



## **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

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**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, through February 18. Offerings marked for Prince of Peace will be returned to us, OR, you can mail your offering to us.

## POP Forward!

Greetings to all! When we met as a congregation to approve a six month budget for 2018, we also agreed to form a task force to examine and design some of the changes that will help us maintain a flourishing congregation that continues to serve God and others. I am happy to report that the committee is in full “Forward” gear.

The POP Forward Committee consisting of Pastor Julianne, Kim Deichert, Jerry Kramer, Kelly Obenauf and me, had our initial meeting in December, and have meet each Wednesday of January so far. The committee is dedicated to inspiring and engaging our own congregation, as well as working to have more presence in the community.

We are studying the book, “Living Lutheran – Renewing your Congregation” by Dave Daubert. It is a good and easy read that I would suggest others might like to read as well. We have begun discussion about a new Mission Statement as we pray about our purpose as a congregation. It is our hope to get everyone involved at some point to ensure that our purpose and mission statements reflect the entire congregation, not just the few in the committee.

In addition to renewing our focus as a congregation, the committee is tasked with reducing our expenses. While there are small cuts we could make to day to day expenses, more than half of our current budget is needed to support a full time pastor. For this reason, we had just begun to discuss the possibility of part time or even shared ministry when we were given the news of Pastor Julianne’s resignation. The POP Forward Committee will join Council at the meeting with Bishop Allende on Feb 1 to learn what our next steps are in seeking a new pastor, and what assistance the Synod may have for us. As I had indicated in the past, our next call will most likely be for a part time pastor, until such time as our income can reasonably support a full time pastor again.

I have often been reminded that the only constant is change. With change comes new ideas and new energy...positive and negative. It is our hope that this committee will be a source of positive energy that will help to renew our congregation as we embrace the changes ahead.

**“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

**[Romans 12:2]**

More to come!

Best regards,

Deb Dancker

Council President

## 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 and Kelly Obenauf 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, Robin Scanlon, Carol DiMaio, Anessa Kimball, Bonnie Kyle (Duane Smith's Aunt), Nya Decker, (Tammy's Granddaughter), Alex Stein & Renee Stein (Sue Oyler's family), Cora Pappas (Jim Pappas' sister), Bill Palomaki (Arlene Cramer), Joe Thiel (friend of Stu and Pr. Smith), Sherri Duby (upcoming hip surgery)



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)

## February



### **WORSHIP MINISTRIES**

February 4 Kyle Miller  
February 11 Georgia Smith and Kendall Dancker  
February 14 Ash Wednesday, Zachary Scanlon  
February 18 Cheryl Kear  
February 25 Kylie Duby

*Acolytes of any age are always welcome!*

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

**February 4** In memory of Dorothy Harris by Jerry and Elayne Garrett along with Dorothy's grandchildren and great grandchildren  
**February 11** in honor of all the members of Prince of Peace Lutheran by Stuart and Pastor Julianne Smith  
**February 18** Ralph & Beth Minton  
**February 25**

**\*\*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

February 4 Deb Dancker  
February 11 Ralph Minton  
February 14 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
February 18 Beth Minton  
February 25

**Sign Up Sheets for February & March 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 January

Barb Seely & Judy White

### Candles & Outdoor Sign

Tom and Cheryl Kear





## Outreach Corner – Season Finale

Some of you may recall that I wrote a regular evangelism and outreach piece for the newsletter for several years. With the advent of the Facebook page, other activities, and then handing the Outreach chair over to the capable hands of Robin Scanlon, I let that lapse.

**I'm writing once more because we're all going to be experiencing some changes.** As you read this, you have probably heard that Pastor Julianne (who is also my wife) has been extended and has accepted a call to be the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) for your Northeastern Ohio Synod. That means her call as your congregational pastor is coming to an end after these great eight years. I'm sorry I was out of town on that first Sunday when the announcement was made. Flights had been made already.

**A feature of a *healthy* pastoral change is (as she has expressed in her letter to the congregation) is separation to clear the way for the incoming interim and new pastors.** This one will be a little different since we will not be moving our home and we'll be in the community. It is right and proper that we change our membership, which we will to another congregation close by.

**Help Wanted.** I have been honored to serve as Outreach chair and even on Council (a first for me). As part of that, I have been pretty much managing the Church web site, including its slow motion upgrade, and part of the Facebook administration team. I have also worked sound in the balcony (psst, I can lean on a desk with a coffee mug and be in church) and helped lead music. I've helped lead adult study. *We'll need replacements in those roles.* It's OK for me to hang around and work on the technical things for a while, but I need to hand them off to "next man (women) up" as they say. *So, step up!*

**It has always given me pleasure to see how active Prince of Peace people are in service and outreach, always quietly and effectively.** Your Outreach and Evangelism Team is motivated and great leaders, and I hope you support and join them. Prince of Peace is a small congregation, and anyone with leadership potential really should step up, *just saying.* No one is too old, and don't overlook the young. You have been gifted with fine leaders for these times.

**Stretch:** Your pastor and I and some others have become more active in the hard work of community and racial dialog and social justice, and I pray that spark catches and grows. Mahoning County has huge contrasts and wonderful diversity in a small area. Explore that with us! I hope you continue to take an interest in the worldwide church. We will continue in those actions in our new congregation and her new role as DEM.

**There will be ch-ch-changes!** A hard feature of evangelism and church growth here is demographics. *We have most of the congregations we had in 1960 in Mahoning County and 70,000 fewer people, also older than the population in 1960-1970, and more diverse.* This and more is summarized in our Journey Forward study. Finances are a struggle. Schedules are full of alternatives. But God is good and the commandments to love, spread the Gospel and baptize are not rescinded. Another great group, POP Forward, is seeking God's will in what the future may bring. We hope you support them and pray for them also. *This is the Year of Mark in the Gospel reading.* Mark always has Jesus on the move. The Spirit is always on the move. The Creator gifts us an evolving universe. We're at one of those 500 year turnovers in the Church. Exciting times! Not for the fainthearted, is it?

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Outreach article, continued from previous page

**If you are active in Mahoning County Cluster or Synod activities, we'll see you around.** I'll continue on the cluster in a service role, and we'll be on the Synod Discipleship and Evangelism Table. The DEM is the key Synod contact for that Table. So we'll see some of you there. And there are those worship services and gatherings, too.

**These changes are hard for me.** Your pastor can tell you I have resisted each change in call because place and relationships are important to me. I keep friends – and you here at Prince of Peace have been a supportive family to us both and I value the friendships we've made here. You have welcomed newer members like us. I will really miss the children, who pound for pound, are among our most effective members, who you have trained and given opportunity in all aspects of congregational service life. I know they will grow in the Spirit, and know they will be effective church leaders. I fully expect one or more to hear the call to be pastors. Maybe one or more will succeed me in the ministry of physical development in the world. Bring them to gatherings and keep us in the news loop. If I can mentor in science and engineering ideas, or shepherd them to far-flung places, give me a call. *We've never lost anyone on a Tanzania trip.*

**I can return and make presentations and so forth, and Pastor Julianne, as DEM, will not be a stranger.** But please wholeheartedly embrace and support your next pastor and spouse and family, as you have us. Those people will be called to be the needed leaders for the next adventure.

Stuart Smith

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## Camp Frederick Summer Camp Registration Opens February 1st!!



Dear Parents,

*Why send your children to Camp Frederick? Camp changes lives! Camp Frederick benefits youth by placing them in a Christ-Centered, safe, and fun environment, which may be more important than ever before. Did you know that according to statistics, kids age 8-18 spend an average of 7.5 hours a day on electronic media, but only spend an average of 3.5 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with their parents? Most children in America are spending an average of 4 minutes a day playing outside. A week*

*at camp provides a child with 10,080 minutes of time spent away from the regular pressure and schedule of life and time to think without distractions. There is much competition for summer activities, but in a world that is very different than even 10 years ago, Camp Frederick provides a place to grow. It reinforces the importance of staying connected. Here children have role models in our college-aged staff who love Jesus and can be a vital example of following Him. At Camp Frederick, we encourage youth to embrace and share the love, joy and hope that a life of faith brings. Please make plans for your children to join us at camp summer of 2018! They will never forget it! And you won't either!*

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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visit: [campfrederickohio.com](http://campfrederickohio.com)

Click on Summer Camp

Find your camp

Click on Register Now and follow the instructions!