



Tidings

Love God - Follow Jesus - Invite All



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ON DECEMBER 24TH:

FAMILY WORSHIP AT 5:00PM

FESTIVE MUSIC AND WORSHIP AT 10:30PM

NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25TH

SPECIAL EVENT IN THE CLC:

**Lelm
and
Langford**

Friday January 16, 2026

Cocktails / Appetizers: 6pm - 7pm
Show: 7pm - 8:15pm

Kristin Lelm and Paul Langford present "Broadway to Bacharach - the best of American Popular Music" featuring the great American song book composers, Broadway and movie hits as well as the best American pop music from the 60s to the 2000s.

A captivating performer, soprano Kristin Lelm dazzles with a gorgeous sound and incredible breadth of style, complimented by Langford's silky tenor and smooth piano stylings. Whether swinging or grooving, with jazz trio, symphony orchestra or strictly as a duo Lelm and Langford ensure a great show with fresh new arrangements of the songs you want to hear.

Audiences compare them to Steve and Eydie, Bublé and Pausini, Sinatra and Ella!



TICKET INFORMATION:

Advance purchase through QR code,
at church, or at the door

Ticket Price: \$30



For Questions, Please Contact:
Church Office: 847-885-7010
Mark Walther: 224-281-1166

**930 W. Higgins Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60195**



**Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church**

[**Click here to register for concert.**](#)

Oh no...Another Year!!!

by Terri Lamberti

Do you say this to yourself and wonder what will be ahead in 2026, or do you wonder what happened to all of those resolutions you said you would accomplish in 2025!?!? Just know that whether all or none of your best intentions were “crossed off your list,” Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”. We know He’s able to handle all of our concerns. And thankfully, He hears our prayers.

Your Church Council has been working very hard to make sure Prince of Peace is continuing with worship and familiar activities while Pastor Erin is on her medical leave of absence yet still planning for the year ahead and working to identify areas for improvement as well as areas of great success and ways to continue to support them. We feel very confident about the work being done at PoP and continuing to focus on our mission to Love God. Follow Jesus. Invite All.

Pastor Erin’s medical leave of absence began on September 15, 2025, and for the first 60 days of her leave, PoP continued to pay her salary, pension, and insurance. Beginning on day 61 (approximately November 15th), her long-term disability insurance took over paying all of those expenses, with her salary paid at a rate of 2/3.

During this time of Pastor Erin’s leave, PoP has had the privilege of having Pastor Gail Heidtke provide pulpit and pastoral support as needed. This has come at a substantial savings to the budget. (Also, if any pulpit support is provided by synod staff, an honorarium is not required to be paid.) We do not intend for our Pastor’s medical leave to be a source of savings, but we are able to use this time to carefully manage our finances and look to the year ahead and how we may best use our resources in the new year.

Pastor Gail will end her assignment with us after January 18th and we will then welcome Pastor Sally Hanson to work with PoP, just as Pastor Gail did, as pulpit and pastoral support. I anticipate Pastor Sally will be with us at least through February and possibly through March.

Pastor Erin, with the approval of Interim Bishop Miller and her medical professionals, will begin working no more than 15 hours a week beginning near the start of Lent. There are specific duties and activities that she will be completing, mostly behind the scenes. Please be respectful of her time and continue to work with me, the PoP Staff and the respective Council Board chairs for your questions and special requests.

Thank you for all you have done to support PoP in the past year. Please continue to do so with your pledges and joyful, generous giving. Consider helping with a Board you have not worked on in the past or continue to share your talents as they excite and ignite! Together we CAN do it! As it says in Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

PADS UPDATE

Prince of Peace sponsored a lasagna dinner for 50 homeless guests on Thursday 12/4 at the Journeys facility in Palatine. The dinner included salad, garlic bread, and dessert—very much appreciated on a cold winter night. Journeys now offers overnight shelter every night of the week to aid people who have higher barriers to housing stability or have difficulty accessing PADS shelters. In addition, 11 churches in the NW suburbs are open as PADS sites through April 30th. If you would like to volunteer or provide food for lunches or dinners you can find sign up access on the Journeys website at <https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/>.

Here is a picture of one of our regular Thursday volunteers, Ed, getting ready to serve some lasagna. Thanks for doing that!



It's not too late to make your Commitment to the Mission of Prince of Peace!

We have been asking that you prayerfully reflect on how you are being called to invest in God's mission. During worship on **Sunday, December 14**, we made our annual commitments to giving to the mission of Prince of Peace.



It is NOT too late to make your commitment. We ask that you use the [on-line pledge form](#) in Realm to make your commitment. Please click on this [link](#) and follow the steps. Realm will also guide you to set up your electronic giving if you choose to do so. **Please note, if you are changing your pledge, you will need to change your electronic giving.** It will not automatically update from your pledge.

In addition to the monetary pledge, we are asking you to click [here](#) to pledge your time and talents.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office at (847) 885-7010 or email bdstewardship@princeofpeace.net.

Together in Faith,
Board of Stewardship

The Prince of Peace Christmas "Elves" Were Busy... THANK YOU!

Despite the record snowfall that was blanketing our area on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, our festive and hearty Prince of Peace "elves" were diligently decorating the Worship Center and our campus that day for the Christmas season!

Extra special thanks to the following "elves" for their enthusiastic and devoted efforts:

Marilyn Anderson
Jim and Sue Atols
Tom Clausen
Joe Dietrich
John Dietrich
Gary and Chris Lee
Colleen Shanahan
Janis Swanson
Alison Tweeten
Kathy Tweeten
Mark Walther
Susan Weisz



Sincerely,

Kathy Tweeten
Director – Board of Worship

Mark Walther
Director – Board of Property

Children's and Family Ministries

by Karen Wagner

There will be no Sunday School on December 21st or 28th.

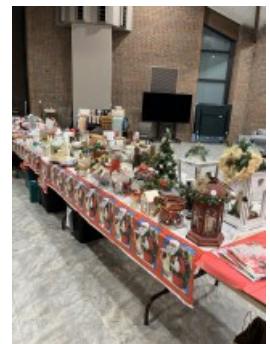
A Birthday Party for Jesus will be held on Sunday, December 21st in the Fellowship Hall, after the worship service which will include a children's sermon.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to support the children's and family ministries at Prince of Peace throughout the year.



Discipleship



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Craft Fair in December. We appreciate all donations of crafts, monetary gifts and baked goods from Prince of Peace members and all generous givers!

PoP for Confirmation and Emerge

by Emily Uddenberg

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29: 11

The church seasons we find ourselves in during the winter months are all centered around a journey - a journey to Bethlehem, a journey to Christ, and eventually a journey to the cross. The youth in our congregation are experiencing one of the biggest life journeys and that is finding out who they are. Who are they to their family, friends, church congregation?

I attended the Metro Chicago Synod high school retreat with a handful of our kids, and the biggest focus point was on vocation and how to bring those gifts into our home congregations. We broke up into smaller groups based on the areas of church where strengths lie whether it be worship, arts, stewardship, evangelism, or leadership, to name a few. These strengths were decided on an aptitude test of sorts. Some kids were surprised by these results and others had a firm understanding of where they belong. Neither reaction is right or wrong, it just is.

That's what makes kids around this age so unpredictable. Luckily, our faith doesn't have to be unpredictable. It can be unexpected or surprising in how the Holy Spirit shows up or teaches us something important. But our faith and our church communities can and should be everlasting. Because when journeys take us to unexpected places, the familiar is such a comfort.

I hope to continue to create these safe places for our youth, and they bring these comforts to others in their lives.



Music Notes...

by Scott Uddenberg

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests." -Luke 2:14

The weather outside is frightful, but the parties and events both here at Prince of Peace and in places where family and friends gather create joy and warmth and a feeling of energy around the Christmas Season. In our faith journey through this Advent season, Luke's account of Jesus' birth invites us to pause and remember the beauty and simplicity of God's plan for our redemption. In Luke 2:1-20, we encounter a story that has captivated hearts for two millennia—not because of its grandeur, but because of its humility.

The King of Kings entered our world not in a palace, but in a stable. Mary and Joseph, obedient to the Roman decree, traveled to Bethlehem where there was no room for them at the inn. In what seemed like an unfortunate circumstance, God was orchestrating the fulfillment of ancient prophecy. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the city of David, just as Micah had foretold centuries earlier.

The beloved carol "Silent Night" captures this scene with remarkable tenderness. Written in 1818, the hymn invites us into that quiet, holy moment: "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." There were no trumpets announcing His arrival to the world's kingdoms, no fanfare in the courts of power—just the gentle stillness of a stable, the soft glow of lamplight, and a mother cradling her newborn son. This carol was introduced to the world by the simplest of means: the human voice and a guitar.

This humble setting reminds us that God often works in ways that confound human expectations. While earthly powers like Caesar Augustus commanded censuses and wielded authority over nations, the true King was being born among the lowly. While many of our Christmas traditions today are marked with bright colors, large gathering and bombastic music, God chose simplicity over spectacle, demonstrating that His kingdom operates by different values than the kingdoms of this world. In the quietness of that night, heaven touched earth.

Perhaps most striking is who God chose to receive the birth announcement. Not priests, not scholars, not the wealthy or powerful—but shepherds watching their flocks by night. These were ordinary working people, likely among the marginalized of their society. Yet to them, an angel appeared with the most extraordinary news: "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." "Silent Night" was created by a humble small-town musician who faced a Christmas where his organ was not working. Needing to find a way to express the special night, he crafted a carol that evolved into a centerpiece of people's faith about Christmas which was in time translated into countless different languages.

These details reveal the inclusive nature of the gospel. From the very beginning, God made clear that this good news was for everyone—regardless of social status, education, or influence. The shepherds' immediate response teaches us something important: they didn't delay or doubt. They went with haste to find the child, and then they spread the word about what they had seen and heard.

As we come together on December 24th at 5:00pm and 10:30pm at Prince of Peace to celebrate Christmas this year, Luke's account challenges us to consider our own response to the incarnation. Like the shepherds, are we willing to seek Jesus with urgency? Are we prepared to share the good news with others? Do we recognize that the greatest gift ever given came wrapped not in elaborate trappings, but in the simplicity of a baby in a manger?

Mary modeled for us: "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." Amid the busyness and noise of modern-day Christmas preparations, let us also take time to treasure and ponder the simple quiet miracle of Emmanuel—God with us.

This Christmas, may we find joy not only in our gifts and gatherings, but in the truth that God loved us enough to enter into our humanity. May we, like the shepherds, glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen. And may we carry the light of Christ into a world that still desperately needs the hope, peace, and love that only Jesus can bring.



Stephen Ministry
Dominick and the Magi
By Janet Ichida



Then Herod called the magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Matthew 2:7

Three of my favorite Christmas songs are *Silent Night*, *Dominick the Donkey*, and *12 Days of Christmas*. It's easy to recall my college experience of acting out the last song. Since then, I have added that glory to some of my classes and of course to my grandsons. (*You did know I was a grandma, didn't you?*) There's nothing like seeing my grandsons flap their wings and crouch down and pucker up. The dancing ladies always bring a smile.

Although many people know this song and can easily hum along, many don't know when the 12 days of Christmas starts or ends. We can laugh at the lyrics. The cost in 2005 for these gifts was \$51,476.12. I can't imagine the cost today. With the repetition the cost of the gold rings is \$1,649.90, with the most expensive item being those swans. That's past my pay grade, way past. Many people inaccurately think the twelfth day is Christmas, but December 25th is actually the first day. The twelfth day comes on the eve of Epiphany, January 6th. That date symbolizes the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world as evidenced by the arrival of the Magi. Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday.

What do you know about Epiphany? Have you tried to replicate the gifts by being far too extravagant? You might be having the costs now filling your credit cards. Did you plan a trip in their honor, also forming the credit card blues? Is your home too barren with all the decorations down; that causes blues on its own? Did all the guests and family depart leaving only a pile of wet towels and dirty sheets? The weather in January is far from balmy in Chicagoland. I wonder if this year will be like the start of December or worse. The gray sky's lead to depression also.

Are you experiencing any of these Christmas blues? Does the thought of a church season lasting to Ash Wednesday blow your mind? Are you all alone on your couch covered with a blankie and sipping hot chocolate? Is your empty social calendar creating an empty spirit? Are these credit card bills stretching too high? Does your doctor still have the same diagnosis and your marital separation leading only to divorce?

You know where I am going with this. Please prayerfully consider getting a Stephen Minister assigned to you. You will get the same person at a time and location of your choosing. Confidentiality is guaranteed. All this comes at no cost and for whatever duration works best for you. Go listen to *Dominick the Donkey*. It is sure to bring a groan or smile.

Janet Ichida
630-650-8336

Pam Johnson
847-382-7521

Glenda Klein-Mali
847-519-3933

Tom Pfeiffer
847-313-5702

Mary Simonis
847-571-2541





Early Childhood Programs at Prince of Peace

By Michelle Heberling, Director

Greetings from the preschool!

I hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus! We sure had a great time with our preschoolers!

We are excited to have our Kindness Crew days on January 12 and 13. The heart behind our Kindness Crew is "empowering young minds to make a difference". We want our preschoolers to know that they can make a difference. This year our focus is on kids who are in the children's hospital. We are going to pack care packages to be delivered to kids at St Alexius hospital. We had so much fun when church members joined us last year for our Kindness Crew days.

We would like to invite you to join us on January 12 and 13 from 9:15 - 11:15. No experience necessary - just a heart to connect with kids. You will help the kids pack the care packages, play, read books, playdough, do puzzles...it is such a fun day! You can sign up for one day or both days.

Please see a preschool board member to sign up or email me at heberling@princeofpeace.net.

Greetings Women of POP, you are warmly invited to join a new and interesting Bible Study starting Tuesday, January 13th.

What: Vine & Branches is the name of the group. (Thank you, Leslie, for the great graphic!)

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30-3:00pm, beginning January 13th

Where: Prince of Peace, Room 213

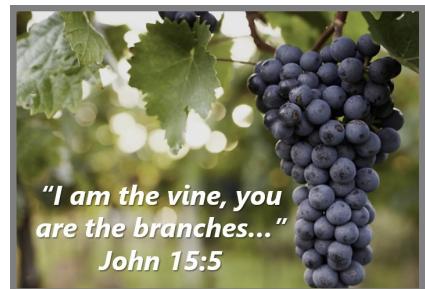
Study Title: **"Life Lessons from Galatians" by Max Lucado**

Leader/Registration: please contact Renee Lucas at RALfarmgirl@gmail.com.

You can order the study guide "Life Lessons from Galatians" by Max Lucado on Amazon, or I can order for you. Please reach out to me to register, purchase the book for you, or ask any questions. I hope you will join Vine & Branches; it's a new opportunity for Christian Community!

The "Life Lessons" series covers all books of the New Testament, and some of the Old Testament as well. The author brings the Bible to life with intriguing questions that lead to easy conversations, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections to take you deeper into God's Word. We will begin with Galatians, written by the Apostle Paul, and its key theme - salvation comes by grace, not works. Martin Luther based his stance on this message and it's a good place for us to start.

I look forward to this journey of faith, prayer, and friendship with you!



Participating in the Mission of Responding to Human Needs

by Chris Chason

Quite often on Sunday mornings, the Scripture readings and the pastors' sermons are about following God's expectation that we will act as Jesus' hands and feet in caring for other people. As a congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to "serve in response to God's love to meet human needs."

In short, this is what we agree to do: care for the sick, the aged, and the marginalized; embrace and welcome members of racially and ethnically diverse populations; stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, and act on fulfilling their needs.

As a congregation, we have a long history of ministries that demonstrate our culture of compassion and generosity. The Annual Report to the Congregation, especially the section on Serving Ministries, highlights our PoP ministries, our mission partners, and how we are using our offerings (refer to the budget pages), our donations of goods, and our volunteers to do God's will in the world. As individuals, we volunteer at local agencies, such as packing food at Feed My Starving Children, working with the Kenneth Young Center, taking a shift at a PADS site, or helping at Journeys The Road Home.

ELCA congregations also agree to advocate for dignity, justice, and equity for all people. PoP supports organizations in their mission to advocate for social and economic justice (LSSI, ELCA), for welcoming and including the LGBTQIA+ population in Lutheran congregations (Reconciling Works), for the rights of immigrants and refugees (Global Refuge, which often receives our donation designated for refugee relief) and the rights of asylum seekers (Viator House of Hospitality).

You can do this on your own as well. Write letters to Congress supporting policies that align with your principles and beliefs; or opposing policies that do not align with your vision of justice. Speak up for the people who are suffering, whether it be SNAP or Medicaid benefit recipients, people who need tax credits to afford medical insurance premiums, asylum seekers, refugees, prisoners, the homeless, veterans, or other populations that you are concerned about. Be bold—write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper! There are many organizations whose websites have information you can use to express your thoughts: such as ELCA, LSSI, Bread for the World, Global Refuge, and Church World Service. If you need help getting started, contact Chris Chason at 847-882-0982 or email chasooki@aol.com

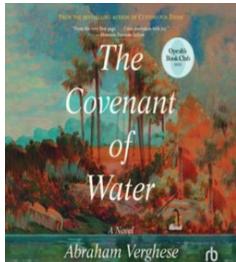
Updates on our Mission Partners



Our final total of coats and snowsuits given to LSSI for children in foster care is 199! Thank you to all who helped us exceed the amount we supplied to them last year! We have provided Christmas gifts to 30 children in foster care.

Father Corey from **Viator House of Hospitality** has invited us to visit the group home for the boys. He has suggested a Sunday afternoon after church. If you would like to attend that visit, please email Chris Chason at chasooki@aol.com or Andy Schuetze at ajschuetze2001@gmail.com. We will put your name on the list of folks to notify when we have set a date for the visit.

Book Club



We hope you join us for a discussion about the “The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese.

The PoP book club will meet on Wednesday evening January 28th at 7pm and also on Friday morning January 30th at 10am. Join either meeting as you are able. We meet in the conference room across from the office for both meetings. Some participants at the 10am meeting go out to lunch afterwards. You are welcome to join.

“The Covenant of Water” is a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, The Covenant of Water is set in Kerala, on India’s Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala’s Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, Big Ammach—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.

Questions about the Book Club should go to Kathy Tweeten at kat8@aol.com or 847-971-0192. With a new year starting, now might be the time to join this lively group as we discuss new novels. Hope I will see you there.



“Soil Steward” THANKS

Keeping our entire church campus well-manicured, neat, and attractive is no easy task and it is largely accomplished through the work of diligent and devoted volunteers.

In last month’s issue of The Tidings, we reached out to thank our team of “Soil Stewards” for their time and tireless service. I inadvertently failed to mention the gentleman who takes his time to carefully tend to the area around our welcome sign along Higgins Road and I apologize for my error.

Please give a hearty round of applause to **Mark Tooren** for his skilled and caring outreach! You are appreciated, Mark!

Mark Walther
Director – Board of Property
Community Engagement Committee



Schaumburg Township Food Pantry Items Needed



by Sue Patt

The holidays are fast approaching, and we all are planning and gathering ideas, gifts, and holiday menus. Please don't forget the many who are struggling to plan for their holiday. The pantry is now serving 1,400 clients a month and still increasing. Here is the list but feel free to donate monetarily by pressing the DONATE button on www.schaumburgtownship.org. I wish you all Merry Christmas with a big thank you for your generous support this year for all of our neighbors in need.

Holiday

potatoes (packaged)
yams (canned)
gravy
cranberry sauce
applesauce, canned fruit
canned vegetables
Jell-O
corn muffin mix
lasagna noodles
pasta sauce
salad dressings, mayonnaise
cake mix, frosting, brownie mix
unsalted nuts
dried fruit
quick bread mix, pie crust mix
fruit filling, canned pumpkin
canned milk

Additional Needs

beans (canned or dry)
large, canned soups, stew, and chili
canned pasta meals
canned meat (chicken, tuna fish, spam, ham)
canned tomato products (sauce, diced, paste)
boxed pasta noodles
rice (white or brown)
Pasta Roni
pancake mix
syrup
baking items (baking soda, oil, baking powder, salt)
drinks (coffee, tea, cocoa mix, juice)
paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissue)
personal care items
baby items (baby food, wipes, diapers (all sizes)

What Goes Up Must Come Down...

Christmas Decorations, Too!

Immediately after our Worship Service on **Sunday, January 11, 2026**, we will be taking down our Christmas decorations throughout our campus and preparing for a vibrant New Year!

Please come and help...we really need you, your positive energy, and "CAN-DO" spirit!

Sincerely,

Kathy Tweeten
Director – Board of Worship

Mark Walther
Director – Board of Property



Second Saturday Date Night Wines for Humanity January 10th @ 6:30 pm



Prince of Peace Couples and wine enthusiasts are invited to a Wines for Humanity Event - Pours with a Purpose, hosted by John Lafayette. John will provide the wine, stemware, and chocolates! He will educate us about the wines we will sample and about the mission of Wines for Humanity. Bottles will be available for purchase, but purchase is not required. Should you choose to purchase wine, know that a portion of the proceeds will support their mission to prevent homelessness.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our Wine Tasting experience. We ask that couples bring an appetizer to share and the cost per couple will be \$10. You may also BYOBeverage. Let's Raise a glass for a good cause and to ring in the new year, Cheers to 2026! Please RSVP via Realm or by texting Jill at 847-754-7657.



Adult Learning Opportunities (Meeting locations may change)

Passages meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday evenings at 6:30pm Contact Karen Wagner at wagner@princeofpeace.net for questions.

Men's Bible Study Group meets on Mondays at 7:00pm in Room 213 and virtually. Contact Tom Pfeifer at jets820@comcast.net.

Rebekah Circle - meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm. Please contact [Pam Johnson](mailto:Pam.Johnson) 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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Permit No. 36

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

December 24—Christmas Eve Worship
5:00pm and 10:30pm

January 16—Lelm & Langford Concert @ POP

February 1—Congregation Meeting

February 8—SouperBowl of Caring

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 (on Leave)	Erin Clausen (she/her)
Director of Discipleship	Karen Wagner (she/her)
Director of Music	Scott Uddenberg (he/him)
Director of Youth Ministries	Emily Uddenberg (she/her)
Organist	Collin Crowl (he/him)
Preschool & Kindergarten Director	Michelle Heberling (she/her)
Church Secretary	Sonia DeLuca (she/her)
Volunteer Tidings Editor	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

Email: church@princeofpeace.net Web Page: www.princeofpeace.net

**Editorial Note: The February 2026 Tidings deadline is
Monday, January 12th, 2026 at Noon.**

If you would like to receive your monthly *Tidings* Newsletter via email, please submit your email address to the church office, 847-885-7010 or
church.news@princeofpeace.net
tidings@princeofpeace.net