generous donations beyond pledged amounts and our matching gift appeal. We continue to step out in faith, learning how to be church in new ways in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Among the many blessings at Prince of Peace are Pastors Peter and Dale. Thank you for your faithful leadership.

Thank you to Dunja Saleh-Zaki who volunteered and was appointed by the council as our Treasurer. Thank you to Dave Herrington who serves as the council secretary for keeping the minutes of our meetings.

I would also like to thank Kathy Nowak for taking on the role of Vice President and all the members of the church council - Jessica Clarke, Michelle Conk, Ellen McBrearity, Beth Mitchell, Christian Oehm, Dorothy Safranek, Con Sweeney, and Claudia Thompson for their service.

Blessings and peace,

Joan New, Council President

## 2026 Nominating Team Nominees

### **Rich Carlson**

After completing a successful career as a Photographic Technical Manager, Rich retired in 2010. He is currently President of the Friends of West Windsor Senior Citizens and has served on the township Human Relations Council for two years. He has been a member of Prince of Peace (POP) since 1992 and is the Editor of Prince of Peace's monthly newsletter The Tidings. On Sunday mornings you will find him assisting his son Andrew with the ushering duties.

### **Cathy Corcoran**

I am a lifelong Lutheran who joined Prince of Peace in December 2024 after moving to New Jersey from Virginia to be with my partner, Kevin. I retired after 39 years with a bioscience company and previously served in the Social Ministry Committee and on Church Council in my former congregation. At Prince of Peace, I am active with the Racial Justice Committee, I-RISE refugee support, the Peace Garden, and two book clubs. I am grateful to have found a welcoming church family.

### **Kathy Morris**

I am originally from Illinois. I moved to the East Coast after college. I have been a Lutheran in several churches over the years including Wisconsin synod, Missouri Synod and now the ELCA. We joined Prince of Peace in 2008. CJ and Alex received their first communion and were confirmed here at POP. We participated in Sunday school, youth group, Wonderful Wednesdays, and youth trips. The girls were ushers, acolytes and played their flutes with the choir/special music selections. I have been a nurse at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick for 30 years. I have been on church council and the nominating committee in the past. We have participated in God's Work Our Hands projects, assisted with the book sale and provided baked goods for the Valentine Boxes. I have volunteered in the Peace Garden the past 2 years and have taken the produce to St Bart's. I am also a member of the Joyful Stitcher's group. Thank you for considering me to be on the nominating committee this year.

### **Dennis Oehm**

I've been attending Prince of Peace since moving to the Princeton area from Mahwah in 2019, became members as a family in 2021, and am a member of the Racial Justice Committee. Previously I was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Mahwah for 28 years, served on Church Council and various committees, and was President for seven years. Presently I'm retired and enjoy time with my two granddaughters, Joanna and Elisabeth, both of whom were baptized at Prince of Peace.

## 2026 Council Nominees

**Jessica Clarke** I grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey, and in 2005 I was led to the Lutheran church, where my faith has continued to grow and shape my life. After marrying my husband, Arundel, we moved to Mercer County, where we are raising our two children. I hold a master's degree in Special Education and have been blessed to use my gifts as a middle school special education teacher.

Camp ministry has played a meaningful role in my faith journey. Over the years, I have served as a camper, counselor, and Assistant Director of Special Needs at Crossroads (formerly Beisler). I also spent about ten years as a Health Director at another special needs summer camp, where I experienced the richness of working with globally diverse communities and saw God's love lived out in countless ways.

I feel a strong calling to walk alongside the special needs community and their families. In response to that call, I have helped establish a special needs summer program called *It's My Turn*, supported inclusive worship opportunities such as the *Joyful Noise* service, and serve as a coach for the *Sharknados*, a Special Olympics team open to my classroom and surrounding communities. Through these ministries and my ongoing involvement in youth ministry across the wider church, I strive to share God's love, create spaces of belonging, and celebrate each person as a beloved child of God.

**Wayne Daughtery** I was born and raised in Baltimore, MD where I attended and was confirmed at Second English Lutheran Church. As an aside the church derived its name from the fact that it was the second Lutheran church in Baltimore to offer services in English rather than German. I first came to Prince of Peace in the Fall of 2022 shortly after my wife of 34 years, Anne, passed away. At the time I felt a driving need to be part of a larger spiritual community. I found that community at Prince of Peace and became a member in 2023. Since then I have been attending the Adult Forum sessions and Wednesday evening Pastor Classes in addition to the regular Sunday services. I would be pleased to serve on the Prince of Peace Council. On the professional and occupational side, I retired from a corporate job in the health and environmental field in 2015 after 33 years of service. I live in Plainsboro.

**Martin Rexroad** Martin and Shari moved to West Windsor in 1995 and have been members of POP for 30 years where they have raised their 3 children. Martin has served on Council several times and has been Council President twice. Martin has served as a Confirmation Guide. Martin has worked in HR for more than 35 years, and has been involved in POP HR matters, Mutual Ministry, and call committees. Martin has been involved in creating future plans and finding necessary resources in the past and is interested in helping POP create and navigate its next bold path forward.

**Dunja Saleh-Zaki** I grew up in the Christian faith and was delighted to discover Prince of Peace after moving to Princeton — thanks to the labyrinth! From the very beginning, my daughter and I have felt genuinely welcomed and embraced by this wonderful community.

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of serving as treasurer, a role that has helped me grow closer to the life and structure of the church. The more I learn, the more inspired I feel to contribute to shaping its future.

My professional background is in business and marketing, and I'm passionate about using those skills to help support a strong and stable foundation for our church. I also teach German at the Princeton German Language School and love being part of the vibrant, multilingual community here in town.

**Claudia Thompson** I have been attending Prince of Peace since 2021 and became a member in 2022. Raised in the Lutheran tradition, I came to Prince of Peace during the pandemic, where I encountered the peace of Christ and found a deep sense of belonging. It continues to be a place of peace, where the presence of God is felt, and the congregation's warm welcome is experienced. Since joining the church, I have enjoyed participating in the life of the church, serving as a lector, occasional communion assistant, prayer minister, and volunteer at various congregational events.

I also currently serve on the Congregational Council, and it is my joy to support a community I love, as together we seek to serve God's mission in the world. I live in Monroe Township with my dad, affectionately called "Johnny Tomatoes" in the summer months, who is known for sharing sweet cherry tomatoes with neighbors and friends. I have experienced your kindness and care as a people of God's grace, and I look forward to deepening my journey and continued service here at Prince of Peace as we worship, learn, and grow together, caring for our church family, our wider community, and the world God loves.

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild ministry continues behind the scenes, and, when all goes smoothly, is often unnoticed. The Altar Guild mission is to attend to everything that relates to the altar. Among our responsibilities are to:

- set up and clean up for every service, including weddings, funerals and installations;
- polish metals;
- make or purchasing new paraments, vestments and linens;
- replenish supplies of bread, gluten-free wafers, wine, juice and candles;
- participate in rites like the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday.

This year, we continued to seek out ecologically sustainable practices. Now that #5 plastics are locally recyclable, we returned to using plastic communion cups. We recycle wine and juice bottles and cardboard packing materials. We compost used plants and flowers. During outdoor worship we use intinction to also reduce our plastic waste.

We received a donation of a new artificial Christmas tree for the sanctuary. It was time for an LED replacement of a tree with some broken limbs and burned out strings of lights.

In 2025 Altar Guild members cared for:

- 52 regular indoor Sunday worship services.
- 8 special services, including Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holy Week and our Bishop's installation.
- 25 outdoor Sunday worship services with communion.
- 8 Joyful Noise youth worship services with communion.

Five volunteers assisted me on the Altar Guild in 2025. I am grateful for their diligent service and cheerful teamwork. **Thank you to: Phyllis Church, Nisha Newman, Kathy Nowak, Lisa Schott, and Martha Winder.** Our family members regularly help out; we are grateful to them! We also work closely with Wendy Schutzer, who coordinates plant orders and develops inspiring sanctuary decorations for our major Church seasons.

***We are ready to welcome new team members.*** Altar guild is a contemplative, behind-the-scenes way to serve the worship experience. Please volunteer to help in this important ministry. Come see any of us after services, or contact me at [nbdurie@gmail.com](mailto:nbdurie@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Durie

## Building Use Team Report

The Building Use Team was created several years ago when POP discovered that the community had a need for space to meet and we had a need to provide this space. During 2025, we have had several groups utilize our space on a regular basis. These include the Joyful Baptist Korean Church, Pranavam Dance School, and Power Speakers. The Boy Scouts continue to hold award ceremonies and various meetings and events throughout the year at POP. AA also continues to meet in person two evenings a week. We provided space for a music summer camp for the youth Orchestra this past summer. Throughout the year, we have also made our sanctuary available for many recitals and fundraisers for various causes such as a diabetes fund raiser. POP is blessed to be able to provide so much to so many. This year, in June, the Pranavam Dance School was able to open their doors at a new facility down the road. It was a pleasure being a part of their growth and success. We are currently working with two yoga groups that are looking to hold classes at POP during 2026.

The Building Use team has quarterly zoom meetings as needed and continues to refine procedures, rules and regulations in order to provide the community with a place to meet and perform. The automated code lock on the white doors has been very useful as outside users are assigned a unique numeric code for their scheduled time at the church and therefore only have the ability to enter the church during their booked time.

Those utilizing our facilities are always impressed by the rooms and are greatly appreciative of the use of this space. We would not be able to do this without the help of many people. Thank you to the Property team for keeping our facilities clean, the facilities usable and the equipment working.

We are always happy to welcome new team members, so if you are interested in being part of the Building Use Team, please contact Dorothy Safranek.

Respectively submitted by the Building Use Team –

Dave Herrington, Christian Oehm, Dorothy Safranek and Con Sweeney

## Christian Education

**Field Education** Prince of Peace has a long tradition of sponsoring Field Education students from Princeton Seminary. In the spring Keerthana Babu concluded her Field Education year at POP. No students were available to start Field Ed in the fall. With pastor's impending retirement no students will be assigned in this fall, which is unfortunate since two students inquired about Field Ed for the 2026-2027 school year.

We thank the congregation for your support and for being teachers to these fine students.

**Pastor Class** Pastor hosted two Pastor Classes this year. In February Pastor led a discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer dispelling some of the myths surrounding this well-known Lutheran pastor who stood up to the Nazis during WWII. In October pastor led a two week discussion on Christian Nationalism and the Scopes Monkey Trial. Eighteen members joined that timely class.

**Rev. Munther Isaac** In March Prince of Peace hosted Palestinian Lutheran Pastor, Rev. Munther Isaac of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Dr. Isaac spoke about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the topic of his most recent book Christ in the Rubble. Over one hundred people were in attendance from POP, WHAM, the New Jersey Synod, and contacts from around the state. Rev. Isaac appreciated the genuine welcome he received at POP, which was not the case in some other venues he spoke at from around the country.

**Confirmation** Unfortunately, there was no Confirmation at Prince of Peace last year, a first in many years. There will be instruction this year and J'den Clarke will be confirmed in May. Yea!

**Adult Class** The Adult Class remains the prime offering of Christian Education at Prince of Peace. This past year we appreciated many different teachers. We thank Rev Dr Paul Rorem, Pastor Dale, Dr. Dennis Olson from Princeton Seminary, seminarian Keerthana Babu, Seminarian Sara Manning, Pastor Margarete Oужи from First Lutheran Church in Montclair, ELCA Consultant Ryan Ebner, Rev. Kahlil Carmeichal, former member Pastor Brandi Hebert, and Pastor Peter.

Topics through the year included readings from Augustine's Confessions, a topic continuing this year. Pastor Rorem led a discussion on the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Dr. Dennis Olson did a five week course on the Book of Exodus. Pastor Carmichael led a class on faith and fitness. Pastor Oужи taught at the invitation of our RIC team to speak on trans rights. Keerthana Babu led a discussion on the Orthodox Church. Pastor Hebert led a discussion on community organizing from a Lutheran perspective, Pastor Peter gave a presentation on baroque churches on the Danube, and Dr. Rorem again led several sessions on hymnody in our Lutheran tradition.

Pastor Peter

## Digital Team Annual Report

The Digital Team maintains and works with a variety of digital assets for Prince of Peace including:

- The POP WiFi network
- The WordPress software for our website
- Our web hosting service
- Email lists
- Digital locks
- Password repository
- Antivirus software on all POP computers

Additionally, team members provide live-stream coverage for our weekly Sunday worship services, special events, and work with other teams as software consultants on a case-by-case basis.

This past year Digital Team members undertook the following special projects:

- Created a laminated audio guide as a reminder of the most important points for livestream audio connections
- Created a “livestream emergency kit” to allow the livestream to go on in cases of inclement weather
- Worked with the Finance Team to recommend a new computer and completed setup of Microsoft Office and OneDrive.
- Helped POP migrate from the buggy EZMLM mailing list software to Group.IO

If you are the person others go to for help with cybersecurity, networking, software issues, or help with their digital devices, please consider joining POP’s Digital Team. We really could use your help.

Dave Herrington

POP’s Digital Team is:

Dave Herrington (chair)

Anil Kumar

Con Sweeney

Dan Ungar

Newman Wilson

## Fellowship

After gathering for church services and special events we all cherish a time of fellowship for sharing, bonding, and introducing ourselves to the community while enjoying marvelous food and drink. All of us at Prince of Peace very much appreciate the families and individuals who contribute to this important ministry.

All are welcome and encouraged to host a Sunday or special event. You might also consider joining with others to host for a specific Sunday. We do supply napkins, plates, cups, coffee and tea, but also welcome your unique contributions and decorations. The coffee and tea are usually prepared by Nancy Herrington unless otherwise arranged. We gratefully appreciate all food donations to encourage friendliness and joyful companionship.

By using SignUpGenius at <https://bit.ly/pop-sunday-signup> a specific Sunday can be reserved in advance. We also have a paper sign-up form outside the office on the bulletin board, or you can ask Nancy Herrington to sign you up for a specific date if that would be more convenient.

Thank you to all who have contributed with financial donations, preparation, clean up, and hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Herrington

## Parish Care Team

Parish Care is caring for each other in our Church Family and Community. We offer care/support in times of joy, sorrow, when there are concerns or worries, there is a need for someone to listen or just because. Through our caring actions we hope to make all feel welcomed by our church family - no matter what is happening in their lives. Through our care we renew our relationship with God and Jesus and we can then go out into the community and share the good news with others as Joyful Disciples Living the Faith.

We show our care in many different ways.

- Assist with daily needs: provide rides, meals, send notes, make phone calls, visit those that cannot get here.
- Communicate with our community: mail materials on spiritual and development growth for newborns and dealing with grief, provide Care Notes, mail advent calendars and Valentine Day Care Boxes to young adults away at school and Valentine Bags to our Senior citizens not able to get out (6 boxes and 15 bags in 2025), mail Sunday bulletin to homebound members, make periodic visits to those that cannot get to church on Sundays. Provide greeting cards and calendars to local senior residences.
- Provide for Special Events: Memorial/funeral services and receptions, graduations, weddings, and installations. For funeral receptions we provide a space where folks can gather with family and friends to remember and for some nourishment for the body along with support for all those grieving.
- Provide prayer cards and knitted prayer pocket squares.
- Taking the time to greet, welcome and get to know the folks in our church family.
- 2026 Calendars (~100) were gathered and distributed to 8 local senior living facilities.

All of these things tell all that they are important members of our family and loved by GOD.

There are many folks to thank for their service to this ministry.

I would like to mention just a few:

- Ginger Reiersen and Chris Wethe for their continued care for our Care Notes display in the breezeway.
- Many thanks for the many others that contribute their time and talents, funds, items, home baked goodies for Valentine Day Care Package project.
- Many thanks for providing meals and soup as needed.
- The Joyful Knitters for keeping our prayer squares well stocked.
- Without your generous support we would not be able to reach so many.
- We would like to invite all to join our ministry. We have a few specific and many open-ended projects, and a need for an "on-call" team of providers.

Respectively submitted,

Martha Winder

## Peace Garden

Prince of Peace can be proud of yet another year of producing food for those living with Food Insecurity in the Peace and Cherry Tree Gardens. From Mid-March to early November, dedicated volunteers worked the soil, planted, trimmed, and harvested vegetables, herbs, and a few types of fruit (figs and blueberries). Despite very determined groundhogs (spring) and deer (fall) who found their way under or over the aging fence and destroyed full crops between one workday and the next, a variety of insects or worms on specific crops, and circumstances that stopped some volunteers early in the season, we produced about 600 pounds of produce!

In addition to serving the needy, this has become an interfaith ministry as we shared our extra seeds and seedlings with The Jewish Center and several large Afghan and Syrian refugee families living nearby. We also partnered with other Lutheran churches by sharing plants and seeds for a garden for the Head Start program at St. Bartholomew Lutheran coordinated by Laura Poethke of Holy Trinity Lutheran in Burlington County and by delivering the produce to Enid's Food Pantry at St. Bart's. Shari Rexroad exchanged garden visits and ideas after sharing about our gardens with other NJ Lutherans through speaking at a Bishop's Challenge Care of Creation meeting. A few deliveries were also made to our congregation's refugee family, the food pantry at RISE in East Windsor and to POP members in need. Refugee families who attended our Refugee Welcome Picnic enjoyed picking some for themselves as well!

God has blessed this ministry with individuals and businesses who deserve our thanks:

- POP's dedicated Master Gardener, Shari Rexroad, planned, coordinated, and taught the other volunteers, going above and beyond the two work mornings each week.
- Those who contributed money to the Peace Garden Fund to cover needed materials and equipment which POP's limited church budget could not.
- Thrivent Action Team Project of \$250 for compost and other materials.
- In exchange for only eight hours of volunteering at their facilities in Philadelphia by Shari Rexroad, Nancy Nicosia, and Nancy Reyes, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society provided most of our seeds and seedlings as well as paying half the cost of our mulch.
- Joan New and Shari Rexroad made trips to Philadelphia to get those PHS donations.
- Kathy Morris, Laura Poethke and Nancy Reyes delivered our produce each week to St. Bart's.
- US Athletic Field Tree Service delivered a truckload of free wood chips to help control the weeds in the garden pathways.
- Central Jersey Irrigation continued to donate the annual servicing and expert advice needed to keep our irrigation system working as they have for many years now.
- Charles O'Kelly from Boy Scout Troop 40, who completed his Eagle Scout Project by upgrading and leveling the path leading from POP's backyard to the Peace Garden behind the House Next Door. This was a tripping hazard because of all the tree roots that had taken over.

Finally, thank you to the following volunteers who worked part or all of the 2025 growing season:

Cathy Corcoran, Jen DiGioia, Rob DiGioia, Priya Mohandas, Kathy Morris, Nancy Nicosia, Laura Poethke , Michael Poethke, Joan Prins, Nancy Reyes, Christine Rexroad, Berta Schott, Tommy Weiss

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Reyes and Shari Rexroad

## Property Management & Maintenance Team Report

The Property Management & Maintenance (PMM) Team is responsible for the overall management and maintenance of Prince of Peace Church and the House Next Door properties. The team is responsible for overseeing service contracts and property maintenance and repairs issues. The PMM team is separate and distinct from the Building Use Team, which oversees all issues related to the use of the building by outside persons/groups.

During 2025, the PMM team oversaw the following contracts: HVAC; waste services; pest control; landscaping; gutter cleaning; custodial/cleaning services; and emergency systems (fire alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting).

Specific work completed in 2025 included the following:

1. Sanctuary thermostats were connected to the wireless network so that they may be controlled remotely. A schedule has been developed as well as a "Thermostat Connectivity Guide".
2. Tindall and Ranson repaired the heat system for the sanctuary. They also repaired a leak in the mechanical room – cutting out a section of a copper line that was the cause and re-piping it.
3. Great Heights Roofing replaced the flat roof over the hall and office due to leaks happening there.
4. New Green Town Tree Service removed a tree that fell on the labyrinth.
5. A solution was implemented to prevent the top locks on the panel doors in the Sanctuary from sliding down - in response to one door panel accidentally falling when no one was there.
6. All of the lights on the path from the HND to the church were replaced. Lighting was also installed over the HND sign.

The PMM team held an "Outdoor Work Day" in September. Many outdoor tasks were completed by church members for both the Church and the HND.

The PMM team is grateful for the following people who have continued to take responsibility for specific areas on the church grounds:

- Outdoor Chapel – Nancy & Bob Durie
- Memorial Garden – Kathy & Greg Nowak
- Peace Garden – Nancy Reyes
- Labyrinth & Tree of Life Chapel – Nancy Herrington

The PMM team would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the following persons: Peter Perkuhn and Joan Prins; Dave and Nancy Herrington; Dan Unger.

Looking forward, it is hoped that the PMM team can address the following issues in the coming year:

1. Replacement of Old Wing thermostats that may be controlled remotely
2. Painting of Old Wing doors
3. Exterior tree trimming
4. Address water seepage under floor tiles in New Wing
5. Continue to sponsor Property Work Days

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Cuddahy & Wendy Schutzer

## Racial Justice Team

POP's Racial Justice Team has now completed its sixth year of educating ourselves and our congregation about racism and how to be an anti-racist congregation, actively working to do God's work trying to advocate for change to end the systemic racism so ingrained in our society.

Our free lending library is now graciously coordinated by Kathy and Greg Nowak. We continue to encourage the congregation to vote and advocate for justice by providing information about related legislation. Members led prayers for our indigenous neighbors at the Peace Pole.

Immigration is the major emphasis this year. The most significant parts of this emphasis were:

- Several members took Know Your Rights training and material was provided for the congregation to share with immigrants they know.
- Information was distributed at POP about the Immigrant Trust Act and other justice-related legislation to encourage advocacy.
- The team met with Pastor Seth Kaper-Dale, founder/ director of Interfaith Refugee Services and Empowerment (I-RISE) with headquarters at his church, the Reformed Church of Highland Park, and several volunteered and attended I-RISE events there and with the newer Trenton office.
- More members got involved with The Jewish Center Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee of Mercer County (TJCIRRC) through whom families were invited and transported to our 2nd Annual Refugee Welcome Picnic.
- We worked with Thrivent which generously provided funding for goody bags, meat, etc.
- The team enjoyed Global Grace Cafe and toured the Highland Park facilities with Fida Ayoubi, Director of Volunteers and Donations, who spoke at POP's adult forum
- The team made an ongoing commitment for POP to "adopt" a Haitian refugee family of seven in cooperation with the new Trenton office. After several required hours of virtual training and with the ongoing invaluable support of I-RISE employees, POP members are helping them adjust to life in NJ, learn English, and gradually become self-sufficient.
- Team members worked in pairs when children were involved (as per POP policy). Originally this was at the Trenton offices while a parent was taking English classes. Recently we've been meeting the parents at their house during schooldays.
- POP generously donated clothing, diapers, household items and more to meet needs from car seats to bus passes to gifts for each of their birthdays and Christmas.
- Team members have done everything from driving them to POP's worship and Picnic, doctors, DMV, work, and interviews to helping with insurance and school forms to taking them to the NJ State Museum, Cadwalader Park, and whatever need arises.
- We've enjoyed birthday parties at the house they share and are welcomed as part of their family.

2025 Racial Justice Team members were Cathy Corcoran, Pastor Froehle, Nancy Herrington, Joan New, Dennis Oehm, Nancy Reyes, Berta Schott, Lisa Schott. This team meets virtually the first Tuesday evening of each month. New Members are welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Reyes, Chairperson

## Reconciling in Christ

*We affirm the humanity and sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions so that all of God's beloveds can live lives as God created them and to the Glory of God.*

2025 was the Reconciling in Christ's (RiC) third full year of activity. Its accomplishments for the year are:

- Resubmitted formal application to be recognized as a full member of Reconciling in Christ and was accepted by Reconciling Works
- The team continues to develop education and outreach opportunities as its role evolves
- The team continues to meet biweekly via Zoom on Fridays at 4:00PM
- Con continues to meet regularly with the Bayard Rustin Center (BRCSJ) for Social Justice in Princeton, a local LGBTQIA+ advocacy group and safe space, to discuss POP's RiC initiatives. Pastor Dale Selover attended one session to represent the House Next Door
- POP was invited again to join BRCSJ's Princeton Pride Parade in June. We joined by outgoing Bishop Bartholomew, Pastor Daniel Whitener of St. Paul's, Pastor Linnéa Clark of St. Mark's, and Donald Maher, a leading gay activist. After the parade, POP sponsored a booth at the after party
- Con attended a two-evening workshop by HiTOPS, a Princeton based non-profit dedicated to supporting local LGBTQIA+ youth, at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church concerning gender identity
- HiTOPS has been invited to present at an Adult Forum in early '26 to talk about their work and the need for it
- A Peace Pole event to remember Harvey Milk on the anniversary of his assassination was planned at the House Next Door for December but canceled due to weather. It will be rescheduled in the New Year
- The team sponsored fellowship on one Sunday during the year

Reconciling in Christ Team: Pastor Peter Froehlke, Beth Mitchell, Joan New, Lisa Schott, Con P. Sweeney

## Social Outreach Ministry

Our Mission: To encourage, stimulate, and lead our disciples at Prince of Peace to reach out to the community, state, synod, and the world. To identify, understand, and minister with Christian faith, love, and compassion to the needs of others.

We have been working together with other teams, The House Next Door, the Council, and the pastors to provide ways to use our gifts, our time, and our compassion to address social, emotional, educational and physical needs, and justice issues of those in our community and beyond.

Here are some of the ways the Social Outreach Ministry Team has supported and facilitated these efforts:

- \* Ongoing support of our sister congregation, St. Bartholomew (St. Bart's) in a number of ways.
  - (1) By supplying groceries for them to distribute to the community around them. A Food of the Month effort for non-perishables facilitates these donations. Lisa Schott volunteers one day a week to assist in storing donations and in filling the food bags for delivery to the community folks. During the growing season, organic vegetables and herbs from the Prince of Peace and Cherry Tree gardens are delivered weekly. Approximately 600 pounds were taken to them this season.
  - (2) By donating full school backpacks to be given to the children. In August, 35 backpacks were supplied.
  - (3) By donating food bags, turkeys, and hams for them to distribute at Thanksgiving. We supplied 35 bags, turkeys, and hams.
  - (4) By supplying monetary gifts to be used as needed.
- \* Working in the Peace and Cherry Tree gardens, planting, weeding, harvesting and clearing up the rows in readiness for next season.
- \* Supporting ELCA World Hunger through offerings during the Wednesday Advent and Lenten services, and through the envelopes that were provided with our regular offering envelopes.
- \* Supporting Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) with Easter greeting cards, filled Food Bags, and gift cards for seniors; and with providing the means for granting the specific Christmas gift wishes for 20 children, several hospice patients, and grocery gift cards for senior citizens. In addition, several monetary gifts enabled LSM/NJ to gift even more persons. Beth Gebhart, our LSM/NJ contact person, has expressed deep appreciation for the various ways we've supported LSM/NJ.
- \* Responding to specific requests as they arose.

Thank you for your ministry in these and many other ways. The love of Christ shines through you and your generosity as we build relationships with each other and those in need. If you would like to serve on the Social Outreach Ministry Team, you will be most welcome. Let Berta Schott or one of the pastors know.

Berta Schott, for the Social Outreach Ministry Team Members: Dave New, Nancy Herrington, Nancy Reyes, and Berta Schott The pastors also have input.

## Stewardship Report

*I Love to Tell the Story!! What story?? God's Story!! Where??*

*God's Story at Prince of Peace!!!*

Our fall stewardship theme was I Love to Tell the Story! God's story here at Prince of Peace is rich and faithful!

We trust the stories you heard in our worship services and small group gatherings convinced you that Prince of Peace matters and is an integral part of the spirituality of our people and community, past, present and future! Pastor Peter told the council, "I heard stories from our people who love this church and are thankful for its presence in their lives."

We need to keep telling our stories. Lutherans are not good at this. We like to privatize our faith. But we all know that people love and are inspired by stories, even seemingly insignificant stories. Stories shared and stories heard lead to congregational generosity and vitality.

Thank you also to all who submitted pledges for 2026. We received 40 pledges totaling \$247,000.

**God is Good! All the time!**

*Joan New, Arundel Clarke, and Pastor Froehlke*



## Statistical Summary

### Disciples Received in 2025

Fred Schott

### Baptized in 2025

Avery June Wehrhahn

### Weddings in 2025

Michael Rexroad & Jacqueline Beck

Victoria Shuk Yan Chow & Jordan Shapiro

Joshua Ramjit & Swati Tripathi

### Funerals in 2024

Eleanor Brower

Thomas Spencer

Disciples	2024	2025
	288	289

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

**And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

## Founded on Faith



1 Found - ed on faith, the church - a - live by grace -  
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.  
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spi - rit's call.  
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,  
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.  
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.  
 Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,  
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth.  
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space.  
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say,  
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.  
 a world re - stored, a faith - ful, car - ing church  
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Songs, 1046  
 Copyright © 1995 by Augsburg Fortress, a division of  
 Fortress Press, a division of Fortress Publishers

## THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

### MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

### ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA).



*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Practicing Resurrection With Gratitude and Grace*

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*Dr. R. Douglas Helvering, Minister of Music  
Sherri Daniels, Parish Administrator*

