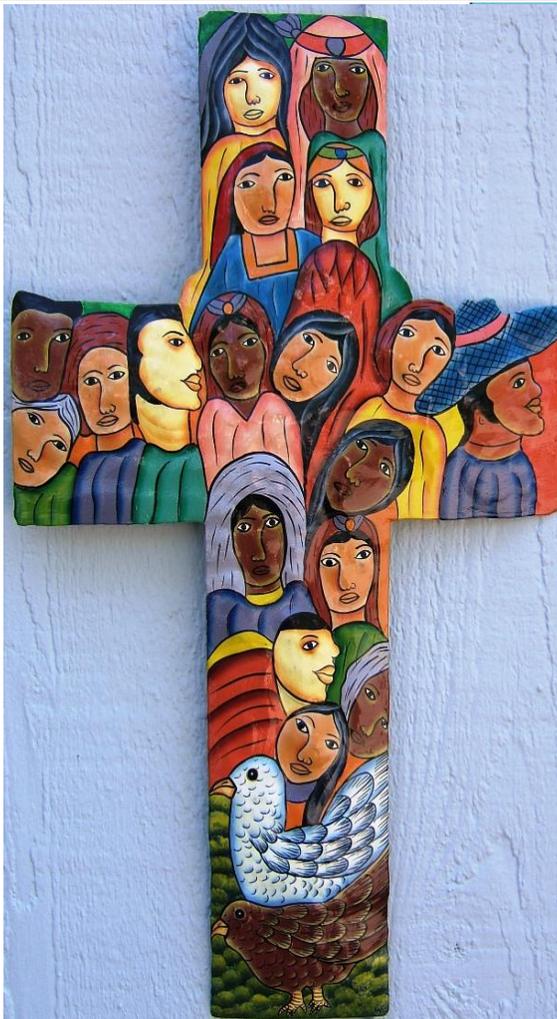


Annual Report 2017

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



Congregation Meeting
January 28, 2018

19030 Eighth Ave S
SeaTac WA 98148

PASTOR CONRAD TOLLEFSON

“Love God and love your neighbor!” We hear these words (summarized from Matthew 22:37-40 and other New Testament references) a lot around Prince of Peace. They fit our ministry to a tee. If we focus on loving God, we discover we are also loving our neighbors. If we concentrate on loving our neighbor, we realize our hearts are also open and connected to God at the same moment. I am thankful to be called to a community which is energized by this truth.

We are geographically surrounded by such a variety of neighbors, all God’s children, and we are tickled to so be located. Here seeds are planted, sprouts of faith appear, words and actions help the plants to grow, and peace interrupts the stresses of life. God’s spirit is on the loose again!

We placed 18 people in God’s eternal care in the year leading up to All Saints Sunday (November 5th), and what a loss! We can only thank God for them, and then move on with the ministry some of them had so faithfully lived. Even with such loss, we maintained excellent worship and participation. People really care about singing, worshiping, our youth, and our opportunities to share.

And Sam starts seminary! Having Sam and Samalie Sseba and the kids here is a delight. Sam was ordained in the Anglican faith while living in Uganda, and now he wishes to become an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prince of Peace is his sponsoring congregation as he studies and trains in the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Sam assists with worship and helps with several ministries here. Because of Sam’s previous education and experience, his seminary time will be shortened.

In 2017 our organist, Chris Howerter, had to move on to other employment, and we thank him for his service here. We have since hired Justin Cormier as organist and are very appreciative of the great gifts of music he brings to our worship. Along with our other music staff of William Tollefson and Charity Rasmussen, and our music volunteers, we are so pleased with the ‘sounds of worship’ we share each service, and the joy of this time every week.

“Reaching Out With Hope,” our ministry in Uganda and outreach in the Seattle area, continues to be a focus of many of the hearts of Prince of Peace people. Thank you, Kent and Tanya and Sam, and the many who take part in the work and support of this ‘hands of God’ program.

Our free to all ‘community meal’ still grows, and the number and the spirit of all who help out inspires the pastor of Prince of Peace (yes, it does). All our worship helpers make worship a better experience for themselves as well as the rest of us. Sunday School, thanks to Cindy McKay and others, has grown a little more. Youth have their own class with Dan Skjonsberg. Adult education classes Sunday morning remain spiritual and well attended. The quilters have added new workers, and their produce inspires the rest of us as we bless the quilts for their work around the world. WELCA and the circles continue their studies and care projects, representing this congregation well. Tuesday morning Bible Study has grown in numbers (what a great bunch – come and join in, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at Des Moines Creek). Our new members show themselves to be some of the best ever. We continue to value our partnership in the gospel with our two congregations, Principe de Paz (worship in Spanish) and Emmanuel Charisma Church (worship in Amharic, Ethiopian).

Conversations continue about the possibility of using some of our land east of the church building for providing supportive housing for vulnerable neighbors who are out of a home. We are in touch with Compass Housing Alliance as a potential partner, as they are so well experienced in the Northwest in building and then managing such projects to enhance people's lives in safe and respectful ways.

My thanks to Stan Skjeie for his leadership as President during 2017; good work, Stan. And our thanks to Deborah Santiago, our Office Administrator, who has very capably taken over so many tasks! We also welcome Denise Beebe as our new bookkeeper.

It is a joy to work among so many of God's faithful people here at Prince of Peace. May we all continue to receive God's blessings as we move forward in his name.

Pastor Tollefson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Prince of Peace and our partner congregations have enjoyed a year full of blessings received and extended to the community in which we live. We have thrived even as the world changes around us.

We have said goodbye to more of our friends than we would ever wish. We have grown in many ways because of those who passed on. Their ministries have continued and thrived as they remain in our hearts, guiding us with their continued presence. Giving increased significantly in 2017, once again demonstrating that "God will provide."

Sam Sseba is well on the way to ordination with the support of the congregation. Youth Sunday school has been restored.

We have deepened our relationship with Hospitality House. Barb Atkinson serves as treasurer, guiding this ministry to a solid year financially. The fall walk and Spring Fling saw record attendance from Prince of Peace. HH partners with PoP exploring the possibility of supportive housing in this place. HH also joins our community meal as we deliver meals to the residents.

The Highline Food Bank enjoys our work on the board of directors, regular donations of food, and as volunteers.

A quick anecdote to understand our impact in surprising ways: Sam talked to an agent on his return from Uganda and the subject of PoP came up. The agent said "I know PoP; I give blood there."

There are many unnamed ministries more important than those named. The common thread that connects the vast majority of PoP ministries is service to those most vulnerable among us. Despite the tremendous wealth in our country and world, our society has yet to solve the puzzle of poverty. In ways large and small the Holy Spirit guides PoP as we do what we can to extend a helping hand "in this place" to those most vulnerable.

And that is why I am humbled and blessed to be your president.

Stan Skjeie, President

POP LADIES BOOK CLUB – 2017

The Prince of Peace first Ladies Book Club began January 2006. We are now entering our 12th year. We began with our first meeting consisting of three women. We now have approximately eight to 10 regular attendees. We are a welcoming and friendly group of women that love to read, share in discussion (that is, talk), and keep up to date with current authors.

We meet the second Monday of each month, at 11:00 a.m., in the church Fireside Room. Come casual and comfortable and bring a snack of your choice. We have a Christmas luncheon in December at Judson Park and at that time we choose the books for the coming year. Check out the Book Club bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for a take-home card listing our book choices for 2018 or visit the church's website at <http://www.princeofpeacestate.com/POPWomen.html>.

We encourage all women of Prince of Peace to join/visit our group or if the time is not right, consider starting another book club that will fit your particular needs. There are so many variables to starting a book club - it can be as simple or as involved as you wish. The internet is an excellent source on how to start your own book club.

Our hope is that Prince of Peace women will feel a bond in Christian fellowship by being a part of, or starting a new book club here at Prince of Peace.

