

TIDINGS OF PEACE

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

Pastor's Message

“The Highs and Lows of Ministry”

I'm not a fan of rollercoasters although my family and I are going to King's Island on July 11th. I will “probably” ride a few of the rollercoasters, but not the super-fast ones or the ones where you go upside down. I like smooth rides, nothing too fast, nothing too bumpy, nothing too uncomfortable or disappointing.

June was a roller-coaster for me at Prince of Peace. Not because of what anyone at the church did or did not do. There were some highs and lows, some disorienting moments, some moments to rejoice and celebrate. Let me tell you what I mean.

For the last several months, we worked on advertising, planning, and hosting the community fun day for June 13th. This was our fourth year of doing this event. There has always been some challenges with this event, but each year was a tad more successful than the previous year. This year shocked us all because only four children came to the event, three were related to me (my kids, nephew). One

came from the community and that was after he saw the bounce houses through his bedroom window. Kay advertised the event online, visiting apartment complexes, putting up flyers, etc. She spent several months doing the hard work of publicity. I posted the event online, on our website, Google business profile. We do not know exactly why so few came – we have searched for answers, but nothing definitive has been identified. I was sad and disappointed. It was a ministry low for me. I do not want to call it a failure because I do not see it as a failure. We tried our best, we offered something to the community and for whatever reason they did not respond. The event was not as successfully as we wanted, but it was not a failure. It was a ministry low, maybe a dip.

I did not have much time to sit with this low because the following week was prepping for our Vacation Bible School. But, one of my favorite things as a pastor took place on Sunday, June 21st, when I baptized the Kay's daughter on Father's Day. I absolutely LOVE baptizing children. Being able to pour the water over the head of an infant, proclaiming, “I baptize you in the

name of God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit” is such a ministry high for me! The Friday before VBS, I had a lunch visit with someone who has been attending the church for several months. When I asked if we could go out for lunch, I said there was no agenda – I just wanted to visit with him and to get to know him better. Pretty early in the conversation, he asked what he needed to do to join Prince of Peace as a member. Two weeks earlier, I received a letter from a church in Michigan saying they had received a transfer request from one of their members and that they had transferred her membership to Prince of Peace – all of her own accord. So, in June, three people joined or will join Prince of Peace. This is also a ministry high.

Now we come to VBS. I did not know what was going to happen for VBS. There was a night while on vacation that I could not sleep because I realized I had not created the online registration form. So, I got out of bed, spent time creating the form and sent it to Marsha and Debby. I posted it to the POP Facebook page. By the end of the week, we had a few registrations. After I got back from vacation, announcing and sending out invites began to happen. Registrations trickled in. Then, on Monday, the first day of VBS, I started seeing more registrations coming in. At 1:50 p.m., I received a text from Isaac (part of the Nepali church) asking if we could pick up

some of their children for VBS. I contacted Richard and Philip and they said they could help. By the time VBS began at 6 p.m. that night, we had 49 attendees and the registrations kept coming throughout the week. We ended up with close, if not, more than 60 registrations. This was huge because at last year’s VBS we had only 19 people on-site. This was another ministry high because these children came and were immersed in the Word of God and had fun..

Ministry has many highs and lows. There are aspects of it that are meaningful to me, aspects that touch my soul (baptism is a huge one!). There is also a lot of lows, moments of pain, moments that greatly impact my sleep. This is not unexpected. The Apostle Paul wrote about it in his letters, most notably to the Christians in Corinth.

The Apostle Paul understood highs and lows in ministry. In 2 Corinthians 11, he lists off all that he endured as part of his calling, and then he adds one more thing on top of it all: "there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches." That is ministry. It is not just the events themselves, the highs and the lows. It is carrying the people through them. I think about Kay spending months on community fun day publicity. I think about Marsha and Debby working to make VBS successful. I think of everyone who helped with VBS this year. None of us

were carrying June alone. We were carrying it together, and that is exactly how Paul describes ministry – not as one man's burden, but as something shared.

This is also how Paul talks about the church in Philippi. He calls them his partners. In Philippians 1, he writes, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Partnership is the word that stands out to me. Not Paul's ministry that the Philippians supported from a distance. A shared work. They prayed for him. They gave to him. They suffered alongside him. And he thanked God for them every time he prayed.

That is what I want to say about Prince of Peace. You are not an audience watching me do ministry. We are partners in it. When Kay spent months advertising community fun day, that was partnership. When Marsha and Debby helped plan and implement it, that was partnership. When Richard and Philip dropped what they were doing to pick up kids from the Nepali church, that was partnership. When people came on Monday morning to set-up for VBS, that was partnership. When people said, "I want to join Prince of Peace" that is partnership. When Phillip pushed me to have him get me some help so I didn't have to get the new keys for the Chosen

Generation church to start worshipping at POP, that was partnership. When you pray for this congregation, when you show up, when you welcome someone new, when you carry the disappointment of a low Sunday or a ministry low alongside me – that is partnership, too.

The highs and the lows are not mine to carry alone, and they are not yours to carry alone either. We are in this together, partners in the gospel, the way Paul and the Philippians were partners. Whatever July brings or the months ahead, whatever highs or lows come our way, let us keep doing the work side by side, trusting the God who is faithful through all of it.

May God bless you this month!

Pastor Chris

Women's Bible Study: Habakkuk

The Wednesday morning women's bible study is meeting during the summer. They will study and discuss the prophet Habakkuk and the three chapters of his 'book.' All women of the congregation are invited to participate.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during the week of VBS. We had a great week, full of fun and learning. We had a smaller batch of kids this year, but that did not prevent or hinder us from sharing the Word of

God, leading them in praise, and having fun with snacks, crafts, and games. Once again, thank you to all the volunteers!

One Worship Service

Please note that on July 5th, ***we will have ONE worship service. It will be at 10:00 a.m.***

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.
There is no bible study on July 13th.

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study – This bible meetings on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. There is no bible study on July 22nd or the 29th.

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. Thank you to all the teachers, children, and parents who participated in the Sunday school program.

July Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **July 5th**. 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, July 12th** 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

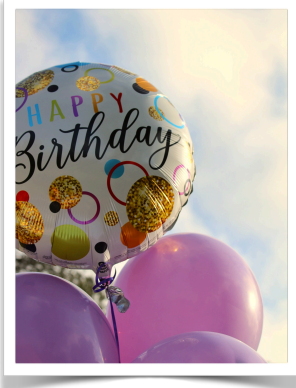
We hold a monthly prayer meeting the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. at the church. This ministry is a time for people of the church to come together for prayer. The prayers can be for you, a loved one, the church, etc. The prayer meeting lasts from around 30 to 60 minutes.

May Ministry Support Report

	This Month	YTD
Monthly	16,159	19,185
YTD	172,667	167,678

Celebrations of Life

Marian H. - 1st
Elizabeth S. - 2nd
Kandice W. - 6th
Donna H. - 7th
Alison F. - 11th
James P. - 13
Laura B. - 16th
Melaine G. - 16th
Jessica S. - 16th
Roline C. - 22nd
Judy S. - 22nd
Lisa S. - 22nd
Hunter S. - 27th



ANNIVERSARIES

Richard and Laura B.
- 12th

Maria and Brandon
G. On the 13th
Roline and Bud C.
on the 20th

Pastor Chris and Aly
E. - 20th

Chris and Kandice W. 28th



*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 profit and then submit it by clicking 'Process.'

ORGANIST: Maria G.

MORNING DEACON: Michael P.

PA SERVERS: Mike P.

COUNTERS: Paul K. and John K.

SERVICE HELPERS

July 5: One Worship Service

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Michele D. - Mom's birthday

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

LECTORS: Jessica M.J. or Phillip S.

USHERS: Knellers

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

July 12

ELDER SERVING: Joe K.

FLOWERS: Ron and Judy - Melanie and Jess' birthday

GREETERS: Willie and Debby F. / Michele D.

LECTORS: Willie F. / Jeff R.

USHERS: Fieldings / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

July 19

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard R. / Willie and Debby F.

LECTORS: Debby F. / Dawn R.

USHERS: Jessica M.J. / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

July 26

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Pastor Kudart

USHERS: Dawn R.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti