



DECEMBER
DIRECTION
STORIES THAT CONNECT UP | IN | OUT



You Are Invited...to Celebrate Christmas at Prince of Peace!

by Mark Slaughter

“You are invited!” These three words can bring great delight when someone is making you a part of something special.

This year’s **Annual Christmas Presentation** is an opportunity for you to respond to an **Invitation to Christ**. At all worship services on **December 16-17** we will together set our hearts on the power of Christ with us and within us, and that awareness can change us into the image of Christ for the world. Christ has extended an invitation to you to meet him and encounter the Spirit of God in this special Christmas worship experience. Remember, many of the folks around you may not have a connection to a church, and all they need is an invitation from you. So, let’s be mindful of the gift of Christ-with-us and share that gift with others by extending an invitation.

All are invited into **Christmas Worship** beginning with **Lessons & Carols**. Come sing your favorite Christmas carols and be reminded of the miracle of Christ’ birth on **Saturday, December 23 at 5:30 and Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 am**. These services are identical and will provide a sacred time of worship.

Make plans to invite your family and friends and worship with us this **Christmas Eve** as we explore what it means to illuminate the word with the light of Christ. Our Family Ministry team with Pastor Paul Gauche will lead an interactive and engaging retelling of the Christmas story as part of our **Family Worship** services at **3:00, 4:00 and 5:00 pm**, especially designed for families with young children. Our **Candlelight Worship at 7:00 and 8:30 pm** will feature beautiful carol medleys and the celebration of Advent, as we light the Christ candle. Pastor Jeff Marian will preach on what it means that Christ has come to save us. The service will conclude with a congregational candle lighting and the beautiful carol “Silent Night.”

On **Christmas Day** we are planning a wonderful service with communion at **10:00 am**. Pastor Sandy Rothschiller will be preaching as we continue to celebrate the joy of this season.

So, you are invited! Come and join us for worship. For more information, please visit popmn.org/christmas.

CALLED TO CONNECT

UP with God _____

Light the Advent Candles

Families and individuals are invited to light the Advent candles at each worship services this Advent season. Sign up for a worship service at popmn.org/christmas.

Order Poinsettias for Christmas

Order poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one to beautify the altar area during the Christmas season. The cost is \$20 for a large red 8" double poinsettia. Order envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk and tables in the Sanctuary or order at popmn.org/christmas. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 3.

Engage Bible Study

The final sessions of the Engage Bible Study for 2017 are December 18, 19, 20. The next session begins January 8, 9 and 10, continuing study on the book of John. Engage Bible Study meets three times per week with identical sessions:

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

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions meet in the Worship Center Community Room. Everyone is welcome! Bring a Bible and a friend!

Worship at Prince of Peace

Saturday - 5:30 pm

Wednesday - 6:00 pm (WOW Family worship, September – April)

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

Childcare is available for all worship services.

Service of Remembrance

Saturday, December 9 | 7:00 pm

Worship Center Sanctuary

December is the darkest month of the year. For those who have lost loved ones, darkness can fill one's heart. Jesus, the light of the world, came into a world of darkness to bring life, healing and hope. Whether you have lost a loved one, or are supporting someone who has, you are invited to a quiet place to remember those who have died and to honor their memory.

If you would like the name of your loved one read and a candle lit for him/her, please email remembrance@popmn.org or call 952-435-8102 by noon on Thursday, December 7. Please give the first and last name of your loved one, with the correct spelling and a phonetic pronunciation of the name to be read. At the end of the service, you will be invited to take a votive candle home with you to continue your remembrance through the Christmas season.

If you or someone you know would like ongoing support, please join our Grief Support Group, which meets every Monday at 6:00 pm in the Christian Life Center Chapel. Please contact Jody Slaughter at jslaughter@popmn.org or call 952-898-9312.

CALLED TO CONNECT IN through Community

When We Don't Feel Like Celebrating

by Jody Slaughter

How many times have you seen one of the most popular movies of the season, "It's a Wonderful Life"? For the many people who are grieving, fighting an illness, struggling with depression, or affected by sadness brought on by darker and colder days, it's not the happiest of times and certainly doesn't feel like a wonderful life. But "It's a Wonderful Life" can show us some ways to move through this sometimes difficult season.

Allow a healthy community to be a part of your season.

Once the community of Bedford Falls knew that George Bailey was in trouble, they came together and offered their resources and love. There is healing and comfort in being with people who support and empower you. Prince of Peace offers several support groups [popmn.org/support] where you can find people to share your journey with. Our **Depression Support Group** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, except when the **Depression Support Coalition** [depressionsupportcoalition.org] has a speaker at a different church. On December 12, Pastor Paul Gauche will be speaking about "Why is God so Hard to Find?" at St. John Neumann Catholic Church from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Our **Grief Support Group** meets Mondays at 6:00 pm. Join us on December 11 and 18 for "Merry Christmas & The Broken Heart," parts 1 and 2.

Practice the spiritual discipline of celebration.

Just as the community celebrated with George Bailey and his family at the end of the movie, we can also incorporate the spiritual discipline of celebration into our lives. On Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 pm, the **Service of Remembrance** allows us to remember those we have lost, reflect on God's goodness and celebrate the way God provides for us in our loss. We tend to think of celebrations as big, festive events, and there are times for those. But celebration teaches us to focus on and celebrate God's goodness, even in the midst of suffering. Let's celebrate God's goodness this Christmas season.

CALLED TO CONNECT IN through Community

CDLC Preschool

In November our preschool families donated over 50 bags of groceries and supplies to Mission Outpost. It was wonderful see so much support! Children have been talking about being thankful and about thanking God. They are practicing their songs for the Christmas program. The **Joy Choir Christmas Concert** with Kari is at 7:00 pm on December 4 in the Sanctuary. **CDLC Christmas Programs** are Tuesday, December 19 at 9:15 am and Wednesday, December 20 at 9:15 am and 1:00 pm. The children will be acting out the Christmas story and singing with help of the Prince of Peace staff.

2018-2017 Enrollment begins on January 16. Register at CDLCPreschool.org. If you would like a tour and information before registering please call 952-435-8105.

Parent's Morning/Night Out

We offer opportunities for parents to connect with each other, hang out with friends, or relax on their own. Parent's Morning Out is the 1st Wednesday of each month. Parent's Night Out is the 2nd Saturday of each month. Cost is \$15/child or \$25/family. RSVP to Jeanne Kalsow at 952-898-9378 or jkalsow@popmn.org

December 6 | 9:00 am - noon

Kids will enjoy free play

December 9 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Christmas Around the World

January 3 | 9:00 am - noon

Winter Camp Out

January 13 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Kids will enjoy free play

Keeping the Promise

Prince of Peace has dedicated one day each year in the life of your child to celebrate baptism. Keeping the Promise [KTP] family experiences are designed to equip families to live out the important promises made during baptism.

Grade One | The Lord's Prayer

Sunday, January 21, 9:45 am

Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 pm

In response to the promise to teach our children the Lord's Prayer, this KTP will give us the opportunity to learn about the significance of prayer. First graders and their families will experience different ways to pray and receive ideas of ways to pray as a family. Come to Sunday morning Children's Ministry Worship or Wednesday night WOW with your first grader and stay for some intentional family fun!

StuMin Sunday Morning

StuMin Sunday Morning is a great point of connection for middle school students who can't make StuMin on Wednesday nights or for students who would just like to connect on Sunday mornings as they join their families for worship. At Sunday Stumin, you can expect games, music, and a short devo to help start your week off right. It's free and anyone can join us in room 200 of the Christian Life Center from 11:00 am - noon on select Sundays each month. Our next gathering is Sunday, December 10! Contact Jason Kramme for more details.

CALLED TO CONNECT IN through Community

Beloved Bible Study

Mondays, January 22 – March 12

9:30 am - 11:15 am | Community Room

Are you feeling controlled by your to-do list? Are you tired of the busyness of life? Do you crave tranquility and serenity? Perhaps you need to slow down, breathe, and remember the Sabbath. All women are invited to join us for Bible study and fellowship, as we study "Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath," by Priscilla Shirer. Child care is provided for a small fee. Contact Jade Gotter, jadegotter@gmail.com, 651-470-9859.

Men's Winter Outing

January 26-28 | Grand Marais, MN

RSVP by December 15

Do you enjoy snowmobiling, cross country skiing or downhill skiing? Join us for a great time to get to know more Prince of Peace men and have some winter fun. Stay for a day or the weekend. RSVP to Jim Rothschiller at jim960@embarqmail.com or 952-686-8255 by December 15. Visit popmn.org/winter-outing for lodging, equipment and transportation details.

Support Groups at Prince of Peace

12 Steps for Christian Living

Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 am
Christian Life Center, Room 109

Adult Children of Alcoholics

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Christian Life Center, Room 230

Adult Children of Persons with Memory Loss

3rd Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Christian Life Center, Chapel

Alcoholics Anonymous

Monday-Thursday, noon - 1:00 pm
Christian Life Center, Media Center

Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Christian Life Center, Room 230

Depression Support Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Christian Life Center, Room 241, 270s, 280s

Divorce Support Group

Thursdays, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Christian Life Center, Welcome Center

Grief Support Group

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Christian Life Center, Chapel

Job Connections Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:15 pm
Christian Life Center, Room 200

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

2nd Monday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Christian Life Center, Room 144

Parkinson's Disease Support Group

2nd Thursday, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Christian Life Center Room 200

All groups are open. No fee or pre-registration. More information at popmn.org/support or call 952-898-9358.

CALLED TO CONNECT OUT for the World

Save the Date: Feed My Starving Children South Metro Meal Pack

The 2018 South Metro packing event is January 29 – February 3 at Prince of Peace. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) has been feeding God's hungry children in body and spirit in more than 70 developing countries since 1987, feeding some of the hungriest kids in the world. Each dollar raised with our special offering will support our goal of raising \$125,000 toward the cost of this event. Envelopes are available in worship and at the welcome desk or give online at popmn.org/give. Registration for volunteer shifts begins in January. For more information about the event contact Eric Elton at eelton@popmn.org.

2018 Calendars

POP Visual Arts Ministry is selling tabletop calendars featuring their original artwork with all proceeds supporting the Feed My Starving Children South Metro Meal Pack event in February. They are also giving away free wall calendars commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation when you give a donation of \$10 or more to benefit Lutheran World Relief. These calendars feature photos from the POP trip to Germany this past August. Both calendars will be sold in the Community Room between worship services through December 16-17.

Hospitality Team

Join our weekend hospitality teams! We are looking for people who love to bring energy and comfort to others at Prince of Peace. Sign up to serve once a month before the weekend service you typically attend. While these roles may seem small, their impact on our guests and fellow disciples is HUGE! Our needs include: Ushers, Greeters, and Community Room Hospitality team members. Contact Amy Oestreich for more information: aostreich@popmn.org or 952-898-9393.

Volunteer Tax Preparers

Tuesdays, January 29 - April 10

This upcoming tax season will be our 6th year as a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site. Volunteers assist low-income individuals/families and seniors with their tax returns. We provide lap tops and offer on-site training in January. All we need are 2-3 more people to say YES! This is a perfect opportunity for retired individuals with an affinity for numbers or those just getting into the accounting profession. Volunteer as your schedule permits! Please contact Carole at casmit1@frontiernet.net or Eric Elton at eelton@popmn.org, 952-898-9377.

Dakota Woodlands Shelter

Gift card buyers are needed for monthly birthday parties at Dakota Woodlands, our local shelter for homeless families. Spend \$15-20 on Target/Walmart gift cards. Volunteers are also needed to serve at this month's birthday party on December 18. Please contact Kim at kimharris78@msn.com or 952-240-7688.

CALLED TO CONNECT

OUT for the World

Men's Trip to Dominican Republic

February 2018 will be the 14th annual Men's Mission Trip to visit our mission partner, Doulos Discovery School. Pastor Jeff will be helping lead this year's trip. Trip dates are February 24 – March 3. Cost will be about \$1,850. The deadline to sign up is December 15. Contact Eric Elton, eelton@popmn.org, if interested.

Student Dominican Republic Trip

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us on a mission trip to Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic on July 14-21, 2018. The final date to commit to the trip is December 14. Approximate cost will be \$1,850. Fundraising opportunities will be made available. Contact Eric Elton at eelton@popmn.org for more information.

Volunteer: Mission Outpost Food Shelf and Clothing Closet

Come join the fun! We have an immediate need for drivers to pick up food at various locations each morning, including weekends. We are also in need of volunteers to empty our blue donation bins on Sunday mornings, which would be a great opportunity for families. For more information about volunteering in Mission Outpost visit popmn.org/volunteer or contact Jan Dawson at jdawson@popmn.org.

Mission Outpost Furniture

We accept donations of basic household furniture. If you have furniture to donate or if you need furniture, please contact Kim at 952-898-9310 or kharris@popmn.org. We can pick up and deliver furniture from/to your home.

Food Donations

During the winter months many families experience a shortage for their food budgets due to the higher cost of utilities, etc. Please consider adding a few extra groceries to your cart as you shop. Please leave non-perishable foods in the blue bins located at each entrance. We are experiencing a higher need for the following items: mashed potatoes, ramen, corn, pancake mix, canned chicken, oatmeal, and rice side dishes. Thank you for your donation!

Mission Outpost Dental Clinic

Registered dental hygienists, dentists, oral surgeons, and assistants are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents in our dental clinic on Mondays from 1:00-3:00 pm for triage, or to provide services any time on Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. Please contact Trudy Koepsell at outpostdental@popmn.org.

MOVE

This ministry exists to help families move toward self-sustainability through various measures such as assistance with county forms for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and/or cash assistance programs, MNsure and Energy Programs through the CAP Agency. If you would like to hear more about this ministry, please contact Linda Olson at lolson@popmn.org or 952-898-9307.

CALLED TO CONNECT OUT for the World _____

Meals on Wheels Drivers

Would you be willing to drive a prepared meal once a month to approximately 6 locations in our area on a weekday? Meals are prepared at Faith Covenant Church in Burnsville and they are heated by 10:45 am. A route would take you approximately 60-90 minutes to complete. Many of our drivers are "snowbirds" so your help, especially in the winter, is so appreciated. Please contact Jan Larson, 952-435-3045.

T-Shirt Diaper Ministry

2nd Wednesday/monthly | 8:30 – 11:30 am
Media Center

What can we make from discarded t-shirts? Come join in the fun as we cut, sew and tie our way into the hearts of little ones both human and canine. Help us turn t-shirts into diapers. NO sewing experience required. Please contact Nancy Ferche at nlferche@gmail.com.

Military Ministry

Join Prince of Peace and Mary Mother Catholic Church in sending care boxes to support troops stationed overseas. Ribbons with current needs for this project are located on the Support Our Troops board in the lower level hallway of the Worship Center. Place donations labeled "Military Ministry" in any of the blue bins near the entrances. Contact JoAnn at 952-894-2787. Thank you to all who support this ministry.

FINANCE/CHURCH UPDATE _____

Prince of Peace Foundation

The Prince of Peace Foundation is sponsoring the **Love Lights** tree to allow you to remember the special people in your life. Purchase a sticker for each person you wish to remember, write their name on it and place the sticker on the tree in the Community Room. Stickers are \$2 each or 6 stickers for \$10. Let's fill up the tree and make it a light in this holiday season.

Your POP Foundation has been busy this year. The board has received numerous grant requests in 2017 and assisted the following organizations with funding for their respective projects for a total dollar amount of nearly \$50,000: Family Ministry, Mission Outreach, Worship Arts and Choir, Doulos Discovery School, Campus Faith Clubs, and CDLC Preschool. The Foundation is funded by both regular monthly contributions and gifts from estates and beneficiary designations. Grant requests are funded with interest and income accrued on the principal of the fund. If you are interested in learning how to donate to the Foundation through your estate planning process, please contact Jane Victorey, 952-898-9313, jvictorey@popmn.org.

Special Offering Envelopes:

Feed My Starving Children

The Special Offering envelopes through February will provide support for the Feed My Starving Children South Metro Meal Pack. The meal packing event will be held on January 29 – February 3. Each dollar raised with this special offering will support our goal of raising \$125,000 toward the cost of the event. Envelopes are available at the welcome desk or give online at popmn.org/give. **Give generously!**

LAND & BUILDING UPDATE

One Church Capital Campaign

As of November 17, 688 families have committed \$5.4 million for the One Church campaign. An additional 122 families are contributing to the campaign, but have not returned a pledge card.

At this time we are just \$1.5 million short in capital campaign commitments to complete the alternative worship space in a first phase, however we would save over \$300,000 in construction costs if we receive enough commitments to do this with the rest of the initial construction.

If you haven't had a chance to commit to the One Church campaign, find a commitment card at the Welcome Desk, in the back of the Sanctuary, or visit onechurch.popmn.org. We trust that all we invest will richly bless ministry today and bless generations of tomorrow, leaving a legacy of faith, hope and love. Be a part of our future!

Land & Building Update

What's happening with our construction process?

- Our Board of Directors authorized Cuningham Group Architecture to create construction drawings for an initial phase that would include a new basement and 22,000 square feet of new space for classrooms, administrative offices and a large commons area for hospitality. Work on these drawings began in November and includes the details and specs necessary for our general contractor, Wenck Construction, to bid this project in February.
- Drawings also include a 300-seat alternative worship space that would only be included in this first phase if the financial resources are available from the One Church campaign commitments.
- Evaluation continues on future phases of our project and opportunities we have to lease or sell the Christian Life Center. We are working with campus partners, an appraiser, the City of Burnsville and financial institutions as we explore options.
- In February this project will go out to bid and when final costs are in our Board of Directors will determine how we move ahead and the scope of the project.
- Need more info? Stop in the Community Room to see the latest renderings or visit our blog at popmn.org/land-building-blog.

FINANCE UPDATE

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Prince of Peace Offering

October 2017 Budget	\$252,050	July – October Budget	\$917,685
October 2017 Actual	\$235,214	July – October Actual	\$906,143
		Year to date below budget	\$ - 11,542

Total online giving in October (included in above): \$87,500

Your generosity changes lives! Thank you!

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Heading South for the Winter Months?

Giving statements for tax purposes are mailed in January and the US Postal Service **will not forward** them to another address. If you would like to receive this statement at your winter residence, please contact us with your winter address information: sbradee@popmn.org or call the church office at 952-435-8102.

Year End Giving & Special Stock Gifts by December 31, 2017

All gifts must be received at the church office or postmarked by Sunday, December 31 for 2017 tax credit. You may give your 2017 offering at any weekend service on December 30-31 or online until midnight on December 31 at popmn.org/give.

Stock and Charitable Rollover Gifts

Gifts of appreciated securities (stocks and mutual funds) and IRA Charitable Rollover gifts given to Prince of Peace may provide significant tax benefits to the donor. Stock transfer instructions can be found in the Appreciated Securities section at popmn.org/give. A gift of appreciated securities, particularly mutual funds, will need the attention of your financial advisor/broker well before December 20 to be sure the transfer is completed into the Prince of Peace account in 2017. Please notify Jane Victorey if you are making a gift of appreciated securities: jvictorey@popmn.org or call 952-898-9313. Thank you!

Online Giving

As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find online giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Christmas giving is an online giving option, as well as for regular offerings or additional one-time gifts at year end. Online giving is a great way to catch up at year end if you've fallen behind in your giving. Visit popmn.org/give or contact Mary in the church finance office at 952-898-9390 for more information.

STAFF UPDATE

Thank You, Kirby!

Kirby Brower is retiring this month after more than 26 years of faithful service at Prince of Peace. Kirby has served literally tens of thousands of disciples over the years in his role as Facilities Services Supervisor. He has been responsible for our mechanical systems, keeping everything well functioning and all of us comfortable. Kirby has supervised the Facilities team, coordinated events from funerals to campus-wide gatherings, and worked alongside hundreds of volunteers to serve our community.

Please join us in the Community Room after any of the worship services on Sunday, December 10 to thank Kirby and send our best wishes for a well earned retirement!

Family Ministry Update

Family Ministry is searching for a full time Family Ministry Community Director. The primary role for this position will be to develop community and connections within Family Ministry. Specific expressions of this role include house groups for student ministry, community gatherings for families with children, and connections for new and young parents into Family Ministry. The Family Ministry Community Director will also serve on the teaching teams for Children's Ministry and Student Ministry. Contact Jason Kramme for more information: 952-898-9387, jkramme@popmn.org.

PRAYERS

The Prayers of Prince of Peace

Weekly prayers for healing, sympathy, and those in the military are listed on the worship bulletins each weekend and on the Daily Reading Plan available at the kiosks and on our website. Prayer requests may be submitted by filling out a **Connection Card** and placing it in the offering bag or Connection Card drop box.

Baptisms:

Braylen Aleta Kastner, Easton Michael Swoboda, Kinsley Raelyn Terwilliger, Boe Flavin Miller, Hayden Grace Larson, Avery John Mattingly, Harper McKay Wilson.

Sympathy to:

Kathy and Eric Wendorf, on the loss of husband and father, Greg Wendorf; Amber & Heather Knutson and family, on the loss of their mother, Judy Knutson; Family and friends of Mary Toombs; DeWayne & June Scheer and family, on the loss of DeWayne's brother, Alan Scheer; Jerry & Sharon Leese and family, on the loss of their son, Jeremy Leese; Marcia Buck and family, on the loss of her husband, Harold Buck; Family and friends of Ann Foesch; Jason Kramme and family, on the loss of his grandmother; Ron & Connie Donely and Tim & Carrie Kuehl and families, on the loss of brother-in-law and uncle, Ronnie Stumpf; Dennis & Joann Johnson, on the loss of Joann's mom.

Contacts for Prayer

Email prayer requests:

prayer@popmn.org

Prayers printed in the *Direction*:

Karen Helle: khelle@popmn.org, 952-898-9317

BRENDA GARD | *Poinsettias in Sunlight* | Watercolor



Connection Card

If you are a guest or want to join, volunteer, update contact information or have a prayer request, please fill out a Connection Card (found at the Welcome Desk and tables in the Sanctuary). Place your completed card in the offering bag or in the Connection Card drop box.

Become a Sustainer

Give automatically at popmn.org/give.

The deadline for the January Direction is noon on Tuesday, December 5. Please email information to: communications@popmn.org.

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