Joyce M. Lentz

CARE COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement: "Hands of Christ in Service to Others"

Committee members: Pastor Conrad Tollefson, Denise Reinke, Karen Richter, Barbara Betlach, Denis Short, Elizabeth Zeh, and Chuck Turner.

Lay Communion Ministry continues to provide home communion to shut-ins. Denis Short continues to be coordinator along with Barbara Betlach's assistance. There are eight people who are trained to share communion, but three are actively doing so. We continue to work on improving this service.

Chuck Turner was a valuable addition to our group and visited with shut-ins as well as providing transportation for some to attend church. Unfortunately, Chuck has moved out of state.

Baptismal blankets continue to be made by Willing Hands and are presented at the time of baptism.

One year "Anniversary of Baptism" cards continue to be sent by Elizabeth Zeh and Pastor Tollefson.

Cards of caring from the committee and church family continue to be sent to people who are ill, shut-in, bereaved, or who have a special need of support. We coordinated with Kathy Hand for making Valentine's cards at the Community Dinner and these were then sent to shut-ins. Christmas cards were also sent this year.

One year "Memorial" cards continue to be sent. In addition, Pastor Tollefson has a booklet titled "Healing Grief" which he gives to a family one month following the funeral service of a family member.

Prayer shawls/lap robes continue to be made by Willing Hands Knitting Ministry. The Care Committee continues to coordinate with them to see that people who would benefit from extra prayers and caring receive a shawl or robe. Pastor Tollefson continues to make visits and deliver these. Since this ministry was begun in 2009, there have been about 135 shawls/lap robes given out.

The Care Committee felt that there was a need to revisit the church's disaster/evacuation plan and Denise Reinke presented this to the Church Council. It was agreed at Council to proceed with recruiting a committee to work on this, including John Young who created the original plan. This committee of five people is now meeting and Denise serves as the representative from the Care Committee.

We continued to work closely with Karen Richter and Teri Bottoms, Parish Nurses. The Food Pantry continues to be stocked with food bags for use if someone comes to the church hungry and a meal can be provided for them at the time as well as a food bag being sent away with them. There are also food bags that can be given out to a family on an emergency basis.

The Care Committee members continue to be very caring, dedicated people who have the health, safety, and spiritual needs of the congregation in their prayers every day. The generous time and energy dedicated to this committee, the congregation, and the community is a continued answer to prayer.

Thank you, *Denise Reinke, Chairperson*

2017 ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Endowment Committee Report for Annual Report at January 2018 Congregational Meeting

The December 1, 2017, Annual Distribution Amount from the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund from TD Ameritrade account #886-305090 is a check for \$13,371.94 which is 4% of the December 1, 2017, balance of \$334,298.55.

In accord with the Prince of Peace Constitution these funds are allocated as follows:

- Fund operating expenses
- A tithe (10%) to be used for Human Needs
- Scholarships
- Perpetuation of physical resources administered by the Congregational Council

The 2017 Annual Distribution Amount of \$13,371.94 provided the following:

- \$1,337.19 (10% tithe) to Human Needs portion of the Prince of Peace BECU Money Market Account (#3586217496)
- \$12,034.75 to the Facilities (Endowment) portion of the Money Market Account
- \$0 was added to the POP Scholarship fund of the Money Market Account

Balances available for distribution as of December 31, 2017, in the BECU Money Market Account:

- Human Needs \$5,255.04 ($\$3,917.85 = 10/4/2017 \text{ balance} + \$1,337.19 = \$5,255.04$)
- Facilities (Endowment) \$12,034.75
- POP Scholarship \$2000.00 (No scholarships were awarded in 2017 using Endowment Funds.)

As of December 31, 2017, the Prince of Peace Endowment Fund balance in the TD Ameritrade account is \$324,246.11.

For 2017, \$435.00 was received and deposited into the Prince of Peace Mission Endowment Fund resulting in a corpus total of \$183,848.91.

Except for May, August and September, the committee met at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month one hour before the council meeting which is the regular meeting time for the Endowment Committee.

The committee requests suggestions, questions and comments from the congregation. They may be directed to Pastor Tollefson, Mark Bergin, Don Rova, Paul Schumacher, Ed Fowler, John Gustafson, Stan Skjeie, or John McKay.

Respectfully submitted, Don Rova

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Finance Committee Report

Our giving for the year just completed was \$282,006, an increase of nearly \$5,000 from 2016. As we exit the year, Prince of Peace has much to be thankful for!

The budget we approve each January is nothing more than an extension of our ministry; our collective contributions ensure our many ministries will continue to fund those programs we are so passionate about. As we celebrate a very successful year just completed, it is also a good time to remind ourselves, where does giving come from, and exactly what it is used for:

Giving is the funding source to pay for the expenses we incur. So where does that funding come from? 99% comes from the offerings we receive, either collected at Sunday worship or through online giving programs. The remaining 1% represents rent from those we invite to use our facility. The majority of **Expenses** are those 60+ items you see in the Budget Spending Plan - salaries we pay staff, the medical benefits we provide, paying utility bills, insurance, office and worship supplies, monetary support to fund ministries, and our benevolence commitments to the Synod and emergency human needs.

We end the year with no unpaid obligations; we are debt free and have maintained a modest five-month financial reserve that has been built over the past several years.

Thank you to those who remained steadfast in giving and support, for that we are blessed and grateful.

*In His service! Your Finance Committee,
Bob Coning, John Kelly, Claudia Sawin, Andrew Smith*

2017 Summary of Additional Giving
(Printed Jan. 22, 2018, POP SeaTac)

Listed below are the amounts you have given this past year above and beyond your giving for the ministries contained within the Spending Guide.

○ Lenten special offerings	\$ 2,650
○ Thanksgiving/Christmas special offering	\$ 3,290
○ Memorial gifts-Endowment Fund	\$ 415
○ Memorial gifts-Memorial Fund	\$ 8,965
○ Local Hunger	\$ 5,488
○ World Hunger	\$ 4,200
○ Human Needs	\$ 8,784
○ Evangelism	\$ 400
○ Building Fund	\$ 1,200
○ Special Gifts	\$ 715
○ Hospitality House	\$ 350
○ Willing Hands Knitting	\$ 290
○ Contributions (not reimbursed)	\$ 1,740
○ Uganda Ministries – ROWH	\$ 17,205
○ Giving Tree-Christmas	\$ 6,050
○ Miscellaneous:	\$ 3,570
▪ Peace Shelter meals	
▪ WELCA Love Projects	
▪ Easter Flowers	
▪ Quilters	
▪ Worship Supplies	
○ Additional items with approximate values	\$ 5,700
▪ Circles - \$ and items to needy and monthly projects	
▪ Meals & supplies to Hospitality House, Compass Center & 'Under the Bridge'	
▪ Quilts – some used locally, some to distant regions	

MONETARY VALUE of the ITEMS LISTED ABOVE: \$ 71,012(A)

- Space provided for Audiobook Ministries - \$60,000
- Space used by other groups (less payments made) - \$25,000

ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE of SPACE USE: \$ 85,000(B)

TOTAL OF ALL "ADDITIONAL GIVING" \$ 156,012(C)

Benevolence amounts that are part of the Spending Guide:

○ SYNOD/Church-wide benevolence	\$ 12,000
○ Human Needs	\$ 1,900
○ Compass Housing Alliance	\$ 400
○ World Vision	\$ 300
○ Hospitality House	\$ 600

TOTAL of ALL BENEVOLENCE "GIVING" in SPENDING GUIDE \$ 15,200(D)

POP LAFF 2017 ACTIVITIES

POP L.A.F.F. Report to Congregation on 2017 Activities (POP 1/11/18)

In 2017 L.A.F.F.= Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship, held a variety of activities and events. The group includes singles or couples, a wide circle of individuals from POP and their guests. (Some current participants have been regulars since the 1960's.)

