

# DECEMBER

## PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

2985 Center Road, Poland, OH ----- 330-757-3272

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Our CENTER is GOD whom we Worship and we extend CHRIST'S presence into the community through Fellowship, Learning and Service to Others, with the HOLY SPIRIT as our Catalyst.

# GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

*Pastor Julianne D. Smith*✝

CHURCH E-MAIL: [sec3280@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec3280@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.PrinceofPeaceonline.com](http://www.PrinceofPeaceonline.com)

Facebook: Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran, Poland, OH

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday School –9:15 a.m.**  
**Worship – 10:30 a.m.**

If you find yourself in need of an earlier worship service some Sunday, Pastor Julianne will be leading worship at Christ Lutheran Church, 250 Sexton St., Struthers, beginning October 1. Offerings marked for Prince of Peace will be returned to us, OR, you can mail your offering to us.

**December 10-- Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Hanging of the *Greens* -- after worship with light lunch.**

## **POLAND FOOD PANTRY**



**The first Sunday of every month is “Cereal Sunday” for the Food Pantry.** We can all participate by bringing in non-perishables on a regular basis and collecting paper bags for their program. Thanks to Phil Kramer for delivering our food to the pantry! Thanks to John & Bonnie Testa for volunteering at the pantry.

**Please check expiration dates – we do not distribute out of date items.**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*We keep in our prayers Annabel Swogger, Dean Cracraft, Ruth Baun, Jo Vogt, Pam Schnell, Ray & Sue Oyler, Grace Burkert, Audrey Deichert, Mary Pappas, Barb Joyce, Sally Kramer, Ed & Toni Steinke, Judy Isaacson, Pat Seem, Carol DiMaio, Anessa Kimball, Bonnie Kyle (Duane Smith’s Aunt), Nya Decker, (Tammy’s Granddaughter), Kate Venable (Pastor Kamphuis’ wife), Alex Stein & Renee Stein (Sue Oyler’s family), Cora Pappas (Jim Pappas’ sister)*

Prayers of consolation to the family and friends of Rich Kyle, Duane Smith’s uncle, who entered into his eternal rest November 5.

*If you have any news about something special in your life that you’d like to share, please e-mail the office at [sec3280@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sec3280@sbcglobal.net)*

### **WORSHIP MINISTRIES**

*December 3 Kylie Duby*

*December 10 Kyle Miller*

*December 17 Zachary Scanlon*

*December 24 10:30 a.m. Cheryl Kear*

*7:00 p.m. Zachary Scanlon and others to be named*

*December 31 Open*

*Acolytes of any age are always welcome!*

**FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH    *always to the Glory of God, and...***

December 3  
December 10  
December 17 John & Pam Cline in memory of Jack Cline  
December 24  
December 31 Bill & Robin Scanlon

**\*\*2018 Flower Chart is now outside the church office to schedule your flowers.  
Donations to defray the cost can be added to your offering envelope and so marked. Suggested amount: \$25 Thank you.**

**Readers/Communion Assist**

December 3            Deb Dancker  
December 10         Pam Cline  
December 17         John Cline  
December 24, 10:30 a.m.  
                              7:00 p.m. Robin Scanlon  
December 31         *Lessons and Carols*



**Sign Up Sheets for December are posted on the bulletin board**

We are in need of readers and communion assistants each Sunday.  
If you are interested there is a signup sheet outside the office.

**ALTAR CARE for the month of December**

Robin & Bill Scanlon



**Candles & Outdoor Sign**

Tom and Cheryl Kear

## ***From the Pastor's Study***

*The Christmas music was playing in the mall store. The Christmas-y cute pajamas were hung with care by the entrance. The decorations were... EVERYWHERE! Thanksgiving was still a week away. I wanted to scream "Nooooo!"*

*Every year I hear complaints that the stores of starting their holiday decorating earlier, although I've not done a scientific study to prove it. Every year we, at least I, complain about the big push to "buy, buy, buy," on or before Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, or Cyber Monday. And now charities are urging us to give on Giving Tuesday.*

*Full disclosure: I did shop in my hometown on Small Business Saturday, but it's the home of the Kitchen Aid Store! And a classmate owns the Bootery, a family-owned shoe store that's been in business for over 100 years. Two pairs of shoes (made in the USA) And, I did order a dress for my granddaughter on cyber Monday, but hey, she's my granddaughter! But, while I would never say never, I can't imagine shopping on Black Friday.*

*I'm beginning to appreciate those times in the Church's past when Christmas celebrations were frowned upon, and sometimes forbidden. No gift exchanges. No trees. No 'happy birthday Jesus.' If Christ's birth was to be acknowledged it was a church event, not a time for personal revelry.*

*I'm not saying we should cut off all celebrations, but I am asking if we remember why we celebrate Christmas. Yes, we know we are remembering our dear savior's birth, but do we remember the rest of the story?*

*Jesus was born to proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near. He was born to reveal the love of God in new ways. Jesus was born to bring forgiveness to the hearts of sinners and joy to broken-hearted people. Jesus was born to die. And to be raised to new life as the firstborn of the resurrection.*

*Ricky Bobby in Talladega Nights might like Baby Jesus best, but he is missing out on the best part of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*

*That's why we have this season called Advent. It's intended to prepare us for this amazing and wonderful coming of Christ. To remember his birth, yes, but more importantly, to anticipate Christ's return in all his glory. Advent offers us the opportunity to step away from the craziness of the secular Christmas season, and focus on the 'Reason for the Season.' (pardon the cliché)*

*The invitation to come and adore Christ the Lord is not just to remember his birth, although it is that too, but also to adore the risen Christ, and rejoice that our Savior has come.*

*God's blessings be upon us all during this season of Advent and the season of Christmas yet to come.*

*God Bless,*

*Pastor Julianne D. Smith*



*Advent Worship - Sundays - 10:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.*

*December 3 -- First Sunday in Advent*

*December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent*

After worship on December 10 we will hold the annual  
"Hanging of the Greens" with a light lunch available.

*December 17 - Third Sunday in Advent*



*December 24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent*

*Christmas Eve Worship ~ 7:00 p.m.*

*Special Music*

*Holy Communion -- Candle lighting*

*Sunday, December 24*



*December 31 -- Lessons and Carols - 10:30 a.m.*