

MESSENGER

A Newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool

“WORSHIP ❖❖❖ CONNECT ❖❖❖ SERVE”

December 2016

The Great Christmas Light Challenge

One of my family’s imperatives on Thanksgiving morning is to string the Christmas lights on our house so they are ready to be seen that very night. The house fills with excitement as the proper storage boxes are retrieved from the garage and placed in the driveway, ladders are raised and strands of lights are laid out in the proper order. Then the house fills with excitement again as I am left outside to begin the installation process. Don’t take this as a complaint. Hanging Christmas lights is one of my favorite tasks in a world filled with tasks. I love creating a “lighting plan” and then seeing that plan through to glorious completion. However, I have come to learn I am an amateur in the world of electrified Christmas displays.

I have a neighbor on the next block who is well known for his creative lighting displays. In fact, just last week his latest 20,000+ light masterpiece was filmed by a television crew for a national Christmas light competition. It is truly remarkable. There are laser light shows every 15 minutes, animated displays, and a huge star on the roof. Over the course of the next five weeks, thousands of people (maybe tens of thousands) will converge on his house to see his creation. Traffic will increase as crowds of Christmas revelers will form on a nightly basis. Some neighbors object. I do not. I find the whole spectacle amazing and wonderfully theological.



One of the greatest aspects of Christmas is that people open themselves to new and often radical joy. We seek it out and will travel long distances to experience it, even for a few moments. Following in the footsteps of the angels on that first Christmas night, we have the opportunity to proclaim “good news of great joy.” As the prophet Isaiah once said:

*“The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.”*

For as long as pen has been put to paper, darkness has been associated with fear while light has been a symbol of hope. This language is embedded in scripture. On the night Jesus was born in a stable, a bright star appeared to celebrate his arrival. As he traveled the roads of ancient Israel, Jesus identified himself as “the light of the world.” As he reflected on Jesus’ life, John writes that in Jesus, “light has come into the darkness and

the darkness does not understand it.” From the moment Jesus unleashed his first cry in Mary’s arms, clearly he was something special. He still is. God has come into the chaotic and wonderfully beautiful world in the form we can absolutely comprehend — a baby who brings light into the darkness.

Now when I put up the Christmas lights in my house, or drive by to see the grand display at my neighbor’s house, I remember that those tiny, electrified lights are something far more than decorations. They are a symbol of God’s move to save the world. They are a challenge to the darkness that we often experience. They proclaim that the darkness never has the final say in our lives or our world.

Enjoy the Christmas lights in your neighborhood. No matter the reasons they have been installed, they point to God and can serve as a gateway to joy.

Getting ready for God’s show,

Pastor Rick

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Page*



**See page 2 for the
Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day
schedules.**

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

4 p.m., Family Christmas Worship

Featuring the carols you love, a youthful retelling of the nativity story and an interactive children's message, this service is perfect for young families with children and anyone who is young at heart.

7 p.m., Candlelight Christmas Worship

Featuring Prince of Peace's talented musicians, the traditional service of candles and carols is the perfect opportunity for families to celebrate the joy of Christmas together.

9 p.m., Candlelight Communion Worship

With a more reflective mood, this service of candles, carols and communion is designed to bring peace to your Christmas celebrations.



THE MESSENGER is printed monthly for the purpose of informing members and friends of upcoming events, for sharing good news about our members and for sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through word and action.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Teri Traaen, President; Gail Andrews, President-Elect; Joy Johnson, Secretary; Greg Welch-Rowland, Treasurer; Nancy Stevens, Financial Secretary; Steve Edgar, Les Holland, Carrie Goodman, Anita Thorne, Members-at-Large

Please see the website for individual staff e-mail addresses.

New Member Sunday, December 4

Join us as we welcome new families and friends to our Prince of Peace community. A reception will follow in Gangsei Hall. This is your opportunity to help build our community by rolling out a heartfelt welcome to those God is calling to Prince of Peace.

December/Early January Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

December 4	New Member Sunday Contemporary Christmas Music; Oscar Serrato, violinist
December 11	Children's Christmas Program
December 18	A Celebration of Christmas Music featuring Voices of Praise and Desert Bells; POP Foundation Scholarship Presentation
December 25	Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols
January 1	Service of Blessing for the New Year

Healing Prayers around the Altar ***December 4 & 18***

If you desire prayers for healing for yourself or someone close to you, your pastors are ready and willing to pray with you. We offer prayers for healing at the altar directly following the worship service. If you desire prayer at another day/time during the week, don't hesitate to call Pastor Rick or Pastor Paul at the church office and they can arrange a prayer session with you.

3rd Annual Arcadia Cares Food for Kidz Packathon



Saturday, March 18, 2017

As we rush headlong into the crazy holiday season, it's easy to lose sight of those less fortunate, including the hungry children right here in our neighborhood. When the festivities and excitement of the holidays are over, the empty tummies and sadness of these children and their families remain.

Prince of Peace will embrace and tackle these issues by hosting the Third Annual Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon on Saturday, March 18, 2017, in Gangsei Hall. The entire Arcadia community is again being invited to join members of our church in assembly-line packing of meals for hungry children and their families, locally and internationally.

The Food for Kidz model provides individually packed, highly nutritious and filling meals packed with rice, soy, vitamins and dehydrated vegetables. Each meal provides a day's worth of vitamins and nutrients to enable children to grow up strong and fight off disease and sickness. These meals have a shelf life of three years.

Over 73,000 meals were packed at the 2016 event. The goal for 2017 is to pack at least the same amount of meals, bringing our three-year total to more than 200,000. As was the case with the 2016 packathon, the majority of the meals packed will help feed the hungry in the Phoenix metro area.

Volunteers Needed

Between 150-200 volunteers are needed to have a successful event. We will be seeking volunteers to sign up for one-hour or two-hour shifts. All ages from three on up are welcome to participate. Sign-ups at church and through the Prince of Peace website will begin on Sunday, January 22.

Year-End Donations

To pack tens of thousands of meals to feed hungry children in our neighborhood and elsewhere, monetary donations are needed to purchase the necessary ingredients. Between \$10,000 to \$11,000 is needed to underwrite the cost of packing over 70,000 meals. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help support the effort. **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL!** Make your donation through Prince of Peace, indicating that it is for Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz. Donations can be put in the Sunday offering plate (make sure to note "Packathon" on the memo line of your check), dropped off in the church office or made online through the Prince of Peace website.

Please support Prince of Peace's major outreach to our community and a very worthy cause by participating in and/or donating to the 2017 packathon. Thank you!

Tickets Remain for Family Outing

A few tickets remain for the family outing to lunch and the show 'Elf' at Desert Stages on December 4. Ticket cost is \$10. Contact Angela in the church office (480.945.9537) if you are interested.

Sunday Worship

Worship Schedule

Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

"The First Yes"

Pastor Rick Sherrill, preaching

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

"The Second Yes"

Pastor Paul Nelson, preaching

December 25

Christmas Day

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Service of Lessons and Carols

Pastor Rick Sherrill, preaching

Church Office Hours during Christmas Break

The church office will be closed December 26-30. We will reopen on Monday, January 2.

1. If you experience a crisis and are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Rick Sherrill (cell: 408.472.0529) or Pastor Paul Nelson (cell: 602.740.7187) directly.
2. If you have year-end financial gifts to deliver, please drop them in the locked mailbox near the front door of the office. **To receive donation credit for 2016, your gifts must be postmarked or dropped off by Saturday, December 31.** Thank you!

Opportunity for Service... Active Senior Singles Group

If you are interested in leading and/or supporting an "Active Senior Singles Group" at Prince of Peace, please begin by contacting others in the congregation to whom you might have spoken or who might have shown interest in either leading or becoming a part of this type of social group within our church congregation. For a group like this to be sustained, it will need to have self-identified leadership and at least one or two people who are interested in serving as chair/co-chairs for a planning process to identify activities, community projects and other aspects of the group dynamic. You are welcome to craft a monthly marketing and news item for each month's POP newsletter, to outline an upcoming calendar of events, as well as special events. If you are interested in publishing an article/establishing a meeting schedule, please send your details in writing to our newsletter editor, Marge Mayes, no later than the 15th of each month. We expect that if this type of group is to launch, one or two congregational members will need to step forward and self-identify with a game plan for the first year of events for the group. Thanks for considering this opportunity to creatively serve our church.



Investment Club Welcomes New Members

Grants Partners Investment Club is a BetterInvesting-affiliated investment club that has openings for new members. The club was formed by Prince of Peace members in 1988, and meets monthly on campus. Membership is open to men and women over 18 years of age. Church membership is not a requirement for membership.

An investment club is a group of people who come together and pool small amounts of money for investing in stocks on a regular basis, review promising growth companies presented by club members, and build a profitable portfolio based on BetterInvesting's unique fundamental investing methodology. Benefits from Grants' membership include:

- Safe and supportive way to learn common sense investing skills
- Opportunity to be more engaged in the investing process and to learn by doing
- Training on how to use financial analysis tools
- Sources to identify growth stocks worthy of study for potential investment
- Opportunity to discuss potential stock investments with fellow investors
- Opportunity for web-based training as well as regional and national education events
- Subscription to BetterInvesting Magazine

For more information, contact Jack Ranby at 602.952.0551 or jackbc@cox.net.



Bells of Christmas

***December 17 (2 & 7 p.m.) & 18 (4 p.m.)
Prince of Peace***

Join us for this glorious Christmas celebration! There will be beautiful new arrangements of old Christmas favorites which will ring throughout the sanctuary. Handbells will be joined with organ, chimes, drums and other surprises!

Pre-order your tickets online (desertbells.org) for the discounted price ... or pay at the door. Tickets: Pre-order: Adult, \$12. At the door:

Adult, \$15; Child, Student, Senior (55+), \$10 (only available at the door)





This year our Christmas Angel Tree will support children at Vista del Camino. Gifts will need to be returned to the church unwrapped by December 18. If you do not have time to shop but would still like to donate, volunteers will shop for you. You can contact Mary Quinsler, 480.994.8857, or mquinsler@cox.net with any questions. The tree is ready and waiting for your support!

Theology Pub

We are not meeting in December but will resume on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. at Kitchen 56. Join us for a beer (or soft drink) and a lively discussion on what Jesus is up to in our world.

Wednesday Bible Study

We invite you to become involved with the Word of God as it comes through reading, hearing and discussing. We meet very Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. The class will meet on the regular schedule, Wednesdays, December 7, 14 and 21 at 9:30 a.m.; **there will be no class on December 28 and January 4. Class will resume the regular schedule on January 11.**



The Arcadia Music Academy December recitals will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6 and 7 p.m. with a brief reception following each. Come join us in the sanctuary.

Final Notes from the Bazaar

The income from the bazaar was approximately \$1600 (includes table rental); the book sale realized \$229.

Many thanks go out to all those who helped make Prince of Peace's 20th Annual Craft Bazaar, held on Saturday, November 19, a success.

- **Steve & Karen Crofton, Jack Ranby, Randy Darland, Les & Marfa Holland, June Larson, David Mayes, Elaine Zapfel, Sherry & Alexandra Smith, Martha Weld, Marilyn Schmidlin, Penny Sandstrom, Herman Vergara & Donna, friend of the Hollands**
- The **Beischel & Lara families** for helping take down the tables after the bazaar
- a special thanks to **David Dobson** for preparing breakfast and lunch
- **Bill & Jonathan Dobson** for assisting in the kitchen and helping with the signage
- the **congregation** who supported this WELCA event
- and a very special thanks to **Carol Kauffman** for agreeing to take over this year as chairman and keeping the tradition going.

If any names have been missed, we apologize — please let the office know and we will include them next month.

POP Foundation Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to those who have received scholarships from the Prince of Peace Foundation for the academic year 2016/17. The awards will be presented December 18 during worship.

Ricky Edmondson, Recreational Management, Scottsdale Community College

Emily Manning, Nursing, Grand Canyon University

Hayley Pachman, Photography, Arizona State University

John Rowe, Biology, University of Arizona

Karsten Sellers, Business, Northern Arizona University

Hannah Wiebke, Religious Studies/Spanish, Northern Arizona University

Support Our Church by Buying Gift Cards

As you shop, eat out, or travel, you can support Prince of Peace's ministries at the same time, at no extra cost.

How? By buying gift cards at Fry's Food.

Simply use your Fry's VIP card or telephone number, linked to Prince of Peace, when paying for your gift cards and other items. Our church will receive a rebate on each purchase.

Our Bashas' rebate for October was \$50.

If you need a new reloadable grocery card from Bashas' (which is also accepted at AJ's Fine Foods and Food City), please let me know.

*Steve Crofton, Coordinator, Bashas' & Fry's grocery store programs
602.463.7175; sec@slwplc.com*

Holiday Greetings

In this holiday season, let's remember our members who cannot be with us each Sunday. A card would be a wonderful reminder to them that they are in our thoughts and prayers now and throughout the year!

Fred Goebel	10639 N. Aberdeen Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85254
Opal Groves	1739 W. Myrtle Ave. #110, Phoenix, AZ 85021
Marge Harper	7718 E. Rancho Vista Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Helen Harrison	3200 E. Glenrosa, #238, Phoenix, AZ 85018
Donna Hesse	The Springs of Scottsdale, #325, 3212 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Dick Larson	5848 E. University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85205
Dorothy Overmyer	The Gardens of Scottsdale, 6001 E. Thomas, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Laura Saeger	5513 N. 79th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Betty Schroeder	8570 Via Del Palacio, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
Jeanette Taylor	The Springs of Scottsdale, #197, 3212 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Corinne Westby	Paradise Valley Living Center, 6630 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Youth and Family Ministry NEWS!

Youth, 6th -12th grades, and family

The goal of Prince of Peace's Youth and Family Ministry is to create space for Christ to work in the lives of all youth and their families. The space we focus on is faith formation, community building and service.

Winter Retreat! Registration due Jan. 8

January 27-29

The retreat weekend is for 5th & 6th, Confirmation, and high school. (We will eat meals and have worship together, but programs will be separate.)

CHILL

Every Sunday from 9-9:30 a.m. in the youth room. We meet for check-in time, prayer and of course ... donuts. ALL 5th-12th grade youth are welcome!

2017 — Mark Your Calendars!

Serving the Homeless with Hope4Phoenix

February 26, March 26, April 23, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

5th-6th Grade Youth Group

February 12, March 12, April 23, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Confirmation (7th-8th grades)

(Note: Dec. 11 Confirmation is canceled)

January 8, February 12 & 25, March 12 & 26, April 23 & 30, May 7

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

8th-12th Grade Youth Group

February 26, March 26, April 23, 2-3 p.m.

Youth & Family Christmas Party

Who: 5th-12th grade Youth and Families

What: Time to celebrate Christmas together, including dinner, desserts and white elephant gift exchange. Bring a dessert or side to share and a white elephant gift to pass. (\$15 max!)

Where: Audrey and Tony Cox's house

When: December 11, 3-6 p.m.

RSVP by December 1 to Audrey

Youth Group Game Day Rescheduled!

April 30, 4:30-6 p.m.

All 7th-12th grade youth are invited to attend! We will play games and participate in a service project and devotions!

- **Bring your favorite board game or outdoor game!** We will have Cornhole, 9 Square, Apples to Apples, Catch Phrase and more!
- **Bring a new book (or a few new books) for ages 4-teen.** The books will be donated to UMOM for kids to use and keep during their Tuesday night Read-to-Me program. We will also make snack packs for the kids to take with them back to their rooms at the shelter.

Hey, Parents! Kick off the new year with a good foundation of friendships in faith!

Mom's Night Out, Postino Arcadia, 6-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 24, Monday, March 20, Tuesday, May 9
Contact Audrey for more info.

Dad's Night Out, O.H.S.O. 6-7:30 p.m.

Monday, January 30, Tuesday, March 28, Monday, May 15
Contact Pastor Rick or Anthony Cox for more info.



Youth Group, Nov. 6

Taking Faith Home

Weekly resources for you and your family to take faith with you wherever you go! This awesome resource has service project ideas, simple dinner prayers, Bible readings and other fun family activities for the week. Check them out online at www.poppheoenix.org/childrenyouth

CONNECT!

Social Media: Instagram (Pop_Youth) and Facebook

E-mail Updates: E-mail acox@poppheoenix to be added to the list for Youth and Family Updates!

Preschool News

by Nicole Hilden

Merry Christmas from All of Us at Preschool!



Consider a Year-end Donation to the Susan Keller Beautification Fund or the Katie Wunch Memorial Scholarship Fund

• **The Susan Keller Beautification Fund** is a memorial fund that supports campus beautification projects. In honor of our beloved teacher, Susan Keller, we hope to continuously add beauty to the campus for years to come. If you would like to contribute toward this fund, please designate your checks to the "Susan Keller Beautification Fund." Thank you!

• **The Katie Wunch Memorial Scholarship Fund** provides short-term tuition assistance to preschool families who are going through financial difficulties. The scholarship fund is a tremendous blessing to families and allows children to continue to attend preschool while the family goes through difficult economic months. The scholarship account is funded through individual donors and fund-raising events. If you would like to contribute toward this fund or sponsor a family for a few months, please designate your check to the "Katie Wunch Memorial Scholarship Fund." Thank you!

You are invited to join us for our
Preschool Christmas Programs
in the sanctuary

Thursday, December 8, 11 a.m.
(Rooms 1,2,3,4,6)

and

Friday, December 9, 11 a.m.
(Rooms 5,7,8,9,10)

Fall 2017 Registration Begins!

Enrollment for current families and church members begins on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and must be turned in to the preschool office by January 31 for priority placement. We will conduct tours of the Preschool for new families throughout the month of January and February. Please contact the preschool office if you would like to schedule a tour. We look forward to meeting your family!



News of Members and Friends

Baptism

November 27
Violet Melania Miller

Share a Poinsettia



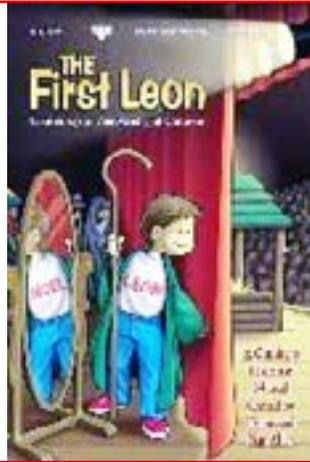
If you would like to help decorate the altar for Christmas with poinsettias, please call the church office, 480.945.9537. One poinsettia is \$15, two are \$25. Deadline for signing up is December 15.

Children and Family Ministry

(children, 4 years-5th grade, and families)

Christmas Program "The First Leon"

*Sunday, December 11
9:30 a.m. worship*



2016/17 Children & Family Ministry Calendar

Sunday School

4 yrs. old—5th grade

Every Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Kids start in worship; after the children's message, kids head off to Sunday School until church is over.

NO Sunday School on the following dates: December 18 & 25 January 1, April 16

5-6th Grade Youth Group

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

- December 4
- December 11 (Christmas Party)
- January 28-29 (Winter Retreat)
- February 12, March 12, April 23

All Children and Families

- Packathon: March 18
- Family Fellowship, Baseball Game: March 19
- Family Brunch & Service Event: April 9
- Street Fair: April 1
- Serving the Homeless (3:30-5:30 p.m.) January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23
- Children's Sunday: May 21

Parents

Mom's Night Out - 7-8:30 p.m. (Postino)

January 24, March 20, May 9

Dad's Night Out - 7-8:30 p.m. (O.H.S.O.)

January 30, March 28, May 15

For more information, contact Angela at angela@popphoenix.org or 480-945-9537

LIKE the Prince of Peace Facebook page!
[popphoenixaz](https://www.facebook.com/popphoenixaz)

Check-list for Sunday School activities in December

- ✓ Christmas program rehearsals at the beginning of Sunday School
Family Lunch and Theater Outing to Elf at Desert Stages, Sunday, December 4, 11:15 a.m.
- ✓ Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 10, 4-6 p.m.
Dinner will be served.
- ✓ Christmas Program, "The First Leon"
Sunday, December 11, 9:30 a.m. worship
- ✓ Family Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 4 p.m.
- ✓ **NO** Sunday School on December 18, 25, January 1

Monthly Attendance and Revenue Report

as of October 31, 2016

	October 2016 <i>(5-week month)</i>	October 2015 <i>(4-week month)</i>
Monthly Attendance	689	674
Monthly Offering	\$33,317	\$26,875
Monthly Offering Budget	\$31,852	\$27,813
Variance	\$1,465	(\$938)

Year-end Gifts

Your 2016 contributions must be post-marked or brought to the office by December 31, 2016 in order for you to receive credit on your 2016 Giving Report which you need for filing taxes. If you would like to make a contribution with stocks or bonds, please plan early. These transfers take some time but still need to be completed prior to January 1, 2017.

Contact Keri in the church office if you have any questions.

Confirmation

On Sunday, October 30 during worship, these four young people affirmed their baptism after participating in two years of Confirmation classes. Excerpts from their faith statements follow.



Hannah Cox, David Martinez, Pastor Rick, Cristina Mitchell, Lara VanderBeischel, and Audrey Cox, Youth Director

Cristina Mitchell. *“Without Jesus, I would have no such thing. So Jesus is an essential part of my life. Jesus is more than a friend, but He isn’t close to me like my family is. Jesus is like my shadow. Sometimes He walks behind me, watching as I make mistakes and bad decisions, silently supporting me even when I ignore Him. Sometimes Jesus walks beside me, matching my every step, a constant companion. And sometimes, when I let go, Jesus walks ahead of me, guiding me through the day. But unlike my shadow, Jesus is always there, even in the dark. He stands beside me whether I see Him or not. Jesus is an integral part of me. He is an irreplaceable part of my soul.”*

Lara VanderBeischel. *“To me, Jesus is someone I can talk to whenever and helps me through my daily life. When I’m feeling sad, he is a friend. When I’m angry I can express my feelings and ask him for guidance. When I’m happy, which is most of the time, I can express how grateful I am for everything because God is good! I also think of Jesus as my Savior and how amazing it was for him to give up his life for me. I know that he will always accept me even though I am sinful and make mistakes. I think of him as my creator as well, that he made me exactly the way he intended me to be.”*

Hannah Cox. *“God has given me the gift of family. My family has helped me become the person I am today. All of my parents have taught me the importance of spending time with family, going to church, and getting an education. My parents have also taught me to be bold and show respect toward others. Having sisters has helped me care about people’s feelings and to control my frustration. My family and the lessons they have taught me, can help me serve others by becoming a comforter and a listener. I can comfort those who are in need, and listen to those that need to be heard.”*

Last Chance to Purchase Feed My Starving Children Ornaments!

The beautiful ornaments handmade by artisans in Swaziland will be on sale through December 4. Each purchase pays for 45 FMSC (Feed My Starving Children) meals. The ornaments make great gifts and are a great way to support an important mission during the Christmas season. They are available after worship.

2017 Mission to Tanzania

Unfortunately, we have decided to postpone this amazing journey to a later date. We did not have the minimum number of participants register this time around.

Youth Sponsorships Needed!

Prince of Peace youth participate in retreats and summer trips that can sometimes break the bank for families. In January, the youth will attend the winter retreat and will be encouraged to bring friends. If you would like to sponsor a youth's participation in this retreat, please include a check for \$150 with “Youth Winter Retreat Scholarship” in the memo or indicate this on your online donation. Thank you for your support.

Dorcas Circle in 2017

The Dorcas Circle meets for Bible study, fellowship and dessert the second Monday of every month at 1 p.m. For Bible study, we use *Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA. We have decided to meet at the church beginning January 2017 rather than in homes with the hopes that more of you will join us. Women of all ages are welcome..

Celebrations and Thanks

by Teri Traaen, Church Council President

We are concluding the deliberate and commercial season of “thanks” and preparing to enter the season of celebration commemorating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am personally thankful for the entire POP team that together guides each hour of our campus life, including but not limited to: Pastors Rick and Paul, Audrey, Lynne, Allen, Jonathan, Kay, Keri, Maria, Marge, Herman, Nicole and Glenda, the scores of church volunteers who keep our campus open and welcoming to all visitors, every member of the POP Church Council, every member of the POP Preschool team and Preschool Board, as well as all of our preschool parents and their wonderful kids.

We have quite a story to tell here at POP. Fifty years of service to children through a humble preschool environment, with a reputation of generations of alumnae who deliberately return with the next generations of children and grandchildren because they know their family members will be safe and grow in our nurturing environment.

In addition, we have ongoing complex projects and outreach to our community, living our faith in ways both “loud” (with pride) and quiet with the alignment of the needs of our greater community (the Fall Craft Bazaar, the multi-church Thanksgiving Eve Service, the Feed My Starving Children ornament sale, and our own church picnic). In between, our Elderberries are learning about other faith traditions and our congregation is wrestling with this year’s stewardship efforts to make decisions about giving and supporting all of what lies ahead.

We are a blessed congregation — we are a challenged congregation — and in between it all we remain courteous and compassionate with each other and to those that we come in contact with every single day. As we move into this holiday season, please know you are appreciated, you are valued and you are critical to the work that we have underway. Enjoy a safe and renewing holiday season with every interaction a confirmation of the grace and goodness of the God who loves us all.

Rally in the Valley Returns to POP

**“By Grace, through Faith
A Gift of God. What does
this mean today?”**

Lutheran seniors and others will gather February 20-21, 2017 at Prince of Peace for this year’s Rally in the Valley. Speakers include The Rev. Dr. David Lose, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary and Dr. Martha Stortz, Religion Professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, together with musician Dr. Michael Burkhardt, well-known organist who has often played at Prince of Peace. The program offers great music, meaningful worship, lots of interest sessions, exhibits and coffee.

Registration forms and group rate information are available in the church office or online at www.rallyinthevalleyaz.org. Individual registration is \$75/person. If eight or more from Prince of Peace register, the cost is \$60/person. (When registering, return your form to the church office *without* your registration fee and we will collect later once we find out how many are attending from Prince of Peace.) For questions, contact Marge Mayes, 602.840.7715 or mtmayes@cox.net. Registration forms are available in the narthex and church office and are also available online at www.rallyinthevalleyaz.org.

Rock ‘n Roll Water Station on the Calendar!

Sign up to volunteer at the Prince of Peace Water Station for the 2017 Rock ‘n Roll Marathon on Sunday, January 15. Volunteers are needed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to set up tables with water and energy drinks, hand out drinks and cheer the runners on. Clean-up is done during the last hour and may be completed by 12:30 p.m. It’s a great time of community and upbeat fun. To sign up or for more information, talk with Steve Edgar at 602.618.3364 or sledgar@gmail.com.



Dorcas Circle members and their visiting sisters from out of state help “build” the hymnal tree!

Macular Degeneration Facts

by Beth Schneider

When those of a certain age visit their optometrist or other eye specialist, the exam will frequently include a test for macular degeneration or AMD. AMD is a common eye condition that is the leading cause of loss of vision for those over 50, although it is most common in those over 60. It causes damage to the macula, a small spot near the center of the retina and the part of the eye that is needed for sharp central vision that makes it possible to see straight ahead. It may advance slowly, resulting in no or limited vision loss for a significant period of time. It may also progress quickly leading to the loss of vision in one or both eyes. AMD alone does not lead to total blindness, but the loss of central vision can interfere with daily activities such as reading or driving.

A common symptom of AMD is a blurred area near the center of vision. Over time the blurred area may increase in size. AMD may also cause blank spots in one's central vision and objects may appear less bright.



The major risk factors are smoking, family history and being Caucasian. The risk of developing AMD may be reduced by exercising regularly, maintaining normal blood pressure

and cholesterol levels, eating a diet rich in fish and green leafy vegetables, protecting eyes from ultraviolet light and not smoking. Since AMD frequently starts without symptoms, regular eye examinations are important. As inconvenient as comprehensive dilation may be, it is the only way that AMD can be detected.

There is no cure for AMD. Currently there is no treatment for early AMD. Clinical research is investigating whether supplements can slow the progression of intermediate AMD. Some studies involving supplements known as AREDS have slowed the progression of intermediate AMD. These supplements contain specific amounts of Vitamins C and E, zinc, copper, and beta carotene. Supplements with the precise ingredients are frequently

labeled as AREDS. Before taking any supplement, consult with your doctor and ask if he/she can recommend a specific brand. Some treatments, such as injections or laser therapy, may slow the progression of advanced AMD. Treatments at all levels only slow the progression and do not restore any level of vision lost.

Roses to...



◆ **Anita Thorne** for serving on Altar Guild in November.

◆ those who contributed to the Advent Devotional: **Gail Andrews, Stephanie Beebe,**

Doug Beischel, Steve Edgar, Tony, Hannah & Audrey Cox, Dave DeJonge, Tracy Fish, Clare & Larry Green, Trisha Hammer, Nicole Hilden, Les Holland, Carol Kauffman, Kay McCartney, Lynne McGinley, Laura & Cristina Mitchell, Pastor Paul Nelson, Debbie Nelson & Emily Abt, Diane Peterson, Jana Peterson, Maria Renovato, Bonnie Rockwood, Susan Robinson, Angela & Pastor Rick Sherrill, Heidi Staudenmaier and Nancy Stevens; Marge Mayes for putting the book together; **Les Holland** for recruiting writers and support throughout the project.

◆ **Martha Weld** for faithfully making sure we have coffee and treats each Sunday at the Coffee Fellowship ... and **Kay McCartney** for subbing while Martha was ill.

◆ **Jack Ranby** and **Bob Pachman** for sorting through the sanctuary sound booth equipment.

◆ **Jim Schmidlin** for heading up the new Preschool and Gangsei Hall outdoor lighting project

◆ **WELCA** for buying a new freezer for the kitchen in Gangsei Hall.

A New Theater Experience!

Detour Theatre Co. will present "Beauty and the Beast" January 6, 7 and 8 at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. More than 60 adults with cognitive and physical disabilities have rehearsed weekly since September and are now ready to inspire an audience that has come especially to celebrate them. Admission is free.

David Mayes has been in each of Detour's 16 shows, starting with "The Wizard of Oz." The first show was presented at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church with a very small cast and tape-recorded accompaniment. Over the years it has grown into a production complete with stage lighting, a small band accompaniment ... but still with much enthusiasm and with genuine love and support for each other.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2016						
AA meets nightly, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 11/12 Survivors of Suicide, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Room 11/12						
CHILL Youth Group- 9 am Worship/New Member Sunday- 9:30 am Healing Prayers Coffee Fellowship- 10:45 am 5th/6th Grade Youth Group- 10:45 am Confirmation- 10:45 am Kid's Bells- 3:30 pm Jr. High Bells- 4 pm Adult Bells- 5 pm	Women's Bible Study- 6 pm Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	Preschool Chapel- 9 am Firm Believers- 9 am Library- 10 am Knitting Group- 1 pm	Preschool Jam- 9 am Bible Study- 9:30 am Staff Meeting- 11 am	Firm Believers- 9 am Preschool Christmas Program, Rooms 1,2,3,4,6- 11 am	Sew & Tie Quilters- 9 am Preschool Movie Night	Quilters- 9 am
Voices of Praise Rehearsal- 8:30 am CHILL Youth Group- 9 am Sunday School Christmas Program- 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship- 10:45 am 5th-12th Grade Christmas Party- 3 pm Kid's Bells- 3:30 pm Jr. High Bells- 4 pm Adult Bells- 5 pm Guitar Recital	Dorcas Circle- 12 pm AMA Recital- 6 & 7 pm Grants Partners- 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	Preschool Chapel- 9 am Firm Believers- 9 am Library- 10 am Knitting Group- 1 pm Church Council- 7 pm	Preschool Jam- 9 am Bible Study- 9:30 am Elderberries/US Egg- 11:30 am	January Messenger deadline Preschool Jam- 9 am Firm Believers- 9 am Preschool Staff- 7 pm	Sew & Tie Quilters- 9 am	Quilters- 9 am Desert Bells Concert- 2 & 7 pm
Voices or Praise Rehearsal- 8:30 am CHILL Youth Group- 9 am Worship- 9:30 am NO Sunday School Healing Prayers Coffee Fellowship- 10:45 am Desert Bells Concert- 4 pm	Preschool closed/Daycare Available Women's Bible Study- 6 pm Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	Preschool closed/Daycare Available Firm Believers- 9 am Mom's Book Club- 9:30 am Library- 10 am Communications Meeting- 11 am Knitting Group- 1 pm	Preschool closed/Daycare Available Bible Study- 9:30 am Staff Meeting- 11 am	Preschool closed/Daycare Available Firm Believers- 9 am	Preschool closed/Daycare Available	Christmas Eve Family Worship- 4 pm Candlelight Worship- 7 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion- 9 pm
Christmas Day Worship- 9:30 am No Sunday School			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED PRESCHOOL CLOSED/DAYCARE AVAILABLE December 26-30			New Year's Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31