Shared Leadership is the hallmark of the organization. Watch the Banner, bulletins, bulletin board and email for the monthly announcements of activities.

Activities reach a large segment of the POP congregation enhancing social interactions, building relationships and enhancing efforts to support POP ministries.

Activities are aimed at bringing socialization, information, and fun to POP adults and their guests, and offering service and support to POP ministries. Hosts and hostesses organize, market, and carry out the planned activities 9-11 months of the year with help from Deborah and Cindy to invite and inform attendees.

At the Annual Planning Meeting/Pot Luck/Calendar Event + Sign Up on St. Patrick's Day 37 people (25 in attendance + 12 others) created the following agenda for 2017. Thanks for the great events! Watch for more info! Ask to be on email list! LAFF is open to all!

Friday, April 21 - Bunco with hosts Mel and Chris Schneider in POP Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 2 - (It was our May event) - Movie Night with Hosts Enid and Bob Coning and Karen Richter in Fellowship Hall - Popcorn and Root Beer Floats.

Wednesday, June 28 - Midday Mariners Game with Hosts Susie and Conrad Tollefson and Bobbie and Gordon Meyers.

Saturday, July 22 - Midday Saturday noon Cookout at McKay's deck. Chicken or burgers and hot dogs provided. Bring a side dish. Backup Date Saturday, July 29th.

Thursday, August 17 - Wonderful visit to Eileen Severns' Greenwater cabin Chalet.

Saturday, September 23 - Hi-Liners Mainstage Musical - "The Little Mermaid" with Hosts Marilyn and Don Rova and Carol and John Gilbert. Arrive 6:30PM, curtain goes up at 7PM.

Friday, October 27th - Halloween Bunco! POP Fellowship Hall with Hosts Barb and Bob Atkinson and Diane and Fred Pierson.

Friday, November 17 - Visit to the Gates Foundation - Our hosts Denise and Fred Reinke planned the event; tour followed by lunch at Classic Eats in Burien. Some drove, Pastor Sam drove the van.

Sunday, December 3 - Afternoon Christmas party/potluck - Home of Hosts Julie and Art Landskov - and/or Community Choral Concert at St. Vincents Catholic at 7PM in Federal Way.

Sunday, December 31 - Potluck on New Years' Eve (holiday leftovers) in the POP Fellowship Hall

2017 Holiday Dates: POP Thanksgiving Dinner (Wednesday Nov. 15) turkeys; pies; servers, helpers + cleanup. **Thanksgiving eve service Wednesday 11/22/17, Thanksgiving Day is 11/23/17; Advent begins 11/ 26; Put up Sanctuary Tree and Giving Tree 11/25; Decorate church week of 11/24 - 12/1/17.**

LAFF, serves as a communication link to reach out, offering services/support, help for the POP programs as necessary. **Offer ideas or plan to host in 2018! Thanks for fun and fellowship!!**

Cindy McKay

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT DES MOINES CREEK RESTAURANT

Morning Bible Study regular meetings were held throughout 2017 Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. at Tuscany at Des Moines Restaurant, 21830 Marine View Dr. S.

During 2017 the book of John was completed and the book of Acts was begun.

Each meeting was attended by an average of seven to 11 attendees.

Please feel free to join us. We meet every Tuesday throughout the year.

Attendees during 2017 included: Pastor Tollefson, Stan Skjeie, John Gilbert, Carol Gilbert, Art Landskov, Julie Landskov, Denis Short, Jim Wray, Paul Poehlman, Bob Atkinson, Chuck Turner, Don Rova, Susie Tollefson, Jake Jacobssen, and Pastor Sam Sseba.

Please consider dropping in any Tuesday morning. (We begin at Acts 17:10 next week, January 30, 2018).

*Respectfully Submitted,
Don Rova*

MUSIC MINISTRY AT PRINCE OF PEACE

2017 saw a changing of the guard within the music program at Prince of Peace. With the departure of Chris Howerter from our organ bench, we spent a few months in search of a replacement, utilizing the skills of several guests to fill in. Most regularly paying us a visit were Paul Hoffman and Terry Ketcham, for whom we are very grateful. After a conversation in the Tollefson backyard between Charity Rasmussen and Pastor Tollefson, the church reached out to an accompanist and substitute teacher familiar to Charity and me from our days at Seattle Pacific University: Justin Cormier. On top of Justin's accompanying abilities, singing chops (he is a former member of St. Mark's Complaine Choir), and likeability, with which Charity and I were already familiar, it turned out that Justin was a skilled organist with plenty of experience in leading worship on the pipes and keys. Since stepping in on organ, Justin has been a poly-skilled boon for Prince of Peace music. He has helped Arnie with updating our sound system and balancing our levels on a weekly basis, and continues to surprise us with his knowledge regarding all facets of a good worship service.

Upon the departure of Chris Howerter, I was also offered an opportunity to direct the Adult Choir at Prince of Peace. Since, I've sought to bring a fun and powerful mix of music to the choir, including spirituals, high church anthems, old favorites, and other delights found in the boxes of the choir loft, or in my memory. The choir's numbers have increased, and I've felt a spirit of meaningful joy consistently emanating from their ranks. Justin Cormier has jumped in as our bold accompanist, and I've been blessed from day one to be in a leadership position with him (literally) at my side. If you're interested in joining choir, please come to rehearsal, and email me at tollefsonw@spu.edu. We want your voice!

With my new responsibilities as the head of the Adult Choir, Charity Rasmussen (soon to be Tollefson) has taken the reins of the youth choir. As an elementary music teacher, she was an instant hit. In 2018, we are going to take a few opportunities to work with the Adult Choir and Children's Choir together, choosing anthems for special Sundays which include singing from both choirs. If your young one is interested, Charity would love to have them! She can be reached at rasmussenc@spu.edu.

The final topic I'd like to address is that of choosing songs and hymns for Sunday services. I've been taking a night each week to sit by candlelight on my piano at home, read our gospel and scripture selections, and choose music I feel will send the point of Christ's words home with our congregants while they whistle and hum tunes over the following days. My goal has been to include modern praise music in proportional parts with spirituals and hymns. I feel that I'm learning more about how to effectively organize a service each week, and your feedback is not just helpful - it's expected! When you have a song stuck in your head, and want to hear it in worship, or have any feedback about music, please email me. I welcome all feedback (good or constructive). I check my email many times each Sunday evening, hoping to receive word from our congregation about what touched their hearts, or what stood in the way of their worship. With your feedback, do bear in mind the possibility of a 50-50 split that exists in preference (e.g., many people want our songs to be faster, while many others say how much they appreciate having time to read and contemplate words while they sing them). Regardless, we won't know about that song you love unless you tell us!

Each week I am humbled and honored to be in a leading role at this church, and in partnership with this music faculty. The Holy Spirit is alive in the fingers and voices of the musicians and congregants at Prince of Peace.

William Tollefson

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The Parish Nurses for 2017 are Denise Reinke, Karen Richter, and Teri Bottoms. We have provided volunteer parish nurse services to Prince of Peace for 17 years now.

Services that have been continued from 2016 are:

- Rite of Healing Service the third Sunday of every month during the church service. We prayed with and anointed 40 people this year, who requested that we pray with them for special needs for themselves, family, or friends. Many came back to us later to let us know that the prayers helped them and that they really appreciated the Rite of Healing Service.
- Blood pressure screening on the first Sunday of each month following the church service. This year we took 40 blood pressures. We referred a number of people to their physician because of high, unmanaged blood pressure, or who were taking blood pressure medication and appeared to need it adjusted. We made follow-up telephone calls to some of these people.
- Samalie Sseba is currently volunteering to continue the blood pressure ministry for as long as she is able.
