



CHRISTMAS DIRECTION



Each month I meet with families anticipating the baptism of a child. As we get to know one another, we talk about the anticipation of “a new season of life” and the joys and challenges that children bring. These conversations are always filled with the sheer wonder and awe that the newness of birth brings.

Birth teaches us about waiting and preparation. It reminds us of the importance of gathering with friends and family to encourage one another as new life grows. Birth reminds us of the power of surprise—how we feel and what we experience when a child is born into our midst; the softness of her breath, the thrill of his voice, the joy, the peace, the hope, and the love that a child brings. There is something powerful about the “brand-newness” of a birth that changes us. A birth brings wonder and awe; it stirs something deep inside, creating new hope and deeper commitment.

The remarkable news of a birth calls us out of ourselves, out of the dark nights of our winters into brighter, warmer and wonder-filled days ahead. Birth – even in its grand mystery, points us to the promise of new ways of knowing and being known.

And so we welcome Christmas! And as we give thanks for the year just passed and the days, weeks and months to come, we also welcome the hope that comes with the birth of Jesus. In this season of Christmas, welcome the birth of Jesus! Let us embrace the changes that the birth of Christ brings to us, and let us embrace the renewal of promise and the resurgence of hope as we rejoice together.

Welcome Christmas! Welcome to the celebration of the birth of Jesus!

– *Pastor Paul Gauche*

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | 13901 FAIRVIEW DR. BURNSVILLE | 952-435-8102 | POPMN.ORG
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CALLED TO CONNECT

We are called to provide hope and wholeness to all people, with specific focus on c

Weekly Worship Times

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 am

Wednesday: 5:00 & 6:00 pm Family Worship

Interested in Joining

Prince of Peace?

Sunday, January 22, 12:30 - 2:45 pm

Worship Center Community Room

Join Pastor Jeff Marian and other members of the Prince of Peace staff for a Newcomer Orientation. Enjoy lunch and conversation on the following topics: what it means to be a disciple, our path and plan, and how to get connected into community. Childcare is available. Register at popmn.org/register.

How Can We Pray For You?

Prince of Peace is a community of faith rooted in prayer. Email prayer requests to prayer@popmn.org or fill out a Connection Card found at the Welcome Desk and in the back of the Sanctuary. Place the card in the offering bag or in one of the Connection Card stands.

Engage Bible Study

The next session of Engage Bible Study begins January 9, 10 and 11 and runs through the first week in May. Engage Bible Study meets three times per week with identical sessions in the Worship Center Community Room. All are welcome! Bring a Bible and a friend.

- Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 am (men's group)
- Wednesdays, Noon - 1:00 pm

Feed My Starving Children

Save the Date: February 6-11

As God calls us to connect with children and people in poverty, let's put our faith into action and pack life-giving meals for kids around the globe. Over 22 churches are coming together to pack 4 million meals and raise \$880,000 as part of this year's South Metro Meal Pack Event in Apple Valley. Donate today and sign up for a meal packing shift beginning January 1 at popmn.org/fmsc.

Summer Camps

• **Family Recharge @ Okoboji: May 19-21**

Join us for a weekend of fun, faith-filled family time in a beautiful camp setting in Okoboji, Iowa. Cost starts at \$200 - popmn.org/register.

• **Camp Wapo**

Seeds Weekend: Current 2-3 Graders, July 14-16

Youth Week: Current 4-8 Graders, July 16-21

Camp Wapo in Amery, Wisconsin is an amazing opportunity for kids to grow in faith and build relationships. This summer's theme, Fearless, will equip kids to face whatever the world throws at them armed with the love and courage that only God can provide. Registration opens January 15 at campwapo.org.

• **BWCA Adventure Trip: Current 6-12 Graders, July 29 - August 4**

Get ready for a week-long canoe and hiking trip through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. Cost is \$425 (down payment of \$200) - popmn.org/register.

children, seniors and people in poverty in the south metro area.

Volunteer in Mission Outpost

Serve local families through our food shelf and clothing closet. Day and evening shifts are available during the week. Contact Mariel Vinge at 952-898-9311 or mvinge@popmn.org or visit popmn.org/volunteer.

Support Groups

We are called to connect with one another by building relationships that will support us in the good and tough times of life. We offer 12 different support groups including AA, Grief, Depression, Divorce, 12 Steps, Caregiver Support, Parkinson's, and more. Visit popmn.org/support for more information.

CDLC Preschool 2017-18

The Child Development & Learning Center (CDLC) is an accredited Christian preschool for children ages 3 to 5. Founded in 1971, CDLC offers half day and full day classes. Daily activities include cooking, science, large motor, creative arts, music and Spanish. Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year opens January 17. Register at CDLCPreschool.org or call 952-435-8105 for more information or to set up a tour.

2017 Pledge

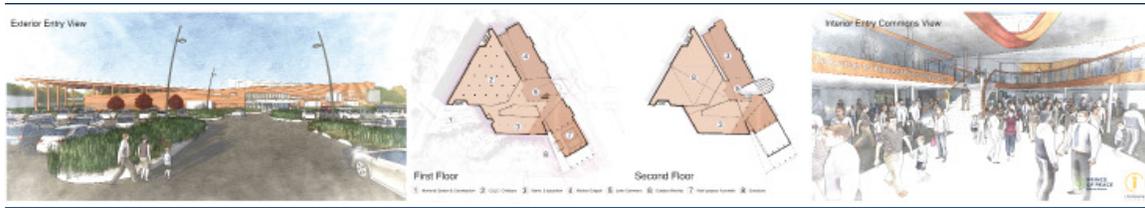
Connecting our giving and our hearts changes us and others. That's God at work, and it's why our generosity matters. Submit your 2017 pledge or enroll in online giving at popmn.org/give. Not a giver yet? Start somewhere! Already a giver? Commit to an increase to support the life-changing ministry we do together.

Connect with Prince of Peace

Sign up to receive our Weekly Update email at popmn.org. Listen to the latest sermon or Engage Bible Study audio on our podcast at popmn.org/podcast. Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/popchurch, Twitter @popchurch, or Instagram @popburnsville.

Poinsettias Are Given By:

Ray Ames, in memory of Karen Ames; Al & Toni Anderson, in memory of son, Roger Anderson; Bud & Lollie Bjornaraa, in thanksgiving for Jackie, Jaynie, Jill and our grandchildren and great grandchildren; Kathy Brummond, in memory of husband, Bill; Jef, Jan, Mitchell & Brita Dawson, in memory of A.L. Christianson and Ken & Barb Dawson; Dee DeGrote, in memory of husband, Ron DeGrote; Tony & Camilla Fischer, in memory of Betty Fischer and Barry Pence; the Jere Graetz family, in memory of Lauretta Graetz; Dave Abernethy, David B. Abernethy & family and Nancy & David Hippe, in memory of wife and mother, Betty J. Abernethy; David & Nancy Hippe, in memory of John Cavanagh; John & Dotty Holden, in memory of Leon & Dorothy Teigen and Gina Holden; Ann Keelin, in memory of husband, Jim Keelin; Gary & JoAnn Kelly, in memory of daughter and sister; Dave Lehman and Joyce Huff, in thanksgiving for remission of brother Stephen's cancer; Audrey Peterson, in memory of husband, Phil Peterson and Ellis & Jo Hanson; Paula Puckett, in memory of Bill, Ralph & Jim Puckett; Robert & Danielle Schiltz, in memory of Shirley Hall; Doug & Grace Schroeder, in thanksgiving for our family and friends near and far; Sharon Venne, in memory of Art & Orpha Venne.



Land & Building Update

On the weekend of December 17-18, 717 members of Prince of Peace voted with 94.4% support on the proposed construction project that will create 25,000 square feet of new space and transform our existing 60,000 square feet in the Worship Center. There were 677 yes votes and 40 no votes. The vote authorizes the Board to, *“Commence a construction project for an addition onto the Worship Center building and significant remodel of the existing Worship Center space. Such project will only be undertaken if the Board finds that adequate financial resources are in place to support the construction.”*

The Board gathered in the afternoon of December 18 to receive the vote. At the next regular Board of Directors meeting in January, the Board will evaluate the level of support from this vote, discuss potential financial support for this project and consider next steps. This is the earliest date the Board would take action on authorizing the next phase of architectural design work.

Key steps in the time line:

- Evaluate the congregation’s level of support for the construction process
- Evaluate indicators on financial support
- Engage the architectural firm on the next phase of schematic design, development and construction documents
- Staff and ministry lay leaders provide significant input and evaluate final design
- Launch a capital campaign and evaluate the level of financial support
- Engage the architectural firm to bid out the construction project
- Accept the construction bids and authorize construction to begin

At each step in this time line, the Board has an opportunity to re-evaluate this project, change timing, or phase the project differently to ensure that our highest needs are met and it is financially responsible.

This Transformation Option will address these key priorities:

- A single building with all ministries under one roof and greater accessibility for all ages
- A new face with a clear front door, a large welcoming area to gather, and easy wayfinding
- More welcoming and efficient space for Mission Outpost
- More flexible and multi-functional space
- More effective space for Child Development and Learning Center (CDLC preschool)
- Energy efficient and financially responsible to be best stewards of our long term resources

This project will significantly extend the life of the current Worship Center. It will bless future generations with a facility that meets the needs of the present and the future as we live into God’s vision for Prince of Peace. Thank you for your participation in this important work. We ask for your prayers as this discussion continues. For ongoing information, visit popmn.org/land-building-blog.