

TIDINGS OF PEACE

January 2024

Pastor's Message

“2024 and the Lord's Will”

Happy New Year! A new year has been ushered in while the previous year lives on in our hearts and memories. 2023 is now “in the books.” As such, many people have spent time reflecting on the past year and looking forward to a new year. There is talk about “what the new year holds in store for us.” You may have uttered a phrase like that. I've always felt a little uneasy with that phrase. Let me explain. Is the future laid out for us and we get to “enjoy the ride”? Is 2024 like a gift that we get to unwrap, marvel at, rejoice over or look at and then toss aside, saying, “I don't want that!” Is the year all about me? I think there is something more that we can say as we look forward to a new year. I think there is something more that our Christian faith and outlook compels us to consider.

In James chapter 4, James wrote,

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

If it is the Lord's will. . . what if we looked at the new year from the eyes of “the will of God”? This, I think, would impact the way that we speak of the new year. We might consider, “It's a new year. I wonder what the Lord's will is for me today, tomorrow, in this month, etc?” If we look at the will of God, we may see today and tomorrow as more than “something that will happen to me.” We begin to see the Lord is in front, behind, and next to us and the situation. The year is not only about me, myself, and I. The Lord's will becomes a significant aspect to our daily lives. What is the Lord's will for me as I teach a student? What is the Lord's will for me as I care for an aging parent? What is the Lord's will for me as I parent my child? What is the Lord's will for me in my place of employment? What is the Lord's will for me as I am sick, recuperating, etc?

We all can answer the questions above and many others in various ways. But, there are also some general answers that are universal. For example, in 2024, it is the Lord's will that I believe in Jesus as my Lord and Savior (John 6.29). In 2024, it is the Lord's will that I love Him with all my mind, heart, strength, and power (Matthew 22.37-40). In 2024, it is the Lord's will that I call upon Him in

praise, prayer, and thanksgiving (Psalm 18.3, 107). In 2024, it is the Lord's will that I live a quiet life (1st Thessalonians 4.11-12).

Let us ask each day, "This is the Lord's Day. What is the Lord's will for me today? How can I follow Jesus today?" Let us take an active role in our faith, keeping Jesus front and center in our minds, hearts, lips, and lives! None of us knows what we will encounter in any day of the week. This can be a cause of anxiety for many of us. However, I want you to know that even though we do not know the future, we know that the Lord holds the future. We are safe and secure in the arms of Jesus, even though we know not what we may experience at any hour or moment of the day. 2024 is here. So, too, is the Lord's will. Let us keep God's will at the front our hearts, minds, and lives!

May God bless you this month and may you be a blessing to all those around you.

PC

Mark Your Calendars for the Lent Season

The 2024 Season of Lent begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday. This holy day is also on several people's birthdays and Valentine's Day. We will still host the Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes. Service will be at 7 p.m. with a lite dinner beginning around 6 p.m. Pastor Chris is still looking into the theme for our mid-week Lent services, so that will be announced by the end of January and in the February newsletter.

2023 Offering Statements

We are aiming to have the 2023 giving statements ready by Sunday, January 14th. We will hand them out to everyone in attendance on the Sundays before we mail out the remainder of the statements. We would like to limit the postage for this mailing.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Please pick-up your 2023 offering envelopes. Even if you give online, you still have a giving envelope. The envelopes are located on the table in the narthex, underneath the congregational pictures.

Life Sunday

Life Sunday will be observed on Sunday, January 21st. Pastor Chris' sermon will focus on mental health and our faith. One of the books that made an impact on Pastor Chris is John Swinton's book, "Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians with Mental Health Challenges."

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. We are currently discussing Paul's letter to the Ephesians. ***This study resumes January 7th.***

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study – This bible study resumes on Wednesday. We are not meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month. ***This study resumes on January 10th.***

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

Sunday school

Sunday school for our kids (pre-school – 6th grade) Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.

Serving at the H.E.A.R.T. Food Pantry

We have reached out to the H.E.A.R.T. food pantry to begin serving with them. We are still waiting for a response from them as to the next steps. Once we hear from them, we will start serving with them. Thank you for your patience as we serve and bless our neighbors.

January Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **January 14th and 28th**. We will celebrate communion during the in-person service.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor Chris is suspending the sharing of the peace during the worship services for the next several months.

As a reminder, please do not kiss anyone other than your family or a significant other. If you feel ill or have symptoms of the flu or Covid, please worship online.

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, January 14th** 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

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world

who are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials.

This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired regardless of faith or belief.

Streaming of Worship

We will continue our Sunday live stream worship services for the next several months. 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.

Mark Your Calendars for an "Ask the Expert" Estate Planning Workshop

On Saturday, January 13th, from 10-12 Prince of Peace will host an LCEF sponsored event of 'ask the expert' about estate planning. This event will be open to the public. **Pre-registration is required.**



Thank You for the Christmas Gift / Bonuses

Pastor Chris, Maria, Tigist, and Liz would like to express their thankfulness and gratitude for the special Christmas gift and bonuses that the congregation raised. It was unexpected and greatly appreciated. Thank you for showering them with expressions of your love, care, and support.

ANNIVERSARIES

Steve and Kathy H. - 3rd, 48 years
 Amanuel and Kidist M. - 10th, 20 years
 Adam and Jessie R. - 5th, 11 years

Celebrations of Life

Michelle D. - 1st
 Bill B. - 4th
 Jenna E. - 5th
 Mike P. - 5th
 Korto K. - 6th
 Dawn R. - 6th
 Cindy R. - 8th
 Andy J. - 9th
 Helen W. - 16th
 Lauren A. - 18th
 Jessica B. - 19th
 Hannah S. - 21st
 Terri R. - 23rd
 Amanuel M. - 24th
 Alessandra S. - 28th
 Richard B. - 29th
 Emily B. - 29th



Photo by Morgan Lane on Unsplash

November Ministry Support Report

	This Month	YTD
Income:	\$12,384	\$47,442
Expenses:	\$16,512	\$45,463

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 profit and then submit it by clicking 'Process.'

Sorry, if your birthday or anniversary was missed!

Please give Pastor Chris any missing information. Thank you.

ORGANIST: Maria P.

MORNING DEACON: Michael P.

PA SERVERS: Mike P.

COUNTERS: Phillip S. And Tom K.

SERVICE HELPERS

January 7

ELDER SERVING

FLOWERS: Liz S. (Memory of Parents)

GREETERS: John & Dolores K.

Stephanie S. & Noelle E.

LECTORS: Jessica M.J. / Jeff R

USHERS: Knellers / Tom K.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

January 14

ELDER SERVING

FLOWERS: Open**GREETERS:** Willie and Debby F. /
Michele D.**LECTORS:** Debby F. / Tom K.**USHERS:** Fieldings / Philip S.**PA SERVERS:** Mike Petti**January 21**

ELDER SERVING

FLOWERS: Open**GREETERS:** Richard R. / Willie and
Debby F.**LECTORS:** Willie F. / Andrew E.**USHERS:** Jessica M.J. / Thomas T.**PA SERVERS:** Mike Petti**January 28**

ELDER SERVING

FLOWERS: Liz S. (Memory of Bros)**GREETERS:** Richard and Laura B. /
Pat K. And Ali S.**LECTORS:** Pastor Chris / Phillip S.**USHERS:** Dawn R.**PA SERVERS:** Mike Petti