

CONNECTIONS

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME XII, ISSUE IV

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Paradox of Change

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ~ Lamentations 3:21-23



Anticipating Change. My family just got a springer spaniel puppy. We knew for several weeks that the puppy would be coming, and we made all the preparations for his arrival. We puppy proofed the house. We bought him a crate and food and water dishes. We bought toys and started leaving them around so Addy and the cat could get used to them. We worked in our yard to make it safe and installed a fence. We talked about what to name him, envisioned how great it would be to have him around, and began to agree on training plans.

I was excited. The last time I had a dog, I was a little girl, and now, I would get to watch Addy grow up with this companion and friend. But, I would be lying if I wasn't also more than a little scared. I didn't know the first thing about raising a puppy and I knew that his presence would change our lives. Frequent trips outside, messes to clean up, teaching him what it meant to be our dog, all sounded daunting and difficult.

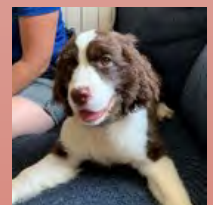
Facing Change. The first two weeks of our puppy's presence in our lives was extremely difficult. We had to keep track of two babies now and they were often going in different directions. The puppy needed constant supervision and didn't know how to play safely with people. Tom and I both admitted it was a harder transition and job than we thought it would be. For a few weeks, our lives were pure chaos, and we couldn't escape it, because the dog couldn't be left alone for more than a short time.

The only thing that kept me going was knowing that someday, this unruly, unpredictable, ball of fur would be a wonderful dog and companion. One day, he and Addy would be great friends and rely on one another. One day, he would be an integral and cuddly part of our family through good and bad times.

Embracing Change. All changes are like this in some capacity. There is the anticipation of a new thing, exciting and alluring. But there is also the fear that change means a new way of living. It means letting go of things that are easy and comfortable and forging new paths that might not only be difficult but also painful as we work through them.

But God's mercies and love never cease. We are not left alone to struggle and we are not without hope. God walks the journey of change with us. As we look at new ways of being church in a changing world, the idea of change and new paths may cause fear and anxiety. But God is with us, and his mercies are new every morning. As we travel through the difficult times, we are assured that the future is God-filled, God-led, and exciting beyond measure.

My family doesn't have it all figured out yet, and we still have a long way to go, but Didi is growing and learning, and so are we as we make changes to become a stronger, bigger, and happier family together.



Important Contact Information

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

4 Northcrest Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Telephone: (518) 371-2226 Fax: (518) 383-3820

www.poplutheranchurch.org

- Pastor Jeff Silvernail -
pastorjeff@poplutheranchurch.org;
- Pastor Amber Craig -
pastoramber@poplutheranchurch.org;
- Parish Administrator Melanie Edwards -
office@poplutheranchurch.org
- Newsletter Editor Jennifer Van Ort -
newsletter@poplutheranchurch.org

*Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Amber Craig*

EMERGENCY PHONE INFORMATION: *If you have a pastoral emergency when the church office is closed, call the church number, 371- 2226, extension 324. Leave a message and phone number where you can be reached. Immediately after you hang up, a designated on call pastor or deacon will receive a call that there is an emergency message. He/she will retrieve the message from the mailbox and call you back.*

Pastor's Pen



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35

Over the last several years much of our news has been dominated by issues related to immigration, migrants, and refugees.

See if these words and phrases sound familiar:

Illegal immigrants, DACA, migrant caravan, deportation, family separation, detention camps, asylum seekers, child separation,

refugee crisis, catch and release, The Wall, ICE, undocumented, drivers licenses for illegals (or the undocumented), arrests of Good Samaritans, traffickers, government shut down, border security, coyotes, travel ban, Northern Triangle, gang violence, failed states, etc.

As the Presidential election gets closer the stories and the rhetoric will only increase seeking to roil our emotions and stoke our fears.

What is our response as Christians? I don't have the answers. I do have opinions, but I don't expect all to share my opinions. I think it is OK if we disagree on issues like the proper level of border security, or how many legal temporary workers we allow to enter the US, or what a path to citizenship might look like and who might be eligible.

But whatever our opinions we should never forget that we are talking about human beings made in the image of God, people for whom Jesus went to the cross, children whom Jesus blesses. These are our brothers and sisters. I believe it is our responsibility as Christians to resist the forces in government, politics and media that would dehumanize any child of God.

For more information or to help see the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service www.lirs.org



Photo courtesy of Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Service www.lirs.org

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Report on the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

REACH Time September 18 at 9:30 am

It was my profound joy to be able to be one of the over 900 voting members who gathered in Milwaukee for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. I invite you to our September 18th REACH Time as I will share an overview of the actions of the Churchwide Assembly, share my experiences, take your questions, and listen to your thoughts and concerns.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff



YOUTH NEWS

FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

CLOWN TROUPE

Clown troupe is gearing up for another great year! Rehearsal times are from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Sunday evenings unless otherwise noted. Welcome New Clowns!!!



Rehearsals

Sept 1

Sept 15

Sept 29



Sr. High Youth Group

We will be planning **at least one youth event each month** through the school year. These events will fall on a variety of different days and will often be fun activities or service opportunities. All youth in 9th through 12th grade are welcome to attend!



Welcome!

Welcome to all our incoming 9th graders! We are so excited to have you with us, and are looking forward to getting to know you, and hearing your ideas!

Next Activity

Watch for news on the next activity coming in September!



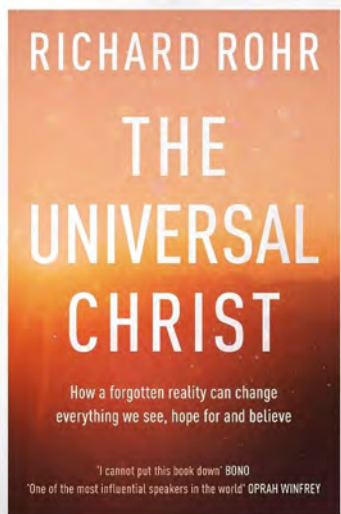
Sending Our High School Grads Off in Comfort

A few weeks ago, we took the opportunity to send our high school graduates off to their new endeavors with our prayers and blessings. We did that, because one of their parents asked us to, and it was a wonderful chance for us to continue to support our youth as they step out into the world on their own. Those who were sent knew that we, as a congregation, loved them, prayed for them, and supported them in their new journey.

This is a practice we hope to continue each year to celebrate and pray for those who have graduated as they near the beginning of college or other work plans. As we sent off this year's graduates, we realized it would be great if we could send them off with a reminder of our prayers for them. In the future, we would love to send off each graduate with a blanket, so they have something warm to wrap up in when they need it.

This can be a full congregation project, and you can help! If you would like to donate yarn for the blankets to be made out of, you can give it to Pastor Amber. If you can knit or crochet, or have another blanket-making talent that you would like to volunteer to make some blankets, please let Pastor Amber know so we can coordinate what we need for each year. Thank you so much! And thank you for supporting our youth throughout their lives at Prince of Peace.





'I cannot put this book down'— Bono In his decades as a globally recognized teacher, Richard Rohr has helped millions realize what is at stake in matters of faith and spirituality. Yet Rohr has never written on the most perennially talked about topic in Christianity: Jesus. Most know who Jesus was, but who was Christ? ...

Thursday Morning Women's Fellowship

Please join us as we read and discuss

The Universal Christ:

How a forgotten reality can change everything we see, hope for and believe

by Richard Rohr.

**Join us any Thursday morning at 9:45 am
Starting September 12th**

Need more details?

Call Cheri at 518-877-8132

Painting the Stars:

Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith

A 7 session discussion with video

"Celebrating the communion of science and faith, Painting the Stars explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality."

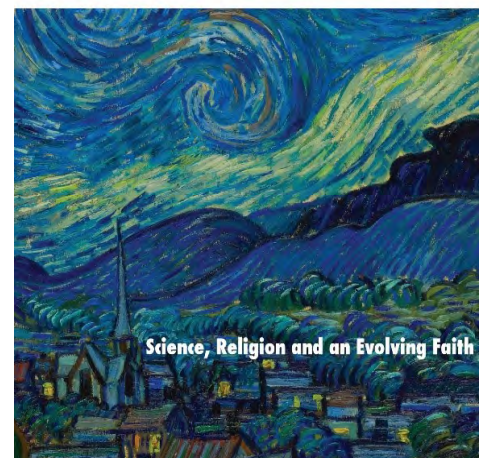
As always we will have fun, food and great discussions!

Select Mondays at 2:00 pm

Beginning September 23rd

Prince of Peace, Room 20

**PAINTING
THE STARS**



THANK YOU



TEAM POP participated once again in the annual Schenectady CROP Walk for hunger on Sunday May 5. The 5K WALK is a community-wide event sponsored by Church World Service and organized by the SCHENECTADY INNER CITY MINISTRY.

Team POP consisted of twelve (including 2 children) walkers this year. Donations received through the walkers and by way of the online CROP Walk website amounted to \$1,049.

By taking action and sharing of our abundance, we help bring about justice in this world: Food Justice, Water Justice, and Economic Justice. When we ask for sponsors for the steps we take, we are able to have an impact on hungry families locally and also

give a hand-up to starving families globally.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Walk against hunger and to their sponsors for "Helping to stop hunger one step at a time!"



RALLY DAY FALL PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

**OUR ANNUAL RALLY DAY PICNIC WILL TAKE PLACE ON OUR BEAUTIFUL
CHURCH GROUNDS (RAIN OR SHINE).
GREAT FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL AGES!**

- **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AT BOTH SERVICES, 8:00 AND 10:30 AM**
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION BETWEEN SERVICES & AFTER 10:30 SERVICE
IN THE WELCOME AREA**

AFTER THE SERVICE, JOIN US FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES, including a **BOUNCY BOUNCE, CLIMBING WALL, AND MUSIC BY STRETCH & THE NORTHCREST RAMBLERS**, FEATURING OUR VERY OWN JOELY AND TOM MILLER AND MEMBERS OF PEOPLE OF PRAISE!

- BAR-B-QUED CHICKEN, BEVERAGES, AND PLACE SETTINGS WILL BE PROVIDED.
- IF POSSIBLE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT FOR TEN PEOPLE, PLUS A LAWN CHAIR.
- SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$9.00 PER PERSON WITH A FAMILY MAXIMUM OF \$25.00 TO OFFSET THE EXPENSES – **NEW PRICE FOR THIS YEAR!**
- **NO CHARGE FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES!**
- **PRE-REGISTRATION HELPFUL BUT NOT REQUIRED**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS COMMUNITY FUN EVENT!

REGISTRATION FOR POP RALLY DAY CHICKEN BBQ:

PLEASE FILL IN THE REGISTRATION FORM, ATTACH YOUR CHECK

**PAYABLE TO: PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
~ DESIGNATE "FALL PICNIC"**

PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR MAIL IT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:

NAME _____
PHONE _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING: ____

\$9.00 PER PERSON (ADULT OR CHILD) \$25.00 MAXIMUM PER FAMILY
CHECK # _____ FOR \$ _____ ATTACHED

Faces of Faith



Meet Christine Sheppard (Hisgen)! Christine heard about Prince of Peace through member Denene Hisgen. Her early experience was with Pastor Kris Hackbart and the Spirit Café back in 2004. Services for the cafe were held on Saturday nights where Christine enjoyed the more relaxed atmosphere. As someone who was not raised in the church, she did not feel overwhelming pressure as she began her journey with her relationship with God. Christine became a member of POP that year in 2004. She and her husband, Troy, were then married by Pastor Kris in 2005.

Christine then started bringing her niece, Madelyn, to POP and as she consistently did this, her sister, Laura, also started to come to the services. Madelyn was then baptized in 2008 by Pastor Jake Marvel. Christine and Troy have a daughter, Nora, who is 8 years old and was baptized here at POP in 2010 by Pastor Jeff. Baptisms here at POP are a family affair as other nephews were baptized by Pastor Jeff as well over the years. It brings great joy to Christine when family gathers at POP for these special moments.

Christine has always been in the Clifton Park area. She is a Shenendehowa High School graduate and has lived on Grooms Rd for past 6 ½ years. For the past 16 years, Christine has owned her own branch of Met Life Auto & Home in Clifton Park. Christine enjoys helping others and insurance was an open door for her to succeed in business as well as helping others.

Christine loves spending time with her family. She also volunteers at the Twin Bridges Rotary and is co-leader of Nora's Girl Scout Troop which just happens to meet at POP! And if that wasn't enough, at POP, Christine devotes her time as an usher, offering counter and a newly elected member to Church Council. As a council member, Christine wants to collect ideas and ways that POP can be involved in projects in the local community. Her vision is to expand on the food pantry project and get children involved so they can experience the act of helping others. In this process, community can be built within POP as well as outside POP.

What Christine loves most about being a member of POP is how welcoming she feels in the church. She comments that POP members go out of their way to make you feel like family – and isn't that what community is all about?



Upstate NY Synod Women of the ELCA 2019 Convention

"And God said . . . Walk a Faithful Journey"

Rest, relax, and recharge on beautiful Canandaigua Lake and enjoy a program of Bible study, spiritual reflection, fellowship, and workshops.

Where: Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-5700

When: October 4th – 6th

Registration: \$65 for the weekend

Registration for Saturday only: \$75 (includes meals)

Lodging: Cost for lodging includes all meals.

Double Room (2 beds) with full bath----\$170 per person

Single Room (with sink and shared toilet) ---- \$200 per person

Workshops: Presenter, Pastor Aileen Robbins - "Camino de Santiago"
Pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle St. James in Spain

Any questions, contact Simone Harter at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour,
office@oursaviourorochester.org or (585) 247-7824

One World Goods will be available for your shopping pleasure.

Women of the ELCA

ACOLYTE PROGRAM



Attention all youth who will be in 4th grade and above during the 2019-2020 school year: There will be a training session scheduled for all those interested in becoming an acolyte for the upcoming school year sometime during the summer.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts with the church and serve God in a unique way. We look forward to helping you along your spiritual journey. Those who will be in 4th grade or above and who are interested in helping the pastors and deacons occasionally on Sundays should contact Pastor Amber at church or Deacon Diana Foote at 518 681- 9258. The training session will be scheduled for parents and children once we know who is interested and when we can meet.

ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

FAIR TRADE

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, WE OFFER:

COFFEE

Organic Breakfast Blend Regular
Organic Breakfast Blend Decaf

TEA

Organic Chamomile Decaf
Organic Rooibus Decaf
Organic Earl Grey
Organic Chai
Organic Green Tea



CHOCOLATE



Organic Very Dark Chocolate Bar (71% Cocoa)
Organic Milk Chocolate w/hint of hazelnut (38% Cocoa)
Organic Dark chocolate Minis (55% Cocoa)
Organic Hot Chocolate Mix



OTHER

Organic Mixed Berry Chewy Cereal Bar
Organic Cashews
Organic Almonds



All Fair Trade products buy direct from small farmers who grow products using ecologically sustainable farming practices. Their trading partner, Equal Exchange, donates \$.20 for each pound of Fair Trade coffee, tea, & cocoa we sell.

Note from the *Connections* Editor

Greetings! As you all have seen, *Connections* took an unplanned hiatus over the summer. I know how important this publication is to the life and community of Prince of Peace and I apologize for the lack of issues as of recent.

Recently, I have worked with Pastor Jeff, Pastor Amber and Melanie to develop some new processes to improve the efficiency of producing *Connections* and I hope this will help me produce more timely issues in the future.

Here comes the fun part!

Help Wanted! Assistant Editor

Do you have interest in helping with *Connections*? I am looking for an Assistant Editor to help produce each monthly issue.

Experience with Microsoft Publisher is helpful, but not required. If you are interested, please e-mail me at newsletter@poplutheranchurch.org. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about what is expected and the amount of time required.

Thank you for considering!

Best,

Jen Van Ort
Connections Editor



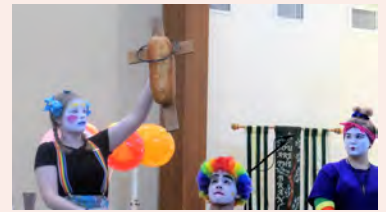
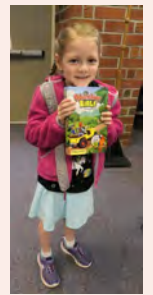
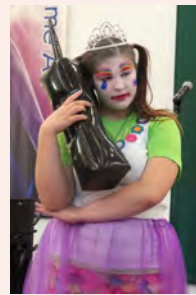
Prince of Peace In Photos!

Spring & Summer 2019

Spring

SUMMER







Celebrate!

September Birthdays



9/1 - Emily Lamm, Annamarie Anderson

9/2 - Meghan Berman

9/3 - Marilyn Kellar, Bethany Angeliu

9/4 - Aaron Leavitt, Louise Flynn

9/5 - Jeff Silvernail

9/6 - Kim Wilson, Linda Silvernail, Frederick Sawyer

9/7 - Brandon Cambria

9/10 - Amanda Parsons, Max Alberts

9/11 - Katlyn Gibson, Marilyn Mayer

9/12 - Kenneth Angeliu, Westley Blakeslee

9/13 - Judy Lees, James Taggart

9/15 - Cheri MacMasters

9/16 - Alexa Berry

9/17 - Dale Wood, John Schwartz, Jacob Salmon, Jeff Wilson

9/18 - Catherine Berman

9/19 - Cindy Samide, Erika Samide, Thomas Hisgen, Chris Blakeslee

9/20 - Gerald Kruegler, Steve Dzembo

9/21 - Michael Wheeler, Rebecca Blumbergs, Kayla Benner, Jay Benner, Deane Vedder

9/22 - Max Zubal, David Price

9/23 - Sean Flynn, Janelle Hofgesang

9/24 - Christine Lenahan, Evan Rurycz

9/25 - Angela Wood

9/26 - Nancy Burke, Kurt Bennett

9/27 - Teresa Jalonack

9/28 - Cameron Foote, Sarah Prybylowski

9/29 - Mary Ann Anderson

9/30 - Renee Panarese




A birthday in September
the sky is blue and clear.
Summertime is winding down
with autumn drawing near.
A special wish for you
on this most important day,
for love and joy to find you
in unexpected ways.

