

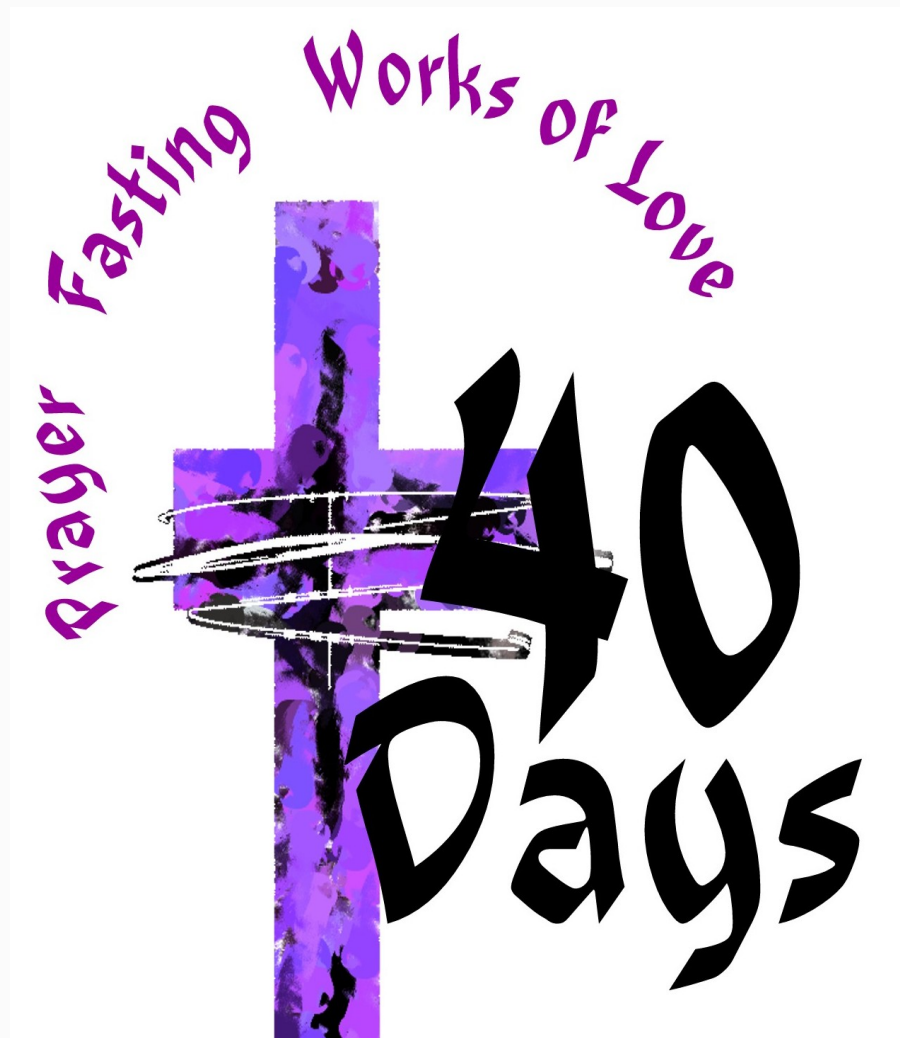
PEACE CHIMES

March 2014

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 209 Eastern Avenue, Augusta, Maine 04330

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5TH



SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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FROM THE PASTOR

I want to take some space in this first newsletter article to thank you all for the wonderful welcome you have given to me and my family since I started here at Prince of Peace. From the jam-packed goody bag on my first day, to lunch after church, to the abundant kind words and smiles, it has been a real joy to begin my time here with you! I was happy to see so many of you come out for my first Sunday here and even though I know it was the first chance to “check out the new guy” I really felt that our time together, both in worship and in the question and answer time after worship, was a real blessing.

As we approach and then enter the season of Lent, it will be a good opportunity for me to continue to get to know you all better both as individuals and as a congregation. I am looking forward first to the Thursday morning book study that will begin on February 27th at 10 a.m. We’ll be using the book “Speaking Christian” by Marcus Borg. This book takes a look at some of the language of Christianity that has become distorted over the years and helps us to slow down and think both about what that language means to us and how that language might be heard by those outside of the church community. You won’t need the book for our first meeting so don’t worry about that! Simply come and join us!

A second opportunity in Lent will be Thursday evening soup suppers and worship time. Although the suppers are advertised as “broth and bread” I’ve been told (on the side) that the broth is often surrounded by many other delicious ingredients! We’ll gather for the meal at 6:15 p.m. and then join in a short time of informal worship at 7:00 p.m. While Lent is often seen as a time to give something up, I have personally found it more useful to actually add something in Lent instead. For me, adding a new discipline for the season seems to move me closer to God than giving something up. If you would like to try that approach to Lent this year, consider adding the book study or the midweek soup and worship time, or maybe join in collecting bars of soap for St. Mark’s Pantry. Imagine what Lent would look like if we joined together and bought soap for someone in need each time we shopped for ourselves during Lent.

The other thing happening in March is that on the week of the 16th of March I will be attending the second half of my interim ministry training. This will be an opportunity for me to continue to gain the skills I need to help us not simply get by through this transitional time but to grow and prepare for the exciting future God is preparing for us all. We will have some work to do in the months to come and some of that work will require us to be honest and open and shine light into places that might not appreciate all that much light, but even in these few weeks I’ve been with you I know you are more than ready to do that work. There is a powerful desire for health and joy and ministry here in this place that I feel is struggling to break into the open. I believe that with the strength we receive from God, we will tackle the hard stuff and get on to celebrating the amazing stuff!

Thank you again for your hospitality and welcome and I am so looking forward to this journey with you. It is so good to be with you all!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Erik



LENT — ONE OF HOLIEST TIMES OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, which encourages us to discipline ourselves with prayer, fasting, and charity. Receiving absolution of all our sins and ashes in the sign of the cross as well as the usual hearing of God's Word and communing at the Lord's Supper, we begin a forty-day journey toward the commemoration of our Lord's suffering and death and the celebration of his glorious resurrection at Easter.

Ash Wednesday (March 5th) — Services at 12:10–12:50 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

This year mid-week Lenten supper and service will be on **Thursdays**. We will have an opportunity to gather together for fellowship and worship: a "bread and broth" meal at 6:15 p.m. followed by Pastor Karas leading us in worship and discussion at 7:00 p.m. Please join your fellow members for these informal evenings.

Thursdays — March 13, 20, 27; April 3 & 10 — 6:15 p.m. meal; 7:00 p.m. worship

This year on the five **Sundays of Lent**, the baptismal font will be placed in the center of the church while the altar remains font-and-center in the church—reminders of the centrality of these two sacraments for the Christian life. Following the practice of the ancient church as well as churches throughout the world, we will hear the traditional stories of our baptismal incorporation into the Body of Christ:

1st — March 9th: our baptismal renunciation of the devil and all his works and ways (Matthew 4:1–1);

2nd — March 16th: our baptismal rebirth through water and the Holy Spirit (John 3:1–17);

3rd — March 23rd: our baptismal promise of the water of eternal life (John 4:5–42);

4th — March 30th: our baptismal enlightenment to believe in Jesus (John 9:1–41);

5th — April 6th: our baptismal assurance of resurrection to eternal life (John 11:1–45).

Again, please join in the Sunday Lenten journey from the baptismal font to the Lord's table.

Every Sunday — 9:00 a.m. — Holy Communion.



Dear members of Prince of Peace,

I am writing to share the vision I have for Stewardship here at POP. If I am successful as a Stewardship Chairperson I will work with my committee, Pastor Ron Bagnall, Liz Burgess, Carlene Kaler and Becky Pearce, to shift our thinking from:

1. *From:* Stewardship is about paying the bills to **Stewardship is about loving God and my neighbor.**
2. *From:* Stewardship is about money to **Stewardship is about my whole self.**
3. *From:* How much of what is mine should I give away to **How much of what is God's should I keep for myself?**
4. *From:* We don't have enough to **God has provided for us in abundance.**

We have talked about how we commit to LISTEN, because God is calling. Stewardship is the steps we take together in order to do God's work. Together at Prince of Peace we need to move from Stewardship being about money to Stewardship being a way of life.

A steward is someone who cares for someone else's property. From the beginning, humanity is not an owner, but a steward of what God has created. We are first receivers, not givers. In order to make this shift happen we need to begin to think about being Stewards.

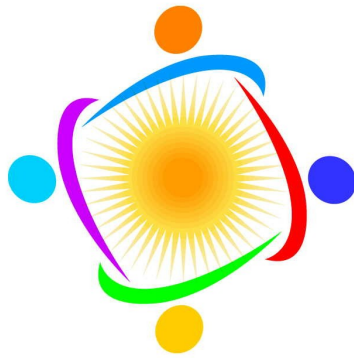
For those of you interested in learning more, please access the resource: Stewards of God's Love available at www.elca.org/growingstewards. This year long guide will help the committee begin this shift in thinking and grow "good stewards" as we change our mindset to become the Stewards God intends us to be.

If you are interested in joining this exciting and goal focused committee please consider yourself asked, welcomed and accepted. Look for more information in future newsletters, on our website, in bulletins, Sunday announcements, children's sermons and our weekly E-news.

We are called to love, not just with our words but with our whole lives.

Your sister in Christ,

Beth Pfeffer



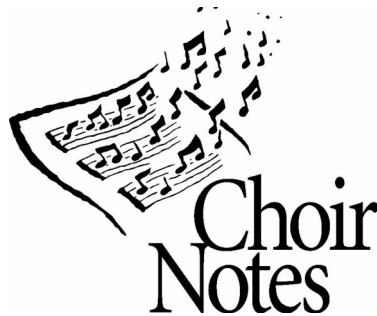
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the Connection

NOISY OFFERING is received the third Sunday of each month. This year the money will be used to purchase Survival Kits for refugees. A disaster, war or conflict can force a family away from their home with just the clothes on their backs. A survival kit includes a tarp or tent, water jug, clothes, and cooking and hygiene supplies to help a family get through the crisis. Each kit costs \$75. As of February's offering we have enough money for 2 kits. Watch for updates in future newsletters.

NEEDED: A SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

If you enjoy working with children and youth then this is a great opportunity for you. See Myrna Duplessie (923-3128) for further information.



Choir Director Opening

Prince of Peace Church is seeking a person to direct our Adult Choir. Some of the responsibilities include:

- * Rehearsal and preparation of the choir to sing an anthem at the 9:00 AM Sunday service from September through early June.

- *Provide choral music for additional services during the year including Good Friday, Easter and Christmas Eve services.

- *Coordinate special music for the summer months when choir is not scheduled to sing.

If you or someone you know is interested, please speak with Don Sproul or a member of the Worship Committee for further information and a full Choir Director job description.



Roadmap to the Future Update

In case you missed the January Congregational Meeting, here are highlights from the **Roadmap to the Future** update provided at that meeting.

The journey so far includes a Congregational survey, the creation of Mission and Vision Statements, feedback from members, Leadership Retreats, the development of goals and action steps and the current process of creating small teams.

The small teams that are currently being developed are an integral part of moving Prince of Peace forward with the goals and action steps created at the Leadership Retreats. It's also an opportunity for POP members to be involved in improving and expanding our ministries, our communications, our education and our outreach.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling YOU to be a part of POP's growth, either through your participation on one of the 7 teams or simply by sharing your ideas with Team Leaders. Here's the list of goals and Team Leaders:

Rejoicing Spirits Ministry - Team Leader: Liz Burgess

Communications/Marketing - Team Leader: Betty Balderston

Reorganizing Council Structure - Team Leader: Duane Scott

Support Program for Council Members - Team Leader: Beth Pfeffer

Exploring an Open and Affirming Church - Team Leader: Darryl Praul

"Presume Positive Intent" Education. - Team Leader: Myrna Duplessie

Involve More Members and Friends in Small Groups - Team Leader: Bev Savage

Where are we headed? Wherever God calls us!

For more information about the **Roadmap to the Future** process or any of the teams, contact Betty Balderston, Roadmap Coordinator, or any of the Team Leaders listed above.

Congregational Life Committee

Christmas Dinner 2014

Okay, it isn't even spring yet, but those of the Congregational Life Committee and others who help make the dinner a huge success met after the dinner last year to discuss what went well, and what could be improved upon. One of the things we realize is that Prince of Peace does a lot of outreach to the community, but often it comes in bursts that put pressure on families who want to contribute and have to decide where to use their resources. The team agreed that there is a need for a "**gift room**" and that the types of things people need include many personal care items.

Diane Richards and Beth Pfeffer have agreed to manage the collection of these personal care items to be placed in a gallon sized Zip Lock bag (filled by the youth in November for the December meal). We will provide you with the entire list of items we are requesting and the month we will collect them. You can put the list on your fridge or in your coupon carrier so that when you head to the store you can pick these items up knowing that you are fulfilling a need.

March: Hats and Mittens (hit the end of season sales)

April: Socks and Playing Cards

May: Toothbrush and toothpaste (check out the dollar store)

June: Deodorant and wipes (baby, hygiene towelettes - to use in place of soap and water)

July: Soap (bar only no liquid) and wash cloths)

August: Small notebooks with a pencil and or pen

September: Snacks - prepackaged cereal bars, crackers and the like)

October: One gallon Zip Lock FREEZER bags and mini tissue packets

November: We will use this as our catch up month for any item we don't have enough of to fill the bags.

December: You can focus on providing pies (home baked or store bought for the Christmas dinner as this is a high need item)

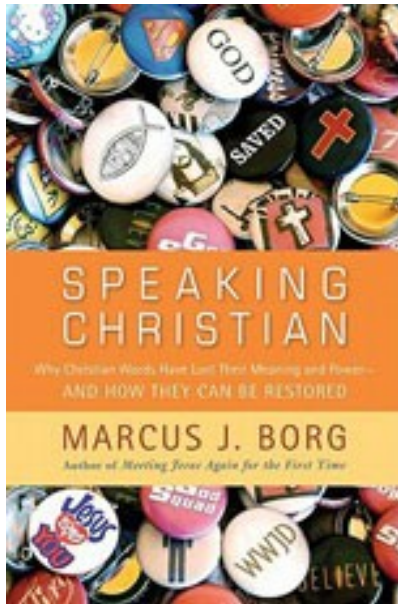
This is just one small way we reach out and care for our neighbors. Spreading it out over the entire year makes it more doable, less stressful and allows us to pray on a regular basis for those who have less.

Please look for the box in the narthex in March and for a magnet to hang your list for easy reference (we can hand them out after service March 2nd).

Thank you for helping us with this new way of collecting in advance. Beth Pfeffer

New Book Study with Pastor Erik Karas

Thursdays at 10:00 AM at POP



In *Speaking Christian*, acclaimed Bible scholar Marcus Borg, author of *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, argues that the very language Christians use has become dangerously distilled, distorted, and disconnected from the beliefs which once underpinned it.

Stating a case that will resonate with readers of N. T. Wright's *Simply Christian*, Borg calls for a radical change to the language we use to invoke our beliefs—the only remedy that will allow the Church's words to once again ring with truth, power, and hope.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THIS GROUP
WHICH BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 27TH.**

THE GREAT SOAP CHALLENGE

PRINCE OF PEACE “THE SOAP CHURCH”!

Help restock the Basic Essentials Pantry at St. Mark's Church for the re-opening in March. We can do this!



Bring in one or ten or a bunch of bars of soap and fill up the box in the Narthex. Let's answer the challenge!!!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5th Arnie Hills
 9th June Bisbee
 Melanie Fuller-Lajoie
 10th Tricia Hasch
 11th Grace Pease
 13th Bonnie Heidelbergmark
 Linda Scott
 17th Jean Guimond
 18th Trent Labbe
 21st Roland Pease
 Harrison Pearce
 30th MeKenzie Gay
 31st Garrett Joslyn



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

20th Tom & Dee Benn

*More 50th Anniversary
 Banquet Pictures below.*



Erika & Darryl Praul



Willi & Jutta Hartung



Danny & Jennie Dawe



LouAnne Story & Husband



Kelsey & Cindy Glenn



Patti with Liz
& Bill Burgess



Nancy Merrill & Cindy Gyorgy



The Priest Family

MARCH SERVANTS

Deacon: Duane Scott

Worship Assistants: 2-Danny Dawe, 9-Roland Pease, 16-Jacob Praul, 23-Tim Elliott, 30-Peter Matthies, Jr.

Usher: Joslyn Family

Greeters: 2, 9-Betty Balderston, 16-Roland Pease, 23-Heidi Poole, 30-Phyllis Tessman

Nursery: 2-Bethany Sproul-LeBrun

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Don Sproul - President	622-5785
Tom Benn - Vice President	549-7186
Ave Chuprevich - Secretary	933-4001
Darryl Praul - Financial Secretary	968-2023
Myrna Duplessie - Education	923-3128
LouAnne Story - Evangelism	549-7377
Bobbi-Jo Burdin - Fellowship	582-3070
Becky Pearce - Property	242-9340
Bev Savage - Social Awareness	446-1238
Beth Pfeffer - Stewardship	514-4289
Heidi Joslyn - Worship	623-2284
Angie Harvey - Youth	242-5167

Trustees: Chair- Don Sproul, Tom Benn, Bobbi-Jo Burdin, Ave Chuprevich, Beth Pfeffer

Nominating Committee: Brad Joslyn, Beth Pfeffer, Paul Rhoda, Bev Savage, Kathy Sproul.

