

BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 82, Number 4 April 2018

What Does a Farmer Do in the Winter? A Message from Pastor Mark

A few weeks ago I took a quick trip to Reinbeck, Iowa to attend the funeral of my Uncle Fred. I'd be surprised if any of you ever heard of Reinbeck. It's a rural town with a population of 1,635. It's farm country. Fred isn't a blood relative. He married my father's sister. Fred grew up on the family farm in Reinbeck and spent his adult life working on that farm. Fred's lifestyle, and that of his sons (my cousins), was quite different than mine. I grew up in a suburb that bordered Chicago. But as a boy, it was fun to visit the farm and the relatives there.

Fred was a successful farmer. He raised cattle and typically had 500 to 1,000 head of cattle. On much of his land he grew corn and asparagus. The original homestead was about 600 acres, but he owned more land than that. As a child one of my sisters asked what the bad smell was on the farm. Uncle Fred laughed and said, "That's the smell of money." Uncle Fred had an indoor swimming pool and hot tub off the living room of the farm house.

Fred's passion was farming. He wrote a book about farming, and he established a small museum in that area that focused on the history of farming in the county. But Fred also used his passion for farming to help others. He was heavily involved in an organization with a mission to help subsistence farmers in impoverished areas of the world. This organization shipped tractors the size of lawn tractors, as well as attachments that could be used for farming. Fred went to Nicaragua regularly to train subsistence farmers how to maximize their production of crops. He trained them how to use and maintain the tractors they were given. And today in Nicaragua, there is a Fred Strohbehn Learning Center for Advancement of Agriculture, named after my uncle.

Fred was a man of faith, an active member of his local Congregational Church. He was a successful farmer. He knew he was blessed, and he used his passion, knowledge, and experience to help improve the lives of others. What does a farmer do in the winter? Uncle Fred went to Nicaragua. And Uncle Fred, as different as he was from me, is an inspiration to me.

When Jesus was raised from death and appeared to his disciples, he said to them: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21). That raises questions for us, as followers of Jesus. What does it mean to be sent by God? What is God's mission for me? Knowing that God has blessed me, how do I become involved in a way that will help to bring God's blessings to others? How do I take my passion and use it to benefit others?

God has blessed each of us in special ways. God calls us to be a blessing to others.

~ Pastor Mark

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - 8:15 AM

April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
	Choir		
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Zoe Lonsinger	Zoe Lonsinger	Zoe Lonsinger	Morgen Kleppin
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Polly Groff Chris Klauck Susan Lehmann	Heidi Adam Barbara Morris Marci Sharp	Marilyn Roginski Edith Sherman Louise Kleppin	T.B.A.
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister or Communion Assistant	Assisting Minister or Communion Assistant
Marci Sharp	Marci Sharp	1.	1.
Communion Host Polly Groff	Communion Host 1.	Communion Host 1.	Communion Host 1.
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Lonsinger Family	Brenda Hamilton & Jim King	Ed & Vivian Wainwright	1. 2.
Lector	Lector	Lector	Lector
Cathie Fegley	Jim Sharp	1.	1.
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Phil Burdick Casey Johansen	 Phil Burdick Jim Sharp 	Phil Burdick 2.	Phil Burdick 2.

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - 11:00 AM

April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
		Choir	Choir
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Maggie Mattera	Christopher Mattera	ТВА	Ava Cantone
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Polly Groff Chris Klauck Susan Lehmann	Heidi Adam Barbara Morris Marci Sharp	Marilyn Roginski Edith Sherman Louise Kleppin	T.B.A.
Assisting Minister or Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Assisting Minister or Communion Assistant	Assisting Minister
1.	Marilyn Roginski	1.	Marci Sharp
Communion Host	Communion Host	Communion Host	Communion Host
Kristen Mattera	1.	1.	Liz Davies
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
Rebecca Adam, Tim Buzzell Matthew Mattera	Joe & Marilyn Roginski	Bruce & Diane MacDonald	Joe & Sophia Cantone
Lector	Lector	Lector	Lector
Colin McLoone Eden Schwanke	1.	Catherine Romero	Jim Sharp
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Amelia Choi, Mykayla Lavery, Jon-Erik Lupinacci & Alex Reitz	Gale Confortini Confortini	1. 2.	Steve & Jimmy Davies
Offering Tellers	Offering Tellers	Offering Tellers	Offering Tellers
Tom & Kim Maier	Joe & Marilyn Roginski	Polly Groff & Marci Sharp	Cindy Rosato & Marci Sharp

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 7	5:00 PM	Word & Sacrament
Sunday, April 8	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Word & Sacrament Sunday School & Adult Forum Word & Sacrament
Saturday, April 14	5:00 PM	Word & Sacrament
Sunday, April 15	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Word & Sacrament Sunday School & Adult Forum Word & Sacrament
Saturday, April 21	5:00 PM	Word & Sacrament
Sunday, April 22	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Word & Sacrament Sunday School & Adult Forum Word & Sacrament
Saturday, April 28	5:00 PM	Word & Sacrament
Sunday, April 29	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Word & Sacrament Sunday School & Adult Forum Word & Sacrament

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We need worship assistants, for services in April. If you can help, please sign up in the Narthex or call René at the church.

~ Rene Tuccillo

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Average weekly worship attendance for the first three months was:

		2017	2018	Change
Sat.	5:00 PM	28	30	+ 2
Sun.	8:15 AM	37	38	+ 1
	11:00 AM	75	69	- 6
Total		140	137	- 3

Overall weekly worship attendance for the first three months went down 2%.

SPECIAL SERVICES

	2017	2018	Change
Ash Wednesday	86	83	- 3
Mid-Week Lenten	20	21	+ 1
Maundy Thursday	71	59	- 12
Good Friday	78	88	+ 10
Saturday Easter Vigil	34	28	- 6
Easter Day	297	286	- 7

COUNCIL NEWS

Pastor Paul Sinnott, Associate to the Bishop and member of Prince of Peace, came to our March Council meeting to talk about the process of preparing to call a new pastor. Pastor Mark had informed Council at its February meeting that he would be retiring on or close to March 1, 2019, and Council then decided to begin the process of preparing to call a new pastor while Pastor Mark is still here. The first step will be to have a History Day at Prince of Peace. This involves a three-hour led event. by Kim Bergstrand (Associate to the Bishop). The congregation will be invited to this. The purpose is to discuss our history as a congregation as a way of preparing to look at where we see ourselves headed in the future. Our History Day will take place in early May. Details about this event will be communicated to the congregation later in April.

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

Most Sundays during the year, we have a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the altar that was created by the members of Altar Guild. Those flowers are dedicated and paid for by members of the congregation.

The arrangements cost \$25.00. If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in memory of a loved one, to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or event, you can sign up for your chosen date on the Flower Chart between the bathrooms in the Narthex. You also need to fill out a flower request form, which is located next to the Flower Chart, and put it in Rene Tuccillo's mailbox. Your name and dedication will appear in the worship bulletins. If two people sign up for the same date, flowers can be placed in other locations in the Sanctuary, such as on the organ or piano or at the baptismal font. We do not have flowers at the altar during lent.

ELCA National Youth Gathering Pie A Vicar/Youth Director/Chaperone in The Face Fundraiser

Have you ever wanted to pie a Vicar in the face? How about a youth director or chaperone? Well now is your chance!

Continuing through mid-April, there will be three containers placed in the narthex during services on Saturday and Sunday, one for Vicar Dan, one for Deb Dlug (Youth Director) and one for Dave Reitz (one of our chaperones for Houston). The idea is, whoever collects the most money will be the lucky recipient of a pie to the face. The choice is in your hands! Bring in your spare change or if you feel so inclined, you can place checks in the jar as well. They can be made out to Prince of Peace Youth Group, with National Youth Gathering written in the memo line.

Will it be Vicar Dan, Deb Dlug, or Dave Reitz? The choice is entirely in your hands!



YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hike

Location: Meet at Prince of Peace

Saturday, April 28th 10AM to 2PM

End of The Year Youth Group Celebration

Friday, May 18th 6PM to 8PM

Prince of Peace Youth Room or Fellowship Hall





April 1st – Jesus Is Risen (John 20:1-8)

The ending of the Easter story is Mary Magdalene running to tell the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" This is what we are called to do as Christians—proclaim the good news. That's the mission of our church bodies: no matter how fancy the words in our mission statement, we are called to proclaim the good news that love and grace always win. God is always at work. In this story, kids learn that hate never wins. Death and destruction never are the last word. Love, hope, and joy finish out the story. Always. It's Easter Day! Rejoice! This is the most pivotal day in the church year— Christ is risen! Alleluia! The whole scripture package for the day is about the good news of Easter and what it means for us. Isaiah speaks to the assurance that God has the last word and the word is LIFE, not death. LOVE, not hate. JOY, not sorrow. The Corinthians text is Paul's retelling of the good news of Christ's resurrection.

April 8th – Early Believers Share (Acts 4:32-35)

Kids are learning how to share, so they know it is important and they know it is sometimes hard to do. When first read, this story seems to present a pretty radical community. However, sharing public property, books, toys, and car rides are all things kids can relate to. Some kids know what it is to live in want, while some kids live not knowing what is enough. These few verses address both perspectives. We share by God's grace. In God's vision for our world, everyone has enough and no one is in need. These few verses in Acts are read in conjunction with the Gospel of John's account of the Holy Spirit's arrival, when the risen Jesus comes to the disciples in a locked room. He breathes the Spirit upon them and the implication is that they are sent out, fortified in spirit. In Acts, we see the followers of Jesus already fortified—they're doing the work! The Holy Spirit shapes and fortifies relationships for the explicit purpose of getting the story out into the world.

April 15th – Jesus Appears to Disciples (Luke 24:36b-48)

The disciples had lots of questions and did lots of wondering about Jesus' resurrection. Could it really be him? They had seen him die a terrible death, and now here he was, standing there before them. Jesus patiently gave them different "proofs" of his alive, resurrected self. Many of us still have questions and still wonder about things we hear in church or read in the Bible. Just like Jesus was patient with the disciples, he is patient with us as we wonder and search for the truth. We celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, but we get to hear the stories again and again to let them soak in. This text sets a bigger context for Easter and reminds us of the longer story in which we live.

April 22nd – The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18)

This story can be of comfort to kids. It tells them who Jesus is and what he does for them. He is a good shepherd who knows them and cares for them in ways no one else could. Jesus defines his identity by both his title of "shepherd" and his actions. Kids are learning who they are in the context of family relationships, peer groups, and so on. They define themselves as daughter, brother, student, and friend. While these labels help us understand ourselves, they are also responsibilities. We are supposed to be good sisters, brothers, and friends, and our actions help decide that. During Easter we bask in the glow of the resurrection. "Alleluias" surround us, and we proclaim the Christ who rose again so that our lives could also be transformed. The Good Shepherd snatches sheep from the jaws of death and gifts them with new life. That's a powerful image of what God does for us, in small and profound ways.

April 29th – Let Us Love One Another (1 John 4:7-21)

"Abiding in God's love" is a tough concept to understand and might be explained to kids as knowing what God wants and doing what God wants in all areas of our lives. God wants us to love others because God is love, so when we act in love of others we are "abiding in God's love and God is abiding in us." Further, acting out of love toward everyone is a difficult task, as most kids will know. It helps to tell kids first that, of course, it's a hard task; second, when we love others, it shows others who God is, because God is love. In the months that follow Easter, we try to make sense of the resurrection message. This is a great scripture, geared for the early church, which sums up the message of Christ: "Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." This is a great exploration of why and how to do that.

WAY OF THE CROSS AND EASTER PHOTOS































Prince of Peace Pre-School

119 Junction Road Brookfield, CT www.princeofpeacepreschool.org T: 203-775-0140

Dear Prince of Peace Families,

During April we are looking forward to some beautiful spring days to begin planting in the PoP garden on the playground, to be inspired for our upcoming Art Show, and to welcome some fun outdoor activities. The end of the year is rapidly approaching and this newsletter will allow you to add some important events to your busy calendars.

Thank you to the families who placed orders for Butterbraids. The proceeds will be used towards our end of the year activities for the children

Best,

Debbie Nobes

PoP's 18th Annual Art Show!

Only 5 weeks to the PoP Annual Art Show! The children are busy in the classrooms creating their masterpieces! Please plan to attend this Family Event. The PoP Gallery will be open from 5:00-8:00 on Friday, May 4th. We hope you can all stop in for what proves to be a memorable event. We are certain you will be very impressed and proud of your child's accomplishments.

Make-up Days

Due to the number of snow closings this year we are extending our school calendar. Please see the attached letter detailing changes to the original school calendar.





Important Announcements

No School

April 16th -20th Spring Break

Mark Your Calendars! 4's Portfolio Hours

June 4th- Mrs. Dolan's/Mrs. Kappel's MWF 4's 10:45-12:00
June 6th - Mrs.McNally's MWF 4's class 12:45-2:00
June 7th - Mrs. Dolan's/ Mrs. Kappel's TTH 4's 10:45-12:00
June 8th - Mrs. Brunet's M-F class 10:45-12:00

Last Days of School

Thursday, June 14th Last Day 3's

Monday, June 18th Last Day 4's

Exciting News from NAEYC!

Prince of Peace Pre-School achieved a new, five-year term of NAEYC Accreditation by successfully completing the self-study and renewal process. The NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs commended PoP for our outstanding efforts in maintaining and renewing NAEYC Accreditation. "Your dedication and commitment to continuous quality improvements by re-engaging in the NAEYC Accreditation system is remarkable!" We are very proud of this accomplishment. A big thank you to our dedicated teachers and wonderful children and families. We are pleased to share this honor with you.

Finally...

During the week of April 23rd we will be asking each family to complete a short questionnaire. Your honest assessment of our program will allow us to make changes to better meet the needs of our children and families. Thank you in advance for your input.

Production of The Three Bears in Mrs. Dolan's & Mrs. Kappel's 4's









In the Community

Family Event at the Kids Kingdom

Because we had to postpone our March Family event due to the weather, we would like to invite our families to enjoy "A day at the Park". Join fellow PoP families at Kingdom in Brookfield on Thursday, April 26th at 12:30. Wear your PoP t-shirt or blue to be recognized and to show your school spirit!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Brookfield Library has a program "1000 Books Before Kindergarten". If your child is participating in this program please let us know. We would love to feature them in our newsletter. If you haven't enrolled in the program it is not too late to begin! Sign-up at the library!

LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF SPRING IN THE 3'S CLASSES











Prince of Peace



A story is always better if you have someone to share it with. What could be better than sharing it with a group of friends who have read it too?

All are welcome!!

Our final meeting will be on May 2nd. We will meet at 5:00 pm so some of our members who have not been able to join us because of not being able to drive at night would like to attend. We will review Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly. This is a historical fiction novel that ties in with a Museum Home (mentioned in Lilac Girls) in Bethlehem CT. Docent, Mary Ebert has graciously offered to give us a tour of this home.

The Bethlehem home tour is planned for Thursday, May 17th at 2:00 pm. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm and carpool up to the home together. After the tour we will go to a local restaurant and have an early supper together before returning to the POP church. There will be a cap of 20 for the tour. This should be a wonderful way to end this book club season.

Also bring your suggestions for books to read over the summer and to discuss in the Fall.

Warmly,

Nancy Tolmoff

"BOOKS WASH AWAY FROM THE SOUL THE DUST OF EVERYDAY LIFE"

	APRIL BIRTHDAYS
1	Lisa Webb
2	Cynthia Johnson
3	Peter Fegley, Lisa Manka
6	Steve Davies, Alexis Bernardez
7	Garrett Arnold, Dee Omasta, Anna Keith
8	Diane Peterson, Ginger Coogle, Julie Parker
11	Don Groff, Daniel Macdonald, Amanda Neeb
12	Brianna Fettinger
13	Glenn Arnold
14	Doug Diefenbach, Isabella Parkel
16	Matthew Adam, Danielle Conley
18	Kara Arnold, Pam Hohenshelt, Michael Staub
19	Jon Schroeder, Pamela Matzner
20	Bill Schroeder
21	Kevin Fay, Corey Conley
22	Don Peters
24	Keena Martel, Debbie Nobes
26	Ashley Arroyo
27	Steven Hohenshelt, Diana Koehm, Margaret Nicolais
28	Patty Fecarotta, Melanie Lambert, Christopher Walsh
30	Jake Bernardez, Bill Neeb

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES		
4	Linda & Kevin Coyle	
7	Dory & Ron Kutz	
20	Melinda & Dennis Schroeder	
23	Monica & Russell Walsh	
25	Nancy Humphreys & Anthony D'Ausilio	
30	Kim & Tom Maier Ginger & David Coogle Bob & Danielle Conley	

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed in Blueprints and you would like it to be please contact Rene at the Church office.

KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group will meet on Tuesday, April 17th at 9:30AM in the church office reception area.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum is held on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The class is learning about the major themes in the books of the Old Testament.

All adults are welcome at Adult Forum whenever you are able to attend.

THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH GROUP & VICAR DAN

The Youth group did a wonderful job in March (both preparation and serving) at Loaves and Fishes. Thank you for all of your help.

Ed Wainwright

WOMEN OF PRINCE OF PEACE.....

The Naugatuck Valley, Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held on April 14, 2018 (Saturday) from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. James in Southbury. This is a day of worship, workshops and fellowship with the theme being Comfort & Joy. Registration fee is \$12 and that includes lunch. There is information and a registration form that each woman will need to fill out and send to the registrar with your check on the W/ELCA bulletin board in the fellowship. If you want to carpool with me, please let me know.

Questions: contact Marci Sharp (203) 775-4657

ANNUAL CAMP CALUMET RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Women of Prince of Peace....Our next retreat at Camp Calumet is scheduled for April 20-22, 2018. The cost will be approximately \$175 and that includes, 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, and snacks. You will make that payment directly to Calumet when you arrive. A sign-up sheet is posted on a table in the Narthex. Friends are welcome as well as any POP woman. Questions, please call me at (203) 775-4657. If you are riding with someone else, it would be nice if you chipped in at least \$15.00 for gas to your driver!

We will watching a movie (The Red Tent) on Saturday morning and Nan Carlson will lead us in discussion. In addition to our "theme time" there will be free time to relax, shop, etc. ...of our own choosing on Saturday afternoon.

We will plan to leave the area on Friday morning. We can check in any time in the afternoon and our first meal at Calumet will be supper on Friday.

Thanks! Marci Sharp (203) 775-4657

Or email: <u>bowmanrae@aol.com</u>



REGION 7 SPIRITUAL GATHERING—APRIL 27-29, 2018

Holy Family Conference and Retreat Center 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.

1 Peter 4:10-11

CAMPUS CONTACT

We'd like your help collecting items to go into care packages for our college students participating in our campus contact ministry. Please bring any of these items that you can collect to church with you on or before Sunday, April 29th so that we can get the packages out to the college students in time for exams. We will be packing up the items on April 30th at 1:00 PM if you would like to help. Many hands will make the packing go faster!!!!

highlighters
microwave popcorn
single packs of hot cocoa
microwavable soup cups
microwavable macaroni and cheese
post-it notes
cold drink mixes
single packs of tea and instant coffee
candy and gum
packaged snacks

NOTE TO PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS. IF ANY COLLEGE ADDRESSES HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE FALL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP. I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT SINCE IT IS COSTLY TO SEND THEM OUT AND HAVE THEM RETURNED FOR WRONG ADDRESS.

My e-mail address is: bowmanrae@aol.com

Thanks,

Marcí Sharp

Worship Services

Word & Sacrament.....

Saturdays, April 7, 14, 21 & 28 5:00 PM Sundays, April 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 8:15AM & 11:00AM

Contact Us

Pastor: The Rev. Mark Nordskog

Vicar Dan Purtell

Website: www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org

E-mail: poplutheranchurch@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (203) 775-9070

Fax: (203) 775-9573

Our vision...

"Prince of Peace is a loving and caring family of Christians. We gather to hear the Christian story in word and song and to experience that story through the sacraments. The members of our family are involved in a mission of Christian unity. Through worship and Christian fellowship we are empowered to commit our talents in a way that makes a difference in our lives and the lives of those we touch."

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH P.O. BOX 5184 119 JUNCTION ROAD BROOKFIELD, CT 06804

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April 2018

REMINDER: VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE IS IN THIS ISSUE OF BLUEPRINTS