©05 DR'S

G299

September Server Schedule

September 1 - 8:00am Bread: Janet Green Reader: Dorothy Stuart Ushers: Mark Steeke Dorothy Stuart	September 1 - 10am Bread: Deane Vedder Reader: Tom Miller Ushers: Terry Lustofin Rich Walker	September 8 - 8:00am Bread: Rene Panarese Reader: Judy Rogers Ushers: Mark Steeke Dorothy Stuart	September 8- 10:30am Bread: Winnie Petterson Reader: Jean Morehouse Ushers: Terry Lustofin Rich Walker
Counters: Janet Green Judy Rogers Deacon: Nancy Hoelzer		Counters: Donna Turner Andy Lustofin Deacon: Diana Foote	
September 15 - 8:00am Bread: Denise Johnson Coffee: Mary Sheldon Price Reader: Grace Anderson Ushers: Mark Steeke Dorothy Stuart	September 15 - 10:30am Bread: Tina Walters Coffee: Zoe Walker Reader: Ginny Wink Ushers: Terry Lustofin Rich Walker	September 22 - 8:00am Bread: Mary Beth Dunn Coffee: Rob Anderson Reader: William Price Ushers: Mark Steeke Dorothy Stuart	September 22 - 10:30am Bread: Mary Rurcyz Coffee: Deane Vedder Reader: Wayne Petterson Ushers: Terry Lustofin Rich Walker
Counters: Denise Johnson Sue Anderson Deacon: JoAnn Koenig		Counters: Roy Dunn Dave Price Deacon: Eileen Bryant	
September 29 - 8:00am Bread: Pam Cook Coffee: Mark Steele Reader: Ann Crivello Ushers: Mark Steeke Dorothy Stuart	September 29 - 10:30am Bread: Debbie Waugaman Coffee: Natalie Kaplan Reader: Sue Zappen Ushers: Terry Lustofin Rich Walker		
Counters: Christine Sheppard Laura Johnson Deacon: Donna Turner			

Claimed by Grace,

We seek to

Welcome All, Worship Joyfully,

Grow Spiritually

and

Share God's Love



**PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4 NORTHCREST DRIVE
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065



We sincerely hope you enjoy

CONNECTIONS!

If you know of any friends or neighbors who might be interested in learning about Prince of Peace, please feel free to forward the electronic copy to them.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*Contemporary worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

CONNECTIONS is the monthly newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In an effort to be more fiscally & environmentally conscious, we send the newsletter electronically to as many people as possible. You can help by e-mailing the church office to give us your current e-mail address or calling the church office if you don't use e-mail (we'll be glad to put your copy in the mail).

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

September Daily Activities

- 9/1 Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:00AM - Contemporary
Clown Troupe Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
- 9/2 Deacon Meeting - 6:00 PM
- 9/4 Golf League - 5:30 PM; Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
- 9/7 Contemporary Band Rehearsal - 8:30 AM
- 9/8 Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM - Rally Day
- 9/9 Prayer Group - 1:30 PM;
Worship Team Meeting - 7:15 PM
- 9/11 Choir - 6:30 PM
- 9/12 TMWF - 9:45 AM; Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 9/15 Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM - Contemporary
Sunday School - 9:15 AM; REACH - 9:30 AM
Clown Troupe Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
- 9/16 Prayer Group - 1:30 PM; Pastor's Bible Study - 2:00 PM
- 9/18 Confirmation - 6:30 PM; Choir - 6:30 PM
- 9/19 TMWF - 9:45 AM
- 9/22 Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:15 AM; REACH - 9:30 AM
Clown Troupe Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
- 9/23 Prayer Group - 1:30 PM; Pastor's Bible Study - 2:00 PM
- 9/25 Confirmation - 6:30 PM; Choir - 6:30 PM
- 9/26 TMWF - 9:45 AM
- 9/29 Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:15 AM

September Weekly Activities

Sundays: Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

(Note: 10 AM on 9/1)

Sunday School - 9:15 AM

(Beginning 9/15)

Mondays: Prayer Group - 1:30 PM

Pastor's Bible Study - 2:00 PM

(Both beginning 9/9)

Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

(Beginning 9/4)

Confirmation - 6:30 PM

(Beginning 9/18)

Thursdays:

Thursday Morning Women's Fellowship - 9:45 AM

(Beginning 9/12)