

TIDINGS OF PEACE

“We are rooted in God’s love, united in connecting people to Jesus”

May 2026

Pastor’s Message

“The Holy Spirit IS at Work”

This year, the Day of Pentecost falls on May 24th. Pentecost is the day when the Church remembers the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in Acts 2. The disciples were gathered together, and suddenly the sound of a mighty rushing wind filled the house. Tongues as of fire appeared and rested on them. They began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. Peter preached Christ crucified and risen, and about three thousand people were baptized that day.

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. It is a powerful day. A joyful day. A Spirit-filled day.

And yet, I remember something my vicarage supervisor, Pastor Barrie Henke, once said. He said that the Lutheran Church does not talk much about the Holy Spirit. I think he was right. We believe in the Holy Spirit. We confess the Holy Spirit every Sunday in the Creed. We baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We speak of the Spirit’s work in conversion, faith, sanctification, and the life of the Church. But often, we don’t pause and speak about the Holy Spirit directly.

Many of my Lutheran doctrine books reflect this. The Holy Spirit is certainly present, but often under other topics: the doctrine of God, conversion, sanctification, the Church, the Means of Grace. The Spirit is not absent, but He is often discussed in connection with the work He does rather than in a separate section of His own.

That is actually makes sense because The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself for His own sake. Jesus says in John 15:26, “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth... He will bear witness about Me.” The Spirit’s work is to point us to Jesus. He gives faith in Jesus. He delivers the gifts of Jesus. He keeps us connected to Jesus.

Martin Luther’s explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed is one of the clearest and most comforting summaries of the Spirit’s work:

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”

Luther's words here are important for us to stop and consider.

Luther begins by saying, "I believe that I cannot..." That sounds strange at first. We usually like to begin with what we can do. We like to believe that if we try hard enough, think clearly enough, or discipline ourselves enough, we can make ourselves into what we ought to be. But Luther tells the truth about the human condition. Left to ourselves, we cannot create faith. We cannot manufacture spiritual life. We cannot raise ourselves from spiritual death.

But then comes the Gospel comfort: "But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel."

Faith is not something you have to manufacture. Faith is given. Faith is created by the Spirit through the Gospel. The Holy Spirit calls us through the good news of Jesus Christ: His life, His death, His resurrection, His forgiveness, His promises. The Spirit takes what Christ has done and brings it to us.

The Holy Spirit "enlightens me with His gifts." He opens our eyes to see Jesus. He helps us understand God's Word. He teaches us to see our sin honestly and God's mercy more clearly. He gives gifts to the Church so that we may encourage, serve, and strengthen one another.

The Holy Spirit "sanctifies and keeps me in the true faith." This means He is not only the One who brings us to faith, but the One who keeps us in faith. He continues His work in us through the Word, through Baptism, through the Lord's Supper, through worship, through prayer, and through the mutual encouragement of the Church. That is a great comfort.

Sometimes Christians feel pressure to make something happen spiritually.

We wonder why we don't feel as strong as we think we should. We wonder why prayer feels difficult, why worship sometimes feels ordinary, why faith sometimes feels small. We may start to think, "If I were a better Christian, I would feel more spiritual. I would have more energy. I would have fewer doubts. I would be stronger."

But Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not built by human strength. Faith is not sustained by human enthusiasm. The Christian life is not powered by our ability to generate spiritual intensity. The Holy Spirit is at work.

He works quietly. He works through ordinary means. He works when the Word is read and preached. He works when water is joined to God's promise in Baptism. He works when Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. He works when the church gathers and sings, prays, listens, confesses, and receives. He works when one Christian encourages another. He works when the weary are strengthened, the guilty are forgiven, the grieving are comforted, and the wandering are called home.

So this Pentecost, I want to encourage you: trust that God is working in your life.

You do not have to manufacture the Holy Spirit's work. You do not have to force yourself into spiritual growth by sheer willpower. You are invited to receive. To hear the Word. To remember your Baptism. To come to the Lord's Table. To pray honestly. To gather with the Church. To trust that the Spirit is doing more than you can see.

The same Spirit who was poured out on Pentecost is still at work today. He still calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps the whole

Christian Church on earth in the one true faith. And that includes you. Come, Holy Spirit. Fix our eyes on Jesus. Strengthen our faith. Keep us in Your grace.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Chris

Happy Mother's Day

We wish a very happy and blessed Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures of Prince of Peace. We give thanks to God for the love, care, wisdom, encouragement, and faithful example you share with your families and with our church family. May the Lord bless you, strengthen you, and remind you how deeply loved and appreciated you are.

Join Us for a Community Party

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 13th, from 12-2 PM** and come celebrate with us! We'll have water balloons, bounce houses, and more—fun for the whole family! Bring your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of laughter, connection, and community. We can't wait to see you there!

May Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **May 10th and the 17th**. We will celebrate communion during the in-person service. There will be no Communion on May 24th due to Pastor being on vacation.

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 finishing Hebrews. There will be no bible study on May 17th due to the congregational meeting.

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study – This bible meetings on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 (10:15 on the 4th Wednesday of the month). There is no bible study on May 27th.

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 take a break for the summer. The last day of Sunday school will be May 10th.

Congregational Meeting: May 17

Our Spring congregational meeting is Sunday, May 17th at 9:15 a.m. In this meeting, we will elect people to Council positions and share the drafted agreement between Prince of Peace and the Chosen Generation church (the Nepali group).

Join Us for a Community Party!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 13th, from 12-2 PM** and come celebrate with us! We'll have water balloons, bounce houses, and more—fun for the whole family!



Get ready for an exciting week of **Vacation Bible School** from **June 22-26, 2026!**



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, May 10TH** 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

LWML Monthly Mission Grant: Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling

Protecting and nourishing the mental health and well-being of children is the mission of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS). They protect a child's integrity, self-worth, spiritual well-being, and mental health through professional compassionate Christian counseling.

The outpatient child therapy clinic was expanded in August 2023 and the number of children served by LCFS grew beyond capacity in six months. The clinic needs to expand its services again to meet the demands and needs of countless children in the greater Milwaukee community.

As children get better and stronger, the lives of parents, siblings, and other family members often improve. LCFS also deploys trained therapists to respond to community crises and offer Christ's healing.

This grant will increase the number of therapists working in the clinic from five to seven, purchase therapeutic toys, and develop promotional materials to present to LCMS churches and groups.

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](#)

Help Needed: Join Our MediaShout Presentation Team

We're looking for a few detail-oriented, willing-to-learn volunteers to join the team that helps prepare our MediaShout presentations for Sunday worship. This behind-the-scenes role makes a big difference in helping our congregation participate fully in the service.

What's Involved?

Each volunteer would be responsible for preparing the worship slides about once a month. You'll receive a template, the hymns, liturgy, and Scripture readings to input—then arrange them in our MediaShout presentation.

Time commitment: Approximately 30 minutes per week (once a month), though it may take a bit longer as you learn the system.

Training provided! No previous MediaShout experience is necessary. We'll walk you through it step by step.

Computer required: You'll need access to a computer to create the presentation. If needed, we can arrange for you to use the church computer to complete it at the building.

This is a simple but meaningful way to serve—and you don't need to stand in front of anyone to do it! If you're interested or want to see a demo before committing, please talk to Pastor Chris, Richard Riley or contact the church office.

We'd love to have you on the team!

Survey for Mid-week Evening Bible Study

One of the highlights that the ministry planning team noted was a desire for a bible study that does not take place during the workday. The team spent time discussing possibilities, so Pastor has created an online survey with potential days and times. Please fill out the survey (online or through a paper survey). We are looking at doing a Google Meet (online) bible study. We believe this would address people's concerns of driving at night and it has the potential to work better with Pastor Chris' and his family's schedule. Here is the link for the survey: [Online Bible Study Survey](#)

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

Invitation to Graduation Celebration

The congregation is invited to the graduation party for Caitlyn Presley. It will be held on Saturday, May 23rd at Prince of Peace. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

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.

LWML Meeting

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of Prince of Peace invites the women of the church to join them for their May meeting following 2nd service. This meeting will be on May 17th.

ANNIVERSARIES

Luke & Christa M. -46 years on the 3rd

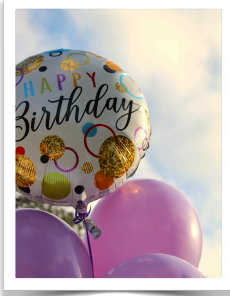
Dave & Marsha Q. 37 years on the 13th

March Ministry Support Report

	Income	Expenses
Monthly	44,571	17,519
YTD	141,977	131,068

Celebrations of Life

Jessica M.J. - 4th
 Monica T. - 4th
 Marten M. - 4th
 Ephraim C. - 9th
 Yohannes H.. - 9th
 Korto B. - 17th
 Katie Q. - 18th
 Kathy H. - 25th
 David R. - 29th



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 contact the church office at info@poplutheran.net for 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

ORGANIST: Maria G.

MORNING DEACON: Michael P.

PA SERVERS: Mike P.

COUNTERS: Linda S. & Denise M.

SERVICE HELPERS

May 3

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Jess and Andy(Jess' Parent's Anniversary, Luke and Chris)

GREETERS: John & Dolores K. Stephanie S.

LECTORS: Jessica M.J. / Pastor Chris

USHERS: Open / Korto K.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

May 10

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Dave Q. (Anniversary and Granddaughter's Baptism)

GREETERS: Willie and Debby F. / Michele D.

LECTORS: Willie F. / Monica T.

USHERS: Fieldings / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

May 17

ELDER SERVING: Joe K.

FLOWERS: Dave Q. (Katie's Birthday and John and Kristen's anniversary)

GREETERS: Richard R. / Willie and Debby F.

LECTORS: Debby F. / Dawn R.

USHERS: Jessica M.J. / Thomas T.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

May 24

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Linda S. (In Memory of Phil and her's anniversary)

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K. And Ali S.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Jeff R.

USHERS: Open

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

May 31

ELDER SERVING: Richard R.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Monica T.

USHERS: Open / Paul K.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti