

TIDINGS OF PEACE

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

Pastor's Message

“Eyes Forward, No Distraction”

On Saturday, August 23rd, I was rear-ended in the Sam's Club parking lot. I was waiting to turn onto Taylor when I was 'popped' in the bumper. At present, I do not know the extent of the damage – superficially, it does not look like much, but when I was in Oklahoma, I was rear-ended and there was a lot of damage that I did not know at first. I understand that accidents, or as my driver's ed teacher said, “They aren't accidents. They are collisions.” I understand collisions can happen for many reasons. I wonder if there can be a better term. We use 'distracted driving.' What about something like 'distracted collisions'?

What are the causes of our distracted driving, distracted collisions? It could be kids. Changing the radio station. Answering a phone call. Texting someone. Watching a video on the phone. Listening to music. Having a heated or engrossing conversation. Crying. Not paying attention. Looking down. There are many reasons for collisions to happen, right?

What about our faith in Jesus? Can there be accidents or collisions that our faith experiences? Or to put it in a biblical metaphor: shipwreck our faith? What could those be? Sin is the obvious answer! My sin. Your sin. The sin of others. The sin answer can be too generic. Sin can be too easy for us to say without further exploration. What specific things can cause an accident in your faith? What specific things can cause a collision in your faith? For your faith to be shipwrecked?

The Apostle Paul was the one who used the image of a faith that is shipwrecked. In 1st Timothy 1.19, the Apostle Paul wrote to I the young pastor, Timothy, “some have rejected these [faith and a good conscience] and have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander.” We do not know what exactly happened to Hymenaeus or Alexander or what they did that shipwrecked their faith. I think a small clue is the faith and good conscience. Our conscience can be afflicted by our sin – the things that we did or did not do. We can experience shame or guilt. And those are powerful experiences that can pull us away, that can cause

us to have an accident or collision in our faith.

Have you felt guilt or shame over the things that you have done or the things that have been done to you? I have! Every single week and probably every single day. Shame and guilt are extremely powerful experiences, and it is very human for us to feel them. But there is also a spiritual pull that these experiences can have on us. This spiritual pull can lead us to look to ourselves or others to deal with the shame and guilt. This spiritual pull can shipwreck our faith if we are not careful!

The New Testament gives us plenty of exhortations to look to Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and to run with endurance the race set before us, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." 2 Corinthians 3:18 says that as we behold the Lord, we are being transformed into his image, from one degree of glory to another. Colossians 3:1-2 tells us to seek the things above, to set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth.

I would like to add to this call to faith, to look to Jesus, and that is for us to have our eyes forward, looking to Jesus without distractions. So, what can that look like for you?

It might mean naming the specific thing that keeps pulling your eyes

away. Not "sin" in general, but the particular guilt you carry about a decision you made five years ago. The specific shame you feel about something that was done to you, that you never asked for and never deserved. The habit, the particular relationship, the particular fear that keeps tugging at your attention like a phone buzzing on the seat next to you.

It might mean confession. Not because God needs your confession to know what you did, but because you need to say it out loud to loosen its grip on you. A good conscience isn't a perfect conscience. It's one that has been washed, that has learned to bring its mess to Jesus instead of hiding it or nursing it.

It might mean simply turning your eyes, again, this week, back to him. Not once and done. Again and again, the way a driver keeps making sure they have not crossed a line, keeps checking mirrors, keeps returning attention to the road ahead. Faith isn't shipwrecked in one dramatic moment, usually. It drifts. A little distraction here, a little there, until we look up and realize how far we've wandered from the road.

I still don't know the full extent of the damage to my bumper. I'll find out this week. But I do know this: whatever hits us from behind, whatever tries to catch us off guard, our call is the same. Eyes forward. No distraction. Looking

to Jesus, the one who already knows the way home.

May God bless you this month!

Pastor Chris

Women's Bible Study: Zephaniah

The Wednesday morning women's bible study continues its study of the prophet and book Zephaniah. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. (10:15 on the 4th Wednesday of the month). All women of the congregation are invited to participate.

Online Bible Study Starting Soon

A new online bible study will begin on Tuesday, October 6th. It will be at 6 p.m., lasting for 30 minutes. It will be through Google Meet. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Confirmation Resuming

Confirmation instruction for students in 6th-7th grade resumes on September 27th. We will meet every other week on Sundays following second service.

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. No bible study on September 6th. The CTCR study on Immigrants will start on 9/13 @ 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 September 13th at 9:30 a.m.

September Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **September 13th and the 27th**. We will celebrate communion during the in-person service.

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.

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, September 13th** 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

October Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: National Youth Gathering

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 18th. We will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the youth. We are planning to take youth to the LCMS' National Youth Gather in July 2028. For the next two years, we will have special fundraisers to help cover the cost. We are hoping to send 5-8 youth to San Antonio.

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

Letter from Luke M.

Dear Prince of peace congregation:

Galatians chapter 6 verse 2 says that we should "bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ."

We are doing well overall. My condition continues to degrade but it is at a very slow rate. Overall, my fingers are pretty much nonfunctional. I have minimal strength in my lower and upper arms. Legs are OK but are also showing some weakness. I use a machine to help me with breathing at night.

My mind is still good. I am still working but looking to retire probably at the end of the year. My wife Chris has been an excellent help to me. She is my best friend and I wouldn't be able to do this without her by my side. I have my three wonderful children and they are so helpful and supportive.

I know that I've been getting prayer from so many people. Several people have prayed for healing, but I'm not told this disease cannot be healed by natural means. So this means that we are depending on God to keep us moving forward. The prayers have buoyed me up: keeping me sane, keeping me content, and keeping me focused on God. This may be the best part: that I have drawn so much closer to God and relied on him more and more every single day. I truly believe God wants us to be as close to him as possible. There is so much joy in his kingdom.

I have also come to think that this world that we live in is just a crucible: the evil things will be burned off and only the good will remain. Our time here on earth is such a short time, compared to being in heaven with Christ. Our bodies are just carrying our spiritual beings around in order to interact with other people. Jesus spoke a parable about keeping a light under a bushel. May it never be! He wants our light to shine to others and display his glory.

So, I encourage you church to continue to pray for us. Continue to pray for those around you who may not be in such straits. We all need prayer. We all need to love each other. We all need to care for each other. We will continue to keep our eyes on Christ who is the

author and perfecter of our faith. God bless us all!

July Ministry Support Report

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

Celebrations of Life

Cinda L. - 4th
Denise S. - 4th
Suzi H. - 5th
Nora W. - 6th
Joyce C. - 12th
Daniel H. - 19th
Sam S. - 19th
Judy G. - 22nd
Jeff. R. - 22nd;
Jon S. - 22nd
Paul K. - 23rd;
Tina S. - 25th;
Hosie E. - 26th;
Arsema K. - 27th;
Eliab M. - 28th
Brandon G. - 29th



ANNIVERSARIES



Willie and Debby F - 9/6
Philip and Kay - 9/6
James and Yarma K. - 9/13

Ron and Judy G. - 9/24

Pat and Paul K. - 9/25

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: Melanie G. & Monica T.

SERVICE HELPERS

September 6

ELDER SERVING: Joe K.

FLOWERS: Willie and Debby and Philip and K for their wedding anniversaries

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

September 13

ELDER SERVING: Dave A.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Willie and Debby F. / Michele D.

LECTORS: Willie F. / Jeff R.

USHERS: Fieldings / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

September 20

ELDER SERVING: Jeff R.

FLOWERS: Linda S (for Phil's Birthday, her parent's birthday, and Judy's birthday)

GREETERS: Richard R. / Willie and Debby F.

LECTORS: Debby F. / Dawn R.

USHERS: Jessica M.J. / Phillip S.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti

September 27

ELDER SERVING: Amanuel M.

FLOWERS: Open

GREETERS: Richard and Laura B. / Pat K.

LECTORS: Fieldings / Pastor Chris and Noelle

USHERS: Dawn R.

PA SERVERS: Mike Petti