

TIDINGS OF PEACE

We are rooted in God's love, united in connecting people to Jesus

Pastor's Message

“Starve Your Fears and Doubts and Feed Your Faith ”

The title for this month's pastoral article comes from Tom Thorton. I went out to lunch with Tom and Sharon in July and in our conversation, Tom shared that line. I e-mailed it to myself while we were together, and I have reflected on it for a couple of weeks. I really like the quote. It gives us an action, and it re-directs our attention to Jesus. What are your fears? What are your doubts?

I subscribe to Apple News which gives me access to over a hundred newspapers (national, local), magazines, and websites. It has conservative and liberal voices – I'm not reading in an echo chamber. On July 25th, I read an opinion article in the Washington Post titled “A revolution is unfolding. Voters everywhere are furious.” The revolution that the author identified is “we are living through one of history's great technological revolutions. And these transformations always produce deep anxiety and fear.” The last time, according to the author, this happened at this scale was

between 1880-1920. “Electricity, the telephone, railroads, the automobile, and movies overturned entire industries and ways of life. . . . the left turned to communism and the right to fascism. What followed were new mass movements, cultural upheavals, and world war.” The new technological revolution that has been building for the last thirty to forty years is more technological – computers, internet, smartphones, and now artificial intelligence. The world, the country, our jobs, our schools, our homes are different now because of technology. And what are some of the results? More layoffs at technology companies. Massive fortunes for the ultra, ridiculously wealthy. People turning to authoritarian leaders, regimes, movements. And greater fear, anxiety, and frustration for millions of people. So, what do we do with the fears? With the anxiety?

I've already mentioned a few in the section above: layoffs, people turning to authoritarian leaders, regimes, movements, and an increase in fear, anxiety, and frustration. I'm sure we can include comfort food, depression, violence, increased blood pressure,

weight gain, a distrust of others, a fraying of social cohesion, social trust, the bonds of society. So, what can we do? Pray more? Read the Bible more? Go to church more? Yes, but I'll zero in on those more later in this article. Remember the title of this article: Starve your fears and doubts. Don't feed them. Don't consume everything that is delivered to you through your t.v.s, phones, tablets, computers, e-mail. Turn them off. Consume them for a set amount of time.

For example, there is an LC-MS pastor / author that I do not care for. Every now and then I come across something he has written, and I will try to read it, but I do not care for his rhetoric (the way we speak or write about an issue or person is important to me). Once he crosses a line, I will stop reading. I have this person blocked on Facebook, so I do not see his posts even when shared by others. I share this not to point fingers at who it is — that's not the point — but to be honest about the fact that I must guard my own heart just like you do. I have starved myself from this man's rhetoric to lessen my doubts, fears, and even my anger. What voices can you starve to help lessen your fears and doubts?

Earlier I asked what can we do? I believe we need to pay attention to what we consume. There's a book I read a while ago titled, "We become what we worship." The book was focused on idolatry. Luther famously

said idolatry is "whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is your God." Whatever we consume can be the thing that our heart clings to and relies upon which can then give us a sense of calm or control as we face the fears and uncertainties of our lives. We need to pay attention to the voices we hear, read, or consume. Proverbs 4.23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Our fears, anxieties, anger, and doubts can flow from the things that have access to our hearts. So, let us guard it. Guard it by limiting its access to your heart or mind.

What else can we do? Pray. Read the bible. Come to church. But for each of these, I want us to be more specific than just a general "Read your bible." "Pray." "Go to church." Let's get more specific.

Read your bible with you acknowledging your fears, doubts, anxieties, anger. Read your bible to see how Jesus addresses them all. You all know Isaiah 35 is my favorite chapter of the bible. I love it because it speaks of a renewed creation. It speaks of Jesus as the Messiah and is quoted by Matthew as one of the proofs for Jesus' Messiahship. I love it because God's creation is important to me and I care for how we steward, how we care for / treat God's creation. When I see all the destruction in the world, my heart breaks, but Isaiah 35 gives me hope because one day this

creation will be set free from its bondage to its brokenness. Isaiah 35 gives me that picture of renew of hope and I long for it! This longing is made manifest because I acknowledge my fears, doubts, anxieties, and anger.

Pray. Yes. But, for what? What type of prayer are we taking to the Lord? Is it a prayer of praise and thanks? In response to the fears and anxieties? Is it a prayer of confession? Of acknowledging our role in the fears and anxieties? Is it a prayer of lament? A prayer of petition? A prayer of intercession? When we say 'pray,' we need to know what type of prayer we need to pray. So, examine your prayer life. What type(s) of prayers do you do? Which type(s) help to starve your fears and doubts, and which help to feed your faith?

Go to church. Absolutely! But, in what mindset do we have as we walk through the doors of the sanctuary? As we sit in the pew? As we sing the songs, speak the liturgy, as we listen to the sermon? Are we defiant? Open? Depressed? Anxious? Tired? Have they been shared with someone? There have been days I don't want to be at church; it isn't often I feel that way. July 5th was a good example for me. I know I disappointed people in the church because the service was not 'patriotic' enough. I told Aly before that I was not looking forward to that service. My mind and heart were focused on how you all would receive the sermon,

the prayers, and the song selections. If you came expecting or desiring a patriotic sermon you probably left feeling disappointed or even angry. I get it. But, this illustrates what I'm describing here. How we approach the worship service will influence how the service is received. I wanted to get through the July 5th service which was not the right mindset for me to be in. I knew that going in, so I tried to focus myself without too much distraction. The worship service is meant to focus our eyes, our hearts, our minds, our lives to Jesus and His Word. His Word that speaks to our brokenness, our sinfulness, the impact of sin upon our hearts, minds, and lives. We give Jesus who is the same today, yesterday, and forever (Hebrews 13.8). We give to you the Lord who was reigning on His throne even though King Uzziah had died (Isaiah 6). We give to you the Lord who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1.8). No revolution, no technology, no fear can move Him off His throne. He held history together before any of this began, and He holds it together now. That's who we bring to you every Sunday — the One who can starve your fears and doubts and feed your faith.

So, let us continue to walk forward in faith, as we actively acknowledge our fears, anxieties, and even anger. Let us give them to Jesus and may we be fed and nourished by His promises.

May God bless you this month!

Pastor Chris

Women's Bible Study: Zephaniah

The Wednesday morning women's bible study is starting a study of the prophet and book Zephaniah. We start on August 5th at 10 a.m. All women of the congregation are invited to participate.

Congregational Workday

We will host a workday to help care and maintain our church property and grounds. It will be Saturday, August 8th, from 10-12 p.m.

Congregational Meeting: August 30th

The 2026-2027 ministry and mission budget will be presented to the congregation on August 30th. We will meet in-between the two worship services.

Joining Prince of Peace

If you would like to become a member of Prince of Peace, please contact the church office at 614-863-3124, info@poplutheran.net, or contact Pastor Chris at 480-540-5701 or alivefromfaith@yahoo.com and we can discuss the next steps to welcome you into formal membership at Prince of Peace. Pastor Chris recognizes that everyone takes this step in their own

time, so if or when you desire to do so, please reach out.

Bible Study

Sunday morning @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study – This bible meetings on Wednesday mornings at 10:00.

Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study: Meets at the Fieldings home on the 1st Saturday of the month. Sunday school

Sunday school for our children will resume in September.

August Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **August 9th and the 23rd**. We will celebrate communion during the in-person service.

L.S.S. Food Donation

The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Central Ohio is in need of food donations due to the greatly increased number of clients and the ability to buy less and less bulk from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. If you will donate, please bring your food donation to the church on **Sunday, August 9th** and we will take everything down there on behalf of the congregation. The items they are requesting are fruits, vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, other 'shelf', non-perishable items, and personal care items. Jesus said in Matthew 25.40, "Whatever you did to the least of these My brothers, you did it for Me." Thank you for your willingness to help those in

need. ***You can bring your food donation to the church and it will be unloaded for you.***

Flower Signups

If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, please see the sign-up sheet near the church office. Cost is \$25.00

Streaming of Worship

We will continue our Sunday live stream worship services. Service will be at 10:30 a.m. If you cannot make it to service, we are posting the recording of it on our website (Poplutheran.net) under the sermon section.

In order to participate in the worship service, please download the worship folder. It should always be posted to the website by Saturday morning. You can access the worship folder at: [Worship Folder](#)

On the same page as the worship folder, you will find the link to the live stream. I have included it here in the newsletter as well. The live stream link is: [Live Stream](#)

Updating Contact Info

If you would like to update your information for the church, please contact the church office at 614-863-3124 and a link will be e-mailed to you. You may also contact the church office at info@poplutheran.net

Monthly Prayer Meeting

We hold a monthly prayer meeting the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. at the church. This ministry is a time for people of the church to come together

for prayer. The prayers can be for you, a loved one, the church, etc. The prayer meeting lasts from around 30 to 60 minutes.

June Ministry Support Report

	This Month	YTD
Income	14,187	
Expenses	186,854	187,507

Celebrations of Life

Richard R. - 1st
 Patience. - 8th
 Van C. - 10th
 Debbie A. - 18th
 Josh A. - 21st
 Marsha Q. - 24th
 Gabby S. - 27th
 Kathy G. - 28th
 Joseph K. - 31st



ANNIVERSARIES



Dave and Debby A. - 6th (38 years)
 Richard and Stephanie S - 8th (28 years)
 Emily and Brett S. (2 years)

Sorry, if your birthday or anniversary was missed!

Please give Pastor Chris any missing information. Thank you.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member and have eligible Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate? If so, consider Prince of Peace. We have a special fund

dedicated to Thrivent Choice dollars that the Thrivent members authorize for projects and purchases. You can check your Thrivent choice dollar amounts and direct them from the following webpage: Thrivent Choice or you can google "Thrivent Choice Dollars."

Online Offerings

You have the opportunity to support the mission and ministry of Prince of Peace through an electronic transfer of funds (EFT). It is a convenient way to support the Lord's work here at Prince of Peace. You can set up a recurring debit or manually input your ministry support weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Below are the steps to setting up your EFT for ministry support.

Go to POP Website and click the 'donate' tab. Enter the Amount and frequency and date(s) that you want to give. Enter the information on next page (incl. banking info). Enter a password if you want to create a profile and then submit it by clicking 'Process.'

ORGANIST: Maria G.

MORNING DEACON: Michael P.

PA SERVERS: Mike P.

COUNTERS: Linda S. And Denise M.

SERVICE HELPERS

August 2

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Korto K. (Emmanuel Page Jr.'s birthday)

GREETERS: John & Dolores K. Stephanie S. & Noelle E.

LECTORS: Jessica M.J. / Monica T.

USHERS: John and Dolores K. / Korto K.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

August 9

ELDER SERVING: Joe K.

FLOWERS: John K. In memory of his parents

GREETERS: Willie and Debby F. / Michele D.

LECTORS: Willie F. / Jeff R.

USHERS: Fieldings / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

August 16

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Tom K. (Son's birthday)

GREETERS: Richard R. / Willie and Debby F.

LECTORS: Debby F. / Dawn R.

USHERS: Jessica M.J. / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

August 23

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Pastor Kudart

USHERS: Dawn R.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

August 30

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Monica T.

USHERS: Dawn R.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti