

# Reconnecting & Renewing Outdoors

## Outdoor Ministry by Pastor Betsy

This year we discovered that the outdoors is a great place to reconnect and renew! From bonfires to hiking, worship to VBS, service projects and casual conversation, we experienced God's creation and connected with one another in Covid-friendly ways. I loved hearing things like, "Hey we should do this again next year; we don't need a pandemic to go hiking together."



## Fall Retreat at Wapo by Rick Rothausen

Reconnecting and renewing is an appropriate theme for Sandra and me, long time members who left PoP in 1999 to move up north and returned in 2021. The retreat was fun to reconnect with old friends and meet many new ones. We learned a few things like the names of Martin Luther's six children.



It was a good time seeing folks in a casual outdoor setting and brought back fond memories of our last visit to WAPO, a winter visit sometime in the last century.

Because of Covid, this year's Fall Retreat was a one-day outdoor event at Camp Wapo on a perfect fall day. Participations ranged in age from 10 to retired people.

# Reconnecting & Renewing



Sledding Party



Planting flowers for Mother's Day.



Summer BBQ



The youth enjoyed outdoor games, bonfires and getting to know Julene Hawkins, the new Youth Director.



# 2021 Annual Report

## Prince of Peace Lutheran



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church | 2561 Victoria St. N. | Roseville | MN

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# Leadership & Council

## Reconnecting & Renewing by Pastor Peter Christ and Pastor Betsy Hoium



As this church continues grappling with a world shaped by the pandemic, social injustices and political divides, we are prioritizing our “reconnecting & renewing” as one community of faith this year. What follows in this report is by no means comprehensive but a representative sampling of the many ways in which God is helping us respond faithfully into God’s promises for a hope-filled future. We especially give thanks that the delights have far outweighed the understandable disappointments, giving us glimpses of God’s even greater vision for Prince of Peace. We’re so glad we get to be the church together with you.



### Prince of Peace Staff

- Peter Christ - Lead Pastor
- Betsy Hoium - Pastor of Faith Formation
- Julene Hawkins - Youth Director
- Kristin Bloxham - Office Administrator
- Steve Andert - Custodian (Not Pictured)
- Caryn Josephson - Bookkeeper
- Milt Warkentien - Music Coordinator
- Abe Hunter - Organist & Accompanist (Not Pictured)
- Kathy Tunseth - Chancel Choir & Bells of Peace Director



### 2021 Council Members

- Michael Stetzler - President
- Kim Wetteland - Vice President
- Karen Carr - Secretary
- Chris Thornton - Treasurer
- Peter Christ - Pastor
- Betsy Hoium - Pastor
- Barb Burkhardt
- Deborah Cordes
- James Erickson
- Lea Thornton
- Deb Mosby
- Ryan Miller
- Teruni Sandanayake

## Council Working on Liberating Structures by Michael Stetzler, Council President

Last spring Prince of Peace was invited to participate in a new Synod-led initiative called “Liberating Structures.” Along with six other congregation, we are looking at how we govern ourselves and organize our ministries. Could we be more efficient and vital if we freed ourselves from old ways of doing things? Do our constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions provide needed structure or create obstacles to fulfilling our mission?



A core group of council members began this project by rethinking our mission. We agreed that our existing mission and vision statements still apply, but that we needed to articulate the values that guide our congregation. We identified “relationship”, “generosity”, “caring”, “faith” and “learning” as five values that best describe us. In the new year we will be engaging our congregation in further discussion of these values. We have also begun to work on our structures by proposing a change to our bylaws that is a first step toward getting the most out of the time and talents we apply to our ministries.

# Reconnecting as Intergenerational Community

## Being Intergenerational Community Together by Pastor Betsy

Prince of Peace is truly a congregation for people of all ages. People know one another by name. While we were fully online, people appreciated seeing one another’s names on Zoom and we continued that practice this fall by creating a culture of wearing nametags. 50 to 100 people gather for monthly Sunday morning intergenerational events.

All Saints Day - Making a candle to remember a grandparent & sharing stories of loved ones.



Giving Carnival



Serving our Community



Spooky Music



Advent Intergeneration Event



In Worship



# Renewing by Remembering Those Who Came Before

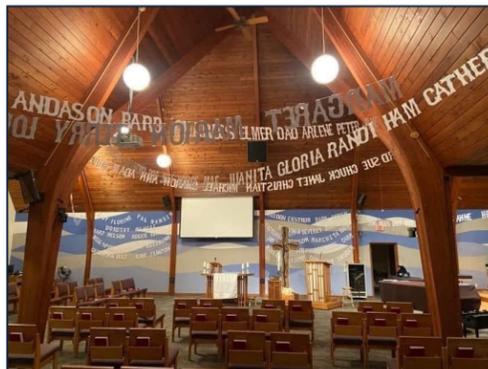
## Legacy of Joan and Jim Goepfert by Cindy Senarighi



When Pastor Bob Bragstad visited a young couple in their new home in Roseville, to invite them to a new church plant at the local high school, I doubt anyone knew that it would become a relationship that would grow and sustain a faith for a lifetime. The relationships that grew out of their participation at Prince of Peace were the best of what a church community has to offer. My parents lived out their faith in service at church and in the community, inviting people to Prince of Peace and then being sure they walked with the new folks at church.

As they walked the path of life through good times and illness they received in return the love and support of their church family that they had given, the best possible outcome and example of the mutual love relationship we have with God.

So many stories were told at their celebration of life. Funny stories, stories of hugs, chocolate and a slipped \$100 bill where needed. Going through the estate I found cards beyond number, saved for years as well as lists of where cards were to be sent, almost all from church friends. I found saved bulletins and devotions. We celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Prince of Peace. Most of all, when they could not go to church because of the pandemic the church came to them at a time when they needed them most with a drive-by birthday parade. Their hope for Prince of Peace was that it continue to serve the community and build relationships that reflect the love of God in Christ Jesus.



## Those who passed during 2021

- Bev Bail
- Kaye Clinton
- Sheldon Ekstrom
- Judy Florine
- Marianna Forde
- Jim Goepfert
- Joan Goepfert
- Val Hansen
- Vicky Jacobson
- Dorothy Mangle
- Dorothy Smuder



Dedicating the Columbarium Statue



## Remembering my Mom by Geneva Lyman

In my junior year of high school, I sang "In Remembrance" by Eleanor Daley. At the time I didn't understand the poem. It was beautiful for certain, but it didn't make sense. Now that a year has passed since my mother's death the poem's words make more sense. My mother can be seen in the flowers that bloom—her favorite being Irises. In her artwork that now adorns my new apartment in New York City. She is everywhere where beauty shines. Sometimes that beauty brings a smile, and more often a tear. But still, I remember, for she is unforgettable.

Geneva grew up at Prince of Peace. Her mom, Barb, died in late 2020.



# Renewing Through Milestones

## 2021 Baptisms

- Aria Beth
- Natalie Kors
- Wesley Kors
- Sybil Waletzko



## 2021 Confirmation Class

Pastor Betsy, Natalie Kors, Logan Johnson, Sofie Sethi, Cody Cregan, Enna Wold, Logan Cregan, Grant Anderson, Julene Hawkins - Youth Director, Pastor Peter



# Reconnecting By Loving our Neighbors

## God's Work, Our Hands Outdoors by Pastor Betsy

2021 is a year of adapting and that is true for our annual God's Work, Our Hands event to love and serve our neighbors. This year it moved out of doors as we made cards for LSS's Camp Noah, tied fleece blankets for Bridging, packaged laundry soap, and did clean up at Central Park.



## Intergenerational Serve & Learn Week by Julene Hawkins

July 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Prince of Peace came together for a week of learning about and serving various community outreach programs in Roseville. We examined the Roseville community through poverty, stewarding the Earth, and the outreach of Prince of Peace. A highlight of the week was visiting Bridging where we assembled dressers and learned about the non-profit's mission to transition families and individuals out of homelessness and poverty with hope and dignity. Bridging gives new life to gently used or new home furnishings and helps make new housing feel like home. The week provided awesome opportunities for fellowship, too. We hope to make Intergenerational Serve and Learn week an annual part of Prince of Peace's programming.



School Supplies for Central Park

## Baby Shower for Jesus

Items collected for Lutheran Social Services



## Affordable Housing Team

The Affordable Housing Team continued its work of exploring ways to provide permanent supportive housing for families in our community.

## Volunteering Behind the Scenes: Every Meal by Steve Sveom

The assignment begins by signing in at the Central Park School office. A short walk brings us to a room where bags of food are stored. They are color coded to enable food to be provided to children for the weekend according to ethnic or cultural preferences. A list provides classroom numbers, student first names and bag color; we find the backpacks hanging in the hallway and place the food inside or hang it on the student's hook. People we meet in the hallways often thank us or smile. It takes about an hour to complete the job. PoP partners with Roseville Lutheran so students receive food each week.

# Renewing by Caring for One Another

## Befriending During a Pandemic by Anne Haugan

It has once again been a challenging year for the Befriender Ministry. For two years the fourteen Befrienders have not been able to come together for an in-service gathering and Befriending in person has been difficult. Instead we have written notes, made phone calls, delivered meals and prayer shawls delivered, and visited outdoors.

We try to be a congregation which shows our love and care for each other. Maria Larson sent out birthday greetings to 72 of our members who are 80 years and over. Anne Haugan sends "thinking of you" notes to families on the first anniversary of a Prince of Peace member's death. Donna Gramstad and Peggy Lee keep the prayer shawl knitting group organized - meeting even during the pandemic.

People of all ages created hand-made Valentines at home that were mailed to everyone in the congregation.

At an intergenerational event people of all ages created large Christmas greeting cards based on a design created by Diane Dodge. The congregation was invited to sign the cards that were delivered with poinsettias to 21 of our Homebound Members.



## Pastoral Care



Members of the Prayer Shawl group talk about their work at the All Saints Day Intergenerational Event.



## Mental Health Connect by Michael Stetzler

In May Prince of Peace joined the Mental Health Connect Collaborative, a faith-based information, referral, and advocacy organization. Suzan Hurlbut, Esther Tatley and Gary Olson volunteered to serve as "Ambassadors" who share information with our congregation about informational events such as a Mental Health Connect speaker on the topic "Resiliency: How to Cultivate our Bounce-Back-Ability". Our mental health connect ambassadors also promote awareness of mental health issues, distribute helpful information about resources and provide contact information for the Mental Health Connect "Navigators", who help individuals navigate the complex mental health system to get the services they need.



# Reconnecting Through Relationships

## Finding Prince of Peace by Michael, Martina and Schuyler Ashworth

Early 2021 was lonely for our family. We felt isolated as we lived through the first pandemic winter. The holidays were spent outside or on Zoom, work and homeschool were indoors, and contact with our former church community was either without interaction on YouTube or uncomfortable, in-person meetings. For a variety of reasons, and under some of the hardest circumstances, we found ourselves searching for a new church. And we found Prince of Peace.

In February, we started by sledding with other families at Parkview. We visited with PoP members for Coffee, Cookies & Conversation. We found that being involved with church didn't have to go on hold for the pandemic, because virtual involvement was possible here. We were overjoyed!



## Staff Hellos & Goodbyes

Said thank you and good-bye to Ruth Sorenson-Prokosch who served as Pastor of Visitation and Congregational Care from 2018-21.



Cori Forcey served as youth director for 3 years. She is now completing her studies at Luther Seminary to become a pastor.



Julene Hawkins joined the Prince of Peace staff in July as our new youth director.



Thank you to Melissa Burke for serving as our Director of Children's Music for 15 years. While she is stepping down from this role, she and her family will still be part of the congregation.



## Monday Morning Work Team by Jan Hanson

Eight years ago I made the decision to retire from a career that I had for 35 years. I was excited to start a new chapter in my life but was apprehensive and concerned about what I would do in my spare time... especially on Monday mornings without a job to go to! I then remembered my friends, Sandy and Dave Olson, had talked about how they were involved with other PoP members that met on Monday mornings at church. They told me that they did odd jobs around the building! I decided to give it a try and see what this was all about!

After my first day I decided that I wanted to become a member of this Monday Morning Work Team! It was a great way to start my week and exactly what I needed! I enjoy helping with various projects and am totally amazed at what is getting done (repairing walls, painting, plumbing, cleaning upholstery and carpet and the list goes on and on). I so appreciate the friendship and respect that all of us have for each other. Roger Hintze is our lead, and the rest of the team consists of Sandy and Dave Olson, Jim Stillings, David Johnson, Dan Wagner, Bill Wachtler, Kathy Anderson, Janelle Ficocello, and me.

The team generally works for over an hour and then sits together, socializing with coffee and treats for about 45 minutes...along with telling jokes and stories! Covid caused our group to shut down for many months, but we are currently up and running again...masks, distancing, and all! It is a total pleasure for me to be a part of this wonderful "behind the scenes" group of people who give their time, talents, good humor, and smiles in making sure that our church is in "tip-top" condition! Prince of Peace is blessed to have this team working for the benefit of all PoP members!

# Renewing Alongside Our Global Neighbors

## Tanzania Partnership by Caryn Josephson

"...Most of them have performed well, succeeded and came later to be pastors, some of them now are evangelists, some of them are teachers, ... Some of them also they continue with school at secondary level and colleges & universities."

These words about scholarship students were from a Zoom call with our partners in Bomalang'ombe and Vikongwa Tanzania. Technology has allowed us to share news and prayer requests throughout the year to strengthen our relationship. There are a lot of exciting things happening for our partners like completing building projects and a newly paved road leading into Bomalangombe. They continue to pray for us and we all long for the day when we can once again meet face to face.



"Please send our greetings to everyone at Prince of Peace. Please tell them that we love them so very much and we pray for you all, as we hope to see you face to face."

Email from Pastor Victory Mdegela at Vikongwa parish in Tanzania.



Raising money for Tanzania scholarships included an online auction and a morning of mandazis and chai.

## Missionaries in Slovakia

Meeting Naomi Sveholm and family who are missionaries in Bratislava, Slovakia through the ELCA. Naomi is the daughter of Steve and Toni Sveom.



## Reconnecting through Sunday Forums by Carol Swanson

Sunday Forums were on Zoom through May and hybrid format beginning in fall 2021. They are an important way to *reconnect* with one another and our partners in ministry, like Lutheran Social Services, Bega Kwa Bega, and Central Park Elementary.

Recently I led an introductory discussion on the Gospel of John using 5 emphases in Process Thought: experience, creativity, love, freedom, and relationship.

How do we *experience* Jesus in this gospel?

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth” (1:14): a *new creativity*.

God so *loved* the world... (3:16)

The truth will make you *free* (8:32).

*Relationship*...“become the children of God.” (1:12)

As we continue hearing John in 2022, may we find ourselves renewed.

## PoP Sending 13 to Youth Gathering by Julene Hawkins

July 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the ELCA Youth Gathering is coming to Minneapolis! Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the country gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. Prince of Peace is excited to send 11 high school students and 2 adult chaperones for a week of faith formation at the largest gathering of Lutheran Youth. Fundraising activities included making lefse for the Christmas Café Bake Sale.



## Exploring Mental Health by Suzan Hurlbut

Last winter Pastor Ruth led a book study on *Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for Her Son* by Mindy Greiling. Mindy is a Roseville native and former State Legislator. Her son Jim has had a long struggle with schizophrenia and Mindy and her husband have tried to navigate and improve Minnesota's inadequate mental health system. This book is an illuminating and frank account of caring for a person with mental illness. We were fortunate to have Mindy join us for a Zoom discussion.

In the past few years we have done books like *Addiction and Grace* by Gerald May, *Breathing Underwater* by Richard Rohr, *Traveling Mercies*, *Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne LaMott.



## Finding new ways to connect by Pastor Peter

“Welcome to Prince of Peace, just roll down your window!” Throughout the year we continued to experiment with new ways of connecting through worship and building community together. Drive-thru ashes and communion in Lent progressed to parking lot worship on Easter, Pentecost, and then thru October. A tent and custom-printed umbrellas offered relief from the occasional drizzle and the direct sunshine for those who preferred their camp chairs and car seats as pews, and where all found a place at the table. We began worshipping in the sanctuary in June and moved fully indoors in November, along with livestreaming services.



## Backpack Blessing



## Easter Sunday



100 people often gathered in the parking lot on Sunday mornings to worship and reconnect. Kids drew with chalk and people enjoyed lemonade and coffee.

## Recognizing graduating seniors on Pentecost Sunday.



Online Coffee, Cookies & Conversation kept members connected in early 2021.



# Reconnecting Through Music

## Handbell ringing during a pandemic by Caryn Josephson



I love ringing handbells! When the pandemic shut everything down in 2020 and group ringing wasn't feasible, I took the opportunity to try something new -- solo ringing. My first 2 solos involved playing bells on the table. The next thing I tried was a 'bell tree' - where the bells are strung together and hit with mallets. David Johnson used his engineering talents to construct a "tree" to hang the bells from. Playing solos is fun, but I missed being part of a group. Fortunately, a lot of composers started to come up with "8 bell" arrangements that could be safely played by 4 people. We could once again have the experience of ringing as a group. It was such a joy this fall to be able to once again play together as a full group!



## Music in a Pandemic by Milt Warkentien, Music Coordinator

We began the year with recorded worship, using soloists and small ensembles. As we came together for outdoor worship at Easter and began worshipping in the sanctuary in June, it was nice to play with other musicians and to see the congregation in person. We learned to adjust how many in a group, what proper spacing might be. The biggest achievement was trying to give the PoP community the wide variety of music they were used to. I'm extremely thankful for all the musicians, and sound and video people. Their willingness to roll with the changes that keep occurring are unbelievable.

# Renewing by Learning & Growing

## Knights of North Castle VBS by Pastor Betsy

In 2020, kids didn't gather for Vacation Bible School. Instead we did VBS-in-a-Box as a take home activity. Summer 2021 brought the first-ever outdoor VBS. Using the big tent in the parking lot and the plentiful grassy areas, kids learned bible stories, did art projects, science experiments and played games. Besides being fun for younger kids, VBS is a great leadership opportunity for middle schoolers to do puppet shows, lead games, help with crafts and bond with the younger kids.



PoP Kids Sunday School moved outdoors in October.



# Reconnecting by Caring for Creation

## Mulching Rain Gardens by Dave Olson

One of the first opportunities for the congregation to get together last spring was a landscaping project to revitalize the two new rain gardens. We had 5 yards of mulch dropped off by each rain garden in the driveways. A wonderful turnout by young and old with shovels and 5 gallon pails made short work of the job. This both visually dressed up the appearance and reduced the weed bed to help the native plants. This project fulfills our commitment to maintain the rain gardens and shows that POP cares about the environment.



During Serve & Learn Week we learned about the 200 community garden plots at Rice Street Gardens, a ministry of Galilee Lutheran Church.



A great big thank you to the Lawn Dawgs who mow the grass, provide water to the community gardens and keep the property looking nice all summer.

## Restoring our Native Woods by Dave Olson

This summer and early fall, PoP partnered with a local group called Wild Ones and the city of Roseville to remove the invasive buckthorn overtaking the church property. We had a good turnout of dedicated volunteers from Wild Ones and the congregation. A tremendous amount of buckthorn was cut, treated and hauled to the curb for disposal by the city. We are getting close to restoring the church property to the west and north to a natural native woodlot. A couple more calls for volunteers next year should get this project to a manageable maintenance mode. Thanks to all the POP members that helped on this ongoing project.



# Renewing by Telling the Story

## 3-Year-Old-Bibles



Kids telling the Christmas story in our first ever hybrid Christmas Play "The ABCs of Christmas" written by Pastor Betsy.



## Readings



## Transfiguration



## Telling the Easter Story

