

# Looking ahead to our Community Outreach Events for 2025-2026 on page 4

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Community Outreach Events this past year including **Bingo!** 

Check out the emerging list of performers and place them on your calendar now

...and remember to invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues!



Affirmation of Baptism 2025











#### **Pastor's Perspective - Flags**

Pastor Erin Clausen (she/her)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. -- Galatians 3:27-28

On July 4, 2019, I was vacationing in my best friend's home country of Romania. On that day, my Romanian host and I happened to tour the home of Nicolae Ceauşescu, the last Communist leader of Romania who was overthrown in 1989. The opulence of his family home and belongings were a sight to behold. The tour guide explained that during his reign, only one room would be shown on television. This room was nicely appointed but obviously pared down from the wealth throughout the rest of the property. My Romanian host – who had been 7 at the time of Ceauşescu's execution – looked continuously sick. As we entered each room and beheld its beauty and the riches contained within, he would shake his head and moan quietly: "And the people had nothing." "And the people were starving." "And the people were dying." It had been clear throughout our time together that my host loves his country. However, on that day, I learned how his patriotism holds together lament of the sins of the past and present with hope for the present and future.

On this same day, my social media feeds from the United States were full of pictures of fireworks and also critiques of the United States and the values by which we were living. I experienced a deep sense of unease about the challenges to unity we were facing in the US. On the one hand, a nation ought always seek to better serve its people. At the same time, my experience in the US has never yet been so stark as that of my Romanian host. My host's honesty, along with the dichotomy I experienced on that day, taught me something about approaching political discourse and patriotism. We can welcome disagreement and discomfort with a spirit of lament, gratitude, and hope.

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day this July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have opportunities to engage in political discourse and display our patriotism. Regardless of our opinions or stances on civic and political issues, many of us will celebrate the birth of the "great experiment," in which the founders of the United States sought to establish a self-governing republic. Some will also take time to lament the "original sin by which slavery was first introduced to this country"," that is the white supremacy by which slavery was justified<sup>iii</sup>. Each of us will come to this day with different experiences and different hopes and expectations of the country in which we live. Each of us have the opportunity to welcome civil disagreement and discomfort, even in the midst of our celebrations.

One of the questions the council received during the Coffee with the Council discussions was whether we might add flags to our worship center. As Christian people, it is appropriate to display patriotism as a civic value. According to Martin Luther, Christians participate in civic life as one of the many vocations to which God calls us. Flags have great significance and symbolism for many people. However, depending on one's nationality or experience, flags can also signify division or oppression.

In our worship spaces, we use symbols that point to God<sup>iv</sup>. We seek to use symbols that represent our unity in the Body of Christ. Symbols used in worship spaces include the Bible, water, bread, and wine. All of these help us center the proclamation of God's love in Christ and our Christian identity. They transcend nationalities, ethnicities, political parties, personal belief systems, etc. With purpose, the symbols used in worship spaces draw us to Christ and point toward our unity as the body of Christ: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus*.

As we approach this year's Independence Day, we can celebrate knowing that there are times and places that symbols of patriotism are appropriate for Christians to display. God calls us to participate in civic life. But these celebrations will not follow us into worship, where we celebrate the God who reigns above all else and unifies us as one in Christ Jesus.

https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Are flags appropriate in church.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Letter "From George Washington to Catharine Sawbridge Macaulay Graham, 9 January 1790" https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0363

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>ii</sup> By Thomas Dew, "On the Abolition of Slavery," 1832

https://www.contextus.org/Thomas Dew%2C On the Abolition of Slavery (Sept%2C 1832).79?lang=en

Wendell Berry, The Hidden Wound, 1970

iv "Are Flags Appropriate In Church"

## I'd Like to Introduce Myself – Terri Lamberti

How do you introduce yourself to someone you meet for the first time? I suppose it depends on your audience...if it's a client or business associate you may share your title. If you meet someone at the gym, maybe you only share your first name, since no one needs to get into a deep conversation (except to remind them to clean off the machine they were working out on)!

I would like to introduce myself to you as your new Church Council President. I have been the Board of Evangelism chair for the past four years, so the work of our council is not new to me but leading this congregation *is* a huge responsibility. A recent devotion in *"The Word In Season"* brought me some comfort when I read Galatians 6:10... "Let us work for the good of all." We can agree this is a good thing, but not always easy to do. Building consensus takes time, energy, and compromise from everyone to reach a solution best for all. But this is something we CAN do at Prince of Peace! We have a lot of work to do together, to trust God and each other to get the job done.

You should also know a few facts about me...Tom and I will be married 51 years in August. (We met at Beloit College where I became a devoted basketball team manager!) We became members of Prince of Peace in December 2019 after our ELCA church closed in May 2019. We have one son, Stephen, who will be married to his wonderful wife, Danielle, 20 years this June. We have (you DID know I was a grandma, right??!!?...thanks Janet Ichida!) three delightful grandchildren; Aubrey 17, Gavin,16 and Brenna 14. Tom is a retired high school teacher (and your current Board of Youth chair!) and I retired from the A.C. Nielsen Company after 35 years as a Director of Store Observation Services where I sold, serviced and analyzed custom research data. I collect Cows (ask Lily Clausen about our obsession!) and love collecting Butterflies, enjoy traveling, love music and singing and playing cards and games.

There you go...now you know some of the highlights of my life. My favorite Bible verse is: 1 Corinthians 1:25 "...the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men." Someone once asked me, "Why is this your favorite verse because God's not foolish or weak?" and I shared this is my favorite verse because it reminds me how my God IS wise and strong! I'd like to ask for your support and prayers as we work together to do the Lord's work here at Prince of Peace. I am humbled and honored to work with our staff, members, visitors and the community as we follow our mission to Love God. Follow Jesus. Invite All.



# THANK YOU...and here is a peek at some of our Community Outreach Events for 2025-2026!

- "What a tremendous evening!"
- "When is the next concert?"
- "There is such a warm and inviting vibe here."
- "Good food and great music...all for \$25...WOW!"
- "I'll be back!"
- "I'm so glad that I invited my friends!"

This is just a sampling of the reviews received after hosting a fabulous year of special entertainers in the CLC and Worship Center – many talented and diverse vocalists, a jovial comedian, a memorable brass/percussion ensemble, and a captivating string quartet. We are immensely grateful to those of you who were able to attend all, many, or some of our Community Outreach Events this past year!

As you plan for the year ahead, please examine the emerging list of performers slated for 2025-2026 and place them on your calendar now...and remember to invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues!

This initiative is a major part of our Mission as we seek to invite our community to our campus to have fun, create additional sources of revenue, and to engage with the grace, spirit, and vibrancy of Prince of Peace!

- \*Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 6:00-9:00pm "Diamondback" performs an evening of lively country and pop music favorites in the CLC.
- \*Thursday, September 4, 2025 "Sip and Paint" from 6:30–8:30pm Create your own original end of summer/fall painting with friends in the CLC.
- \*Saturday, November 1, 2025 from 6:00–9:00pm Nationally and globally known Illusionist, Bill Cook, brings his magically unique set of talents to our CLC.
- \*Thursday, November 6, 2025 "Sip and Paint" from 6:30–8:30 pm create your own beautiful Christmas decorations/ornaments with friends and neighbors in the CLC.
- \*<u>Saturday</u>, <u>December 6</u>, <u>2025</u> Immerse yourself in the festive sounds of the season with the **Elmhurst** Choral Union Christmas Concert in the Worship Center time to be determined.
- \*Tuesday, December 9, 2025 The esteemed Elgin Symphony Orchestra Brass/Percussion Holiday Ensemble returns to Prince of Peace at 7:00pm for a performance that you won't want to miss!
- \*Friday, January 16, 2026 "Lelm and Langford" bring their uniquely talented and well-known vocal and piano performance to the CLC at 7:00pm.
- \*Saturday, February 21, 2026 "Denny Diamond", an especially well-known Neil Diamond tribute performer throughout the country joins us in the CLC at 7:00pm.
- \*Ticket prices will range from \$20 \$30 for all performances, unless otherwise indicated.
- \*Please stay tuned for other events and performances which are still being scheduled.
- \*And, remember that <u>BINGO</u> is played in the Fellowship Hall on the <u>first FRIDAY of every month</u>... doors open for tasty food and game packet purchase at 6:00pm and the games begin at 7:00pm generally ending by 9:00pm.

Ouestions? Please call Mark Walther at 224-281-1166 or the Church Office at 847-885-7010.

# J

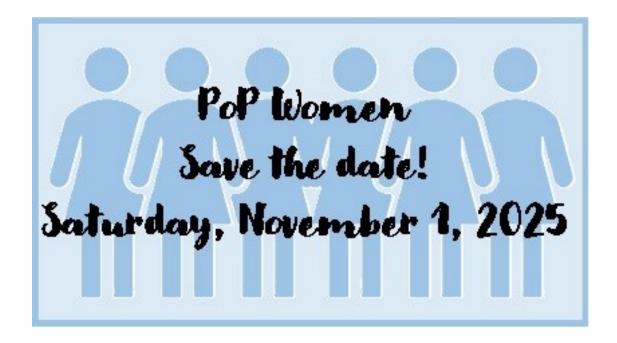
#### Music Notes...

The Promise of the Holy Spirit: We have entered the season of the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that He is with us always through the power of the Holy Spirit, through good times and bad. Hear these words of promise from Chapter 14 beginning at verse 15 of the Gospel of John: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.... (Chapter 25) I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (Chapter 29) And now I have told you this before it (my death) occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Through all the noise that this world presents to us, make sure to find time for yourself in peace and quiet to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and feel its presence.

Maintain a worship life through the summer months, wherever you may be.

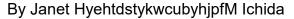
We will offer special worship experiences throughout the month at Prince of Peace so join us Sunday mornings at 9:45am in person or online.





#### Stephen Ministry

#### Remember?





"My relatives have gone away; my closest friends have forgotten me." Job 19:14

Although I know by now that the *Tidings* articles are due by noon on the second Monday of the month, I still occasionally let out a gasp when I get the reminder email. Such was the case this month. My adorable husband asked me, even though he should know me better by now, "Did you forget again?" I just gave him one of my teacher looks and he hurriedly added, (well as hurriedly as a sloth moves), some of his unwanted possible ideas: fireworks, picnics, weather, etc. He then went upstairs to hide. With that in mind, here goes. After a speedy prayerful reflection, I decided to stick with the topic that got me in this predicament in the first place. Have you ever had to do something that you knew was coming up, but you had just plain forgotten? Well, that could be my middle name with my stellar memory, but a 19-word middle name is slightly longer than my current one. (I did try to give it a chance using just the first initials in the above opening.) Maybe a tattoo on my forehead would work better.

Stephanie once had signed up to bring a dessert famed from Italy for some middle school social studies project but told us at, wait for it, 10:00 pm the night before. All three of us lovingly created two pans of baklava after a trip to Jewel. We did make the dessert even though it wasn't particularly lovingly. Cannot say much since I have forgotten that I was the one who signed up to bring treats for Stephen Ministry or the church council. I have also bought gifts for friends after a fast stop at Jewel and then wrapped whatever item in the back seat as we headed to the party. (Thank goodness for gift bags.) Hey, I have forgotten Christmas gifts even though this holiday arrives on the same date every year. Since my grandsons are in high school, I'm sure they have forgotten at least one homework assignment or class quiz. (You did know I was a grandma, didn't you?)

Some other items could lead to pretty negative reactions. Did your spouse forget you had an extended family gathering? Have they repeatedly muttered the infamous, "I told you so!" Has your boss shouted, "You have arrived to work late one time too many!" Did your best friend forget your birthday one too many times? Has your mortgage or Mastercard been repeatedly missed?

Maybe you should consider a Stephen Minister. This is the time to air out those hurt memories. You can just sit back and talk to a loving church member at your convenience. Pray about it, then give one of us a call.

Janet Ichida Pam Johnson Glenda Klein-Mali Tom Pfeiffer Mary Simonis 630-650-8336 847-382-7521 847-519-3933 847-313-5702 847-571-2541



### "Chicken Soup" for the Advocate's Soul—Finding Inspiration and Hope

By Chris Chason

If it is hard for you to be optimistic about the ability of our national culture to ensure that all people are treated with compassion and justice, you are not alone. If your previous efforts to advocate for the rights of immigrants, refugees, the hungry, the poor, or other vulnerable populations have not resulted in Congressional action, you are not alone.

One or more of these suggestions will help you overcome the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness:

Reflect on these words of encouragement. Advocacy is not about winning an argument--it's about planting seeds of change. Change comes in small steps and is hard to measure in a traditional way, such as a bill being passed, or a change in a law. Advocacy is a slow process, not a quick fix.

You don't have to do it alone. Have conversations with other folks who feel the same way you do, and brainstorm ways in which your combined efforts can be effective.

Try a more local approach by contacting your state representative and senator. They are currently in recess, so they are more available to meet with constituents. Talk to them about your perspectives on how the state might fill in the gaps in funding and services that the federal budget is not covering. If you do not know who they are, use the links below: type in your address and you will find their names, office addresses, phone numbers, and links to send emails to them.

#### Illinois House | Illinois Policy | Illinois Senate | Illinois Policy

Talk to your village, city, and township officials to discover ways in which you can be an influencer in local policy.

Call or visit local organizations and social service agencies that help our neighbors, such as the Kenneth Young Center, your township food pantry, Partners for our Communities, Centro de Informacion, Northern Alliance for Immigrants. Find out ways in which you can support them by volunteering or by donating to them.

Our congregation has formed the "Welcoming Our Neighbor" coalition of other faith communities, non-profit service organizations, townships, police department social workers, etc. to help migrants and vulnerable populations find housing, learn English, have access to food, and receive any other support they need. Talk to Pastor Erin or Karen Wagner for more information about what this coalition is doing. We have an ongoing collecting of diapers and sanitary supplies to help women and children. Culturally appropriate food donations, especially for our Hispanic neighbors, are also needed, and can be placed in the food collection bin.



## Children's and Family Ministries

by Karen Wagner

# Sunday School News

Registration for next year's Sunday school program may be found at princeofpeace.net under Children's Ministry. Please register your children and volunteer to help with Sunday School for next year. The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 7. Sunday School will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:40 a.m. We look forward to an exciting new year of classes!

#### Vacation Bible School 2025

June 23 to 27, 9am to Noon

This summer's Vacation Bible School True North is being held during the last week of June. We are so thankful for the generosity of volunteers and the congregation that provides our children with this experience and adventure.



# PoP for Confirmation and Emerge God Sightings

by Emily Uddenberg

"Blessed are the <u>pure in heart</u>, For they shall <u>see God</u>." Matthew 5:8

With preparations for Vacation Bible School on the horizon, I am remembering the overnight mission the program gives the kids - to find God sightings out in the world beyond church. This was started several years ago, and I often ask the older kids about God sightings in their lives. As an adult, I feel the Holy Spirit's presence and God saying 'hi'. I feel seen and loved by God, in small ways reminding me that He knows I am here, and so are the ones in my life who are celebrating or struggling.

Most often the best God sightings come from small kids. On Pentecost Sunday, the adult choir sang a bumping tune complete with percussion instruments and Lutheran style clapping at the height of the piece. I saw one little girl in the back of the church, with her parents and younger siblings, absolutely dancing her heart out. It was the most pentecostal thing I have experienced in church in a while.

I know more stories of moments like these will come during VBS. I know that there are countless memories and stories of God sightings in and around Prince of Peace in every ministry. These moments are usually so special because they come at unexpected moments. It might be something simple, like a day with gorgeous sunny breezy weather, or the Holy Spirit moving a child during a worship service. God knows what we need and when we need it, and it is so easy to lose sight of the timing and patience thing, it's so human of us. This church always invites God in; we should take a moment to remember:

#### **Book Club**



The POP Book Club will meet twice in the month of July in the conference room across from the office. Our July **evening meeting** will be on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. The **morning** meeting will be on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We usually go out to lunch after the Friday morning meeting if you are interested.

Both groups will be discussing Nancy Pelosi's book "The Art of Power." The most powerful woman in American political history tells the story of her transformation from housewife to House Speaker—how she became a master legislator, a key partner to presidents, and the most visible leader of the Trump resistance.

When, at age forty-six, Nancy Pelosi, mother of five, asked her youngest daughter if she should run for Congress, Alexandra Pelosi answered: "Mother, get a life!" And so Nancy did, and what a life it has been.

In *The Art of Power*, Pelosi describes for the first time what it takes to make history—not only as the first woman to ascend to the most powerful legislative role in our nation, but to pass laws that would save lives and livelihoods, from the emergency rescue of the economy in 2008 to transforming health care. She describes the perseverance, persuasion, and respect for her members that it took to succeed, but also the joy of seeing America change for the better. Among the best-prepared and hardest working Speakers in history, Pelosi worked to find common ground, or stand her ground, with presidents from Bush to Biden. She also shares moving moments with soldiers sent to the front lines, women who inspired her, and human rights activists who fought by her side.

Hope you'll join us for a lively discussion.

Questions, call Kathy Tweeten 847-971-0192 or email kat8@aol.com.

#### **Evening Book Club starts in June!**

The first meeting of the evening POP Book Club will be on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the conference room across from the office. That night they will be discussing the June Book Club book, "Housemaid" by Frieda McFadden. The evening POP Book Club will meet on the last Wednesday of each month, and they will read the same book as the Friday morning group.

#### **At-Home Mission Project this summer**

Due to a small number of available volunteers, instead of a mission trip away this year, we will again be holding an At-Home Mission project this summer. Watch for more information soon about dates, times, and activities in which you can participate. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Wagner at <a href="wagner@princeofpeace.net">wagner@princeofpeace.net</a>



### **Schaumburg Township Food Pantry Items Needed**

by Sue Patt



The Food Pantry reports increasing numbers of clients and decreasing donations. Please consider adding one or two items to the bin in the fellowship hall. Every donation counts. You can also donate on the Schaumburg Township website. Another reminder is that the kids are now home this summer, so food items that are easy for kids to grab or prepare are appreciated. Thank you for your

continued support.

#### www.Schaumburgtownship.org

granola bars

cake mix, frosting, brownie mix

baking items: flour, sugar, salt, baking soda

shelf-stable microwave meals

Spam

canned chicken

beans - canned and dry

boxed pasta and pasta sauces

mayonnaise and other condiments

jars of applesauce

canned fruit – peaches and pineapple

tomato sauce, tomato paste

large canned soups

chili and stew

crackers

snack size chips

Pasta Roni and Rice A Roni

Hamburger Helper

cooking oil

muffin mixes

coffee – instant, ground, K-Cups

personal care items - shampoo, soap, tooth-

paste, etc.

#### **Board of Stewardship**

by Will Damico

I know a lot of you read and/or watched the budget presentation with more than 50 people voting on the budget. I felt a lot of dismay when confronted with the realities of the fiscal position of Prince of Peace and am worried about the inevitable increases in costs from things like utilities and insurance (property, liability and health) while we have been experiencing a decline in giving from our members.

I believe, though, that if we are truly aligned with God's purpose, we will have the resources to continue his mission. When the widow of Zarephath was down to the last of her oil and flour, she fed Elijah, and her flour and oil never ran out. When Jesus sent the disciples out to spread the word, they took nothing with them and never went hungry. When the thousands gathered on the hillside and the disciples wanted to send them away to get food, Jesus told them to feed them with the two loaves and five fish and there were more leftovers than what they started with. When the high priest tried to arrest the disciples for continuing to spread the word about Jesus, a Pharisee named Gamaliel counseled them to let the disciples go because if this wasn't from God it would fade away but if was from God the council would just find themselves fighting with God.

So, what did Jesus charge us with? His last words on earth to the apostles was to go and make disciples even going to the ends of the earth. Personally, that is why I am excited about our new efforts to reach out to the community. Mark was right when he said that people who don't experience Prince of Peace are unlikely to join Prince of Peace but some of those who experience Prince of Peace through bingo, exercise classes, entertainment events, etc. will come back to learn more about the community. We may need to find more ways to actively engage the community to reach those who don't come to us. The one thing I do feel confident about is that if we just continue to focus only on the needs of our members, we will continue on the glide path to becoming irrelevant.



### Second Saturday Date Night

# Summer Breeze Concert at the Schaumburg Municipal Center July 12 @ 6:00pm

Thank you to Pave and Janis Swansons for a fabulously fun Backyard Bash that will hopefully become a new Pate Night tradition!

Summer has arrived and the sound of music can be heard every Saturday evening in July and August at Schaumburg's very own "Schravinia". Grab your chair, snack, beverage of choice and gather on the grassy area by the stage for the excitement of brass band music performed by Illinois Brass Band.

The performance begins at 7pm, but you can look for familiar POP faces to begin gathering about 6pm. RSVP not required, but it is helpful to be sure we stake out enough space that we can sit together. RSVP per Realm or text Jill at 847-754-7657, Hope to see you there!

Fyl - Rain will move the experience into the Prairie Center for the Arts indoor theater.

# Bingo Night Schedule 2025

Doors Open 6pm Games begin 7pm

> July 11 August 1



#### **Adult Learning Opportunities**

(Meeting locations may change)

**Passages** meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Contact Karen Wagner at <a href="wagner@princeofpeace.net">wagner@princeofpeace.net</a> for questions.

**Men's Bible Study Group** meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in Room 213 and virtually. Contact Tom Pfeifer at <a href="jets820@comcast.net">jets820@comcast.net</a>.

**Rebekah Circle** - meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM. Please contact <a href="Pam Johnson">Pam Johnson</a> with questions.

Please contact the church office at 847/885-7010 for more information.

#### **Prince of Peace Mission Statement**

Love God – Follow Jesus – Invite All



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
A Reconciling Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
930 West Higgins Road
Schaumburg, IL 60195

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# **Upcoming Events**

June 23-27—Vacation Bible School

August 23—Diamondback

September 4—Sip & Paint

September 7—Sunday School starts

November 1—Women's Retreat

November 1—Illusionist Bill Cook

November 6—Sip & Paint



#### Worship Schedule:

Sundays, 9:45am Sunday School, 9:00am, beginning in September

Also available via Livestream on Facebook Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Schaumburg Services posted on our YouTube channel after Livestream: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Schaumburg

#### Prince of Peace Staff - Here to Serve!

Pastor
Director of Discipleship
Director of Music
Director of Youth Ministries
Organist

Preschool & Kindergarten Director Church Secretary Volunteer Tidings Editor Erin Clausen (she/her) Karen Wagner (she/her) Scott Uddenberg (he/him) Emily Uddenberg (she/her) Collin Crowl (he/him) Michelle Heberling (she/her) Sonia DeLuca (she/her) Beth Bogner (she/her)

Prince of Peace Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Phone: 847/885-7010 Preschool Phone: 847/885-7036

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Editorial Note: The August 2025 Tidings deadline is

Monday, July 14, 2025 at Noon.

If you would like to receive your monthly Ttdings Newsletter via email, please

submit your email address to the church office, 847-885-7010 or <a href="mailto:church.news@princeofpeace.net">church.news@princeofpeace.net</a>
<a href="mailto:tidings@princeofpeace.net">tidings@princeofpeace.net</a>