



Pastors' Message



The Newsletter is Back!

After being gone for a few months, the Congregational Update has returned. We'll publish it probably every-other month instead of monthly, but we hope to use it to spread the word about Prince of Peace news and upcoming events. Future editions will also include updates from different boards and committees; today's edition is just from your pastors. Here are a few news items and updates, in no particular order, for the coming months...

New Faces in New Places

In the church and school office, Kat Zahn is now on board as a new church and school secretary. She joins Kris Gollon in that role. Kat and Kris will be dividing the office hours throughout the week. Gretchen Beebe continues to work early each morning to keep track of school, preschool, and extended care accounts. We welcome Kat and look forward to working with her.

Mr. Justin Vilski will now serve as principal of our school. Mr. Jeff Sell, after serving as principal since 2009, has asked to step down from that position into a new vice principal position. (They'll be splitting up administrative responsibilities, with Mr. Vilski handling about 75% and Mr. Sell 25%.) We thank both men for their work, their servant attitudes, and their love for teaching Christ's lambs. (By the way, PoP School begins on Wednesday, August 19. Back-to-school night is August 10.) We pray for God's rich blessing on our all school families, students, faculty, and staff in the coming year.

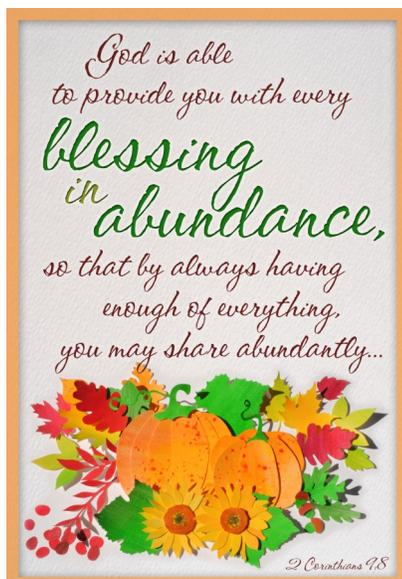


Newly Elected Servants in Our Congregation

Some brothers in Christ were elected to serve in different roles recently. First, we sincerely thank the men who have been serving in different ways for the last several years: David Brandt as chairman of our congregation; Matt Rohrer on the Board of Education; Darrell Koplín and Layne Read on the fellowship committee; Ali Salem on the evangelism committee; Jared McBride as financial secretary; numerous trustees who have served; Josiah Schultz, Gary Cain, Larry Steinbach, and Jeff Beifuss, who have served on our Board for Spiritual Welfare; Tom Smith and Mark Kohagen on our School Board; and many others we have not mentioned by name. Their hours of work, usually done behind the scenes, has helped us and furthered God's kingdom.

Next, we welcome newly elected officers: Kent Carbon is our new congregational chairman, David Brandt is moving into the vice chairman position, Chris Peterson as financial secretary, Larry Steinbach on the evangelism committee, Ken York on the fellowship committee, and several others who will be new to other boards and committees.

Finally, we thank all those people who are continuing to serve and any we've forgotten to name. They often go unnoticed, but their work helps us in many ways. Thank you!



Upcoming Classes & Events

Confirmation Class Begins August 23

Confirmation class is our instruction in the basics of the Bible for 6th-8th graders in our church and school. An informational letter will go out soon about this year's class, which begins on Sunday, August 23. (Confirmation class meets during Family Bible Hour and the adult and teen Bible studies, from about 9:25 to 10:30 each Sunday morning.) If you are the parent of a 6th-8th grader, please plan on bringing your students to the first class on August 23. If you don't get a letter by August 15, please contact Pastor Bater, since sometimes someone gets unintentionally missed. We look forward to another year of talking about our faith and being strengthened by God's Word.

Upcoming Classes & Events (Cont.)

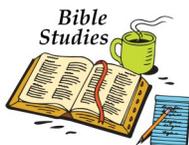
New Round of K-Groups Begins Mid-September

A new round of K-Groups begins in mid-September and runs through mid-December. K-Groups are small groups (usually a max of 12 people) who get together for fellowship, service, or spiritual growth. You can get a K-Group started or join one that someone else has started. There are PLAY groups that get together for recreational fellowship, HELP groups that gather for service projects, and GROW groups that meet for Bible study. All new groups need to be ready for sign-ups by mid-August. See Pastor Bater if you're interested in planning a PLAY or HELP group. See Pastor Micheel if you'd like to organize a GROW group.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Returns September 16

Our Wednesday evening Bible study returns this fall, beginning September 16.