Endowment Fund Committee: Dick Belisle, Bill Burgess, Darryl Praul, Paul Rhoda, Bud Walters.

One Family In Christ,
Reaching Out With Love

DEACONS

Lloyd Balderston	377-4293
Tom Benn	549-7186
Myrna Duplessie	923-3128
Nancy Merrill, Head Deacon	737-8105
Paul Rhoda	845-2437
Duane Scott	623-2092

CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor - Erik Karas	557-3637
Parish Secretary - Patti Gardiner	344-9162
Organist - Alice VanDerwerken	397-4214
Choir Director - vacant	
Sextons - Diane & Tim Richard	462-1750

REACHING OUT MINISTRIES

Head Deacon - Nancy Merrill	737-8105
Women's Prayer Breakfast - Nancy Merrill	737-8105
Prayer Shawl - Liz Burgess	622-3570
At Your Side Committee - Liz Burgess	622-3570
Helping Fund - Patti Gardiner - POP Office	623-9486
POP Quilter's Group - Lil Stresser	377-2591
Women of the Church - ELCA- Liz Burgess	622-3570
Dorcas Circle - Jutta Hartung	623-2040
We Celebrate with... Church Office - Patti	623-9486
Bread of Life Ministries - Office-Wendy	626-3434
*Soup Kitchen on Water St.	621-2541
*Shelter on Hospital St.	626-3479
Augusta Food Bank	622-5225
Chelsea Food Bank - Diane Richard	462-1750

Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					28 Set up for Heating/ Helping Auction All day.....	1 8:30-10:00 AM Menswork (L) 4:00—8:00 PM Heating/ Helping Dinner & Auction (CCR)
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 7:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 Teachers/ Ed Committee	3	4 7:00 AM WPB 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle (DR) 6:00 PM FA (CCR) 7:00—8:30 PM Menswork (DR)	5 Ash Wednesday 12:10 Service 7:00 PM Service	6 9:00 AM Worship Com. 10:00 AM Book Study Pastor Karas 1:00-2:30 FA- (CCR)	7	8 8:30–10:00 AM Menswork (DR)
9 1st Lent 7:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Sunday School 12:00—1:30 PM Roadmap Com.	10 6:00 PM Council Mtg.	11 7:00 AM WPB 9:00 AM POP Quilters (L) 6:00 PM FA (CCR) 7:00 - 8:30 PM Menswork (DR)	12 6:00 PM –8:00 Veteran's Support (TR)	13 10:00 AM Book Study Pastor Karas 1:00-2:30 FA- (CCR) 6:15 PM Supper & Lenten Service	14	15 8:30-10:00 AM Menswork (DR)
16 2nd Lent 7:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Sunday School	17	18 7:00 AM WPB 6:00 PM FA (CCR) 7:00 - 8:30 PM Menswork (DR)	19 *April Newsletter Articles Due	20 10:00 AM Book Study Pastor Karas 1:00-2:30 FA- (CCR) 6:15 PM Supper & Lenten Service	21	22 8:30-10:00 AM Menswork (DR)
23 3rd Lent 7:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Sunday School 30 4th Lent 7:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 Sunday Sch.	24 31	25 7:00 AM WPB 9:00 AM POP Quilters (L) 6:00 PM FA (CCR) 7:00 - 8:30 PM Menswork (DR)	26 9:00 AM *April Newsletter Mailing 11	27 10:00 AM Book Study Pastor Karas 1:00 –2:30 FA- (CCR) 6:15 PM Supper & Lenten Service	28	29 8:30-10:00 AM Menswork (DR)

PEACE CHIMES

March 2014

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
209 Eastern Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330-5951

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am – 3:00 pm Daily

PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Erik Karas - Transitional

Parish Secretary - Patti Gardiner

Office Telephone 623-9486

Email: office@princeofpeacemaine.org

Web Page: www.princeofpeacemaine.org

VISION STATEMENT

LISTEN! God is calling!

We, the members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, actively seek to put God first and glorify our Lord in all that we do. We strive to be the foundation supporting the growth of good works our Creator puts on each of our hearts as we respond to God's call.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM Communion Service

Coffee Hour

10:30 AM Sunday School for all ages

Everyone Welcome.

Handicap Accessible.

Nursery Provided

MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran proclaims Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church provides a Christian home where all people are welcome and offers everyone opportunities to grow in their faith-walk with God. Blessed to be a blessing, we strive to share our gifts and show God's love to all.