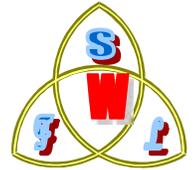




PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

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



2017

Pastor Julianne D. Smith #

CHURCH E-MAIL: sec3280@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.PrinceofPeaceonline.com

Facebook: Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran, Poland, OH

Mark Your Calendars!

With New Voices

Throughout this 500th anniversary year of the Commemoration of the Reformation, we will be hearing from Luther's Small Catechism, and considering what it means for us in the 21st Century.

Small group study sessions will be offered in January and February:

Group 1: 7:00 p.m. January 10, 16, 24

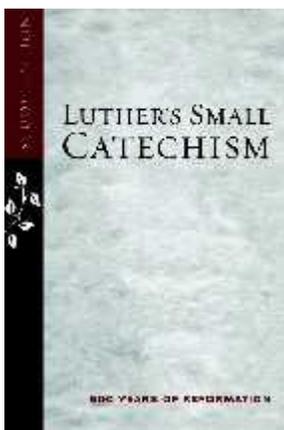
Group 2: 10:00 a.m. January 13, 20, 27

Group 3:, 7:00 p.m. February 7, 14, 21

Group 4: 10:00 a.m. February 10, 17, 24

Sign up now at the fellowship table. Look for the red cord!

If none of those times suit you, contact Pastor Julianne to see about additional opportunities. 500th Anniversary editions now available upon request.



Just a reminder – When we changed our constitution, we changed the dates of our congregational meetings. We held our budget meeting in November. Our election of council members and annual reports will be in May, 2017. Reports may be turned in to our Office Manager, Jeanne, at anytime. !

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!

Please check expiration dates – we do not distribute out of date items.

If you would like to volunteer to help on distribution dates (last Wednesday morning of the month and the previous Tuesday evening) contact Stu Smith, 330-953-2050 for more information.

TABLE TALK

Our Next **Table Talk** is January 26 6:00 at
The Magic Tree Pub and Eatery, 7463 South Ave, Boardman
Please Notify Pastor Julianne by if you plan to attend.

*Table Talk is an opportunity to gather over food and fellowship
for conversations related to faith and church. All adults are welcome.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We celebrate with Brian White upon his graduation from University of Akron, December 17, 2016. Best wishes!

On Christmas Day we welcomed into our Christian Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Katherine Elizabeth Alexandra Shamis. Katherine is the daughter of Christopher & Susan Shamis. Her older brother is Nicholas. Her maternal grandparents are Tom & Cheryl Kear, and her maternal great-grandmother is Mary Pappas.

Cards for Dorothy Harris can be sent via the Church Office

DID YOU KNOW: Ruth Baun turned 104 in November! She lives in Florida with her sister June Roller.

We offer our consolation to the family and friends of Harry Kaneski. Harry entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, November 25, 2016. His Service of Remembrance was held November 30 at Davidson-Becker Funeral Home, Struthers with his interment in Lowellville Cemetery.

We also lift up Mitch Barns and his family on the death of his mother Joanne Barns who died November 23, 2016. Services were held at the chapel at Poland Riverside Cemetery -

We keep in our prayers: Annabel Swogger, Dean Cracraft, Ruth Baun, Jo Vogt, Pam Schnell, Grace Burkert, Audrey Deichert, Mary Pappas, Barb Joyce, Ed & Toni Steinke, Dorothy Harris, Susie Self, Sydney Kern, Barb Bertleff, Carol DiMaio

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



January 1 *open*
 January 8 *Kylie Duby*
 January 15 *Kyle Miller*
 January 22 *Zachary Scanlon*
 January 29 *Cheryl Kear*
 Acolytes of any age are always welcome!

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

January 1 Stu and Pastor Julianne Smith
 January 8 Kim Deichert
 January 15
 January 22
 January 29



****2017 Flower Chart is 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 Thanks you**

Readers/Communion Assist

January 1 Stuart Smith
 January 8 Gary Isaacson
 January 15
 January 22 Gary Isaacson
 January 29



ALTAR CARE for the month of January

Deb & Lindsey Dancker

Candles & Outdoor Sign

Tom and Cheryl Kear



From the Pastor's Study

At this time of year, people tend to ask, "Did you have a good Christmas?" For Twelve Days I will reply, "Yes, I'm having a great Christmas!" We have Twelve Days in which to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and I'm not going to give up any of them! And no, it's not a countdown to Christmas, it's a Season of celebration as we remember not only the birth of Jesus, but the promise of salvation and life.

This year, 2016, has been particularly harsh for many people. I don't even want to begin to list the various events which have caused people anguish or despair. We know what they are.

It's at times like this that we can be especially grateful for the good news of Jesus. Not only do we remember the coming of Jesus as an infant, God in the flesh, but we also recall the declaration from the angel: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

The chorus of angels adds: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

Words such as great joy, Savior, Messiah, Lord, and peace may seem like "pie in the sky" promises. But according to Luke, they are promises that we have now because of the entry of Jesus into the world. We do not need to wait until all has been completed.

Instead, we are called to act. We are called to act as if we believe the Jesus is our Savior. We are called to act so that others may know this good news and believe it. We are called to act as if the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived in its fullness, and Christ has returned in his glory. Not because we can quicken the arrival of the end times, but, by living out our faith, we can help reveal what has been made known at the Cross.

As we continue to enjoy these Twelve Days of Christmas, may we share the joy of God's grace in Christ Jesus with our neighbors and with the world. Amen.

Pastor Julianne D. Smith ☩

Office: 330-757-3272

julianne.smith@sbcglobal.net



"I'm the Clutter Fairy. I'll come back ...
I'm gonna need a much bigger wand!"

*P.S. – I'm looking for someone with patience who can help me sort and tidy the materials in my office. No, we cannot just gather it all in a pile and burn it! Send me an e-mail or call me and we'll set a time (or times) to tackle my "piles."
Lunch will be on me!*

God's work. Our hands.

Outreach Corner Returns!

Greetings from your Outreach and Evangelism representative on Council. This position was unfilled for a year, since it was time for me to go off Council with the end of my term in 2015. I was hoping someone would step up (I'd be behind them all the way), but so it goes. Now it's a new calendar year.

We thank God for your outreach and service! So much is going on and members represent us well in the community.

Looking ahead: I really mean it this time: we need to form an Outreach and Evangelism committee or work group in 2017. I had some other churchwide duties that are now done, and I can focus here more. Council has served this function, but it would be great to broaden the circle. So I may be asking you and I hope you will say "yes, of course."

"Church" is only relevant if we are fulfilling our purpose in the world of proclaiming the Good News and doing what Jesus told us to do: heal, feed, clothe, support, and work for justice and peace. All these needed more than ever.

God has been faithful to us in the past year, so let's see what the Spirit has in store for us in 2017.

Blessings, Stu Smith



Mahoning County Lutheran Cluster

Day of the Epiphany Worship --7:00 p.m.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church
420 Clearmount Dr

Preacher: Pastor Rebecca Zielke