"Understanding Bible Symbols" will be our topic. Our aim will be to understand the Bible better by learning how God often communicates symbolically in Scripture. We'll look at things like the symbolism of numbers, apocalyptic imagery, and symbols of the Savior. We'll meet from 7:00 to 8:15PM in one of the school classrooms.



"What do you wish you'd known when you started at PoP?" New Sunday Morning Bible Study Begins September 20

Starting Sunday, September 20, in our Sunday Bible study we'll be working together to create a short, introductory class for new Prince of Peace members. Many people have expressed, after being members for several months or years, "I wish I'd have known that when I first joined Prince of Peace!" Whether it's wondering about how things operate, how decisions are made, or wondering what to do when someone at church makes you mad, questions are bound to arise. On Sunday mornings, we will work together to craft a short class that uses Scripture to inform new members and give them tools for active church membership. So what should we tell new members? What do you wish you had known when you became a member? We need to hear from you!



Praise in the Park: September 20 (and maybe in an actual park!)

Our annual outdoor worship service has been held at Prince of Peace for the past few years. (Of course, it hasn't always been "outdoor"

because of rain!) Some might remember, though, that we used to have the service in a local park pavilion. Well, we're exploring possible locations in the area in hopes that we can move the service once again to a park, where we'll gather for worship and then a picnic and fellowship time. Watch for more details.

WELS Scholarship Thank-you

A quick but heartfelt thank-you to all who contributed to the WELS Scholarship Fund, which is helping six of our young adults attend Lutheran high schools and colleges in the coming year. Special thanks to 'Bout Time Pub & Grub, who generously donated the proceeds from their annual golf outing. Thank you!

Updates

Gopher Update

Many are aware that we've got a persistent problem with gophers digging large holes and leaving mounds of dirt (which becomes mud) around our church and school grounds. What many may not be aware of is that our trustees have been battling the gophers for many years, and that the trustees' efforts have increased in the last year. "Then why are there still so many muddy gopher holes all over?" you may ask. Well, the gophers are native to our area and are hemmed in by 4700 South, our parking lot and the neighboring ward's, and our buildings. We've consulted several pest control services, and they've told us that the gophers will probably never be totally gone. Nevertheless, our trustees continue fighting them off, and we're enlisting more assistance from a local pest control service. Thanks to our trustees for working hard at gopher control!

Stewardship Snapshot

Normally in the Sunday News & Notes insert, there's a place where we list offering totals for the current month and year. We do this in an effort to be transparent about our financial situation and to keep people informed. You might have noticed that those numbers have not been listed for the last couple of months. That's because we have recently switched to a new application called Church360 to keep track of offerings and other records. Don't worry—individual offerings are being tracked accurately. But the kinks aren't worked out yet in reporting weekly totals of various funds. Rather than report inaccurately, we've just been omitting the numbers from the News & Notes. But look for those again soon as we get more comfortable with the new software.

WELS Convention 2015

Every-other year, our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), holds a convention. Delegates from all over the country and mission workers from different parts of the world come together to report on what we're doing as a church body and to set direction for the next two years. This year, I (Pastor Micheel) was a delegate to the convention. It was a great experience to meet in Michigan with fellow believers and to prayerfully consider the work that we do together: training future servants of the Word and sending that Word out to many parts of the world. Some quick highlights for me: meeting and listening to Pastor V'yacheslav Horpynchuk, president of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church; watching as our new sister church in St. George was spotlighted as one example of the mission work we're doing in our country; catching up with friends I had not seen for many years and meeting fellow Christians from all over the country. Look for more synod convention updates in the coming weeks.

That's all for now. We'll leave you with a word of encouragement from one of the Scripture readings we recently heard as we gathered around the living Word: **And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** (2 Corinthians 9:8) His grace is with us all!

Pastor Micheel and Pastor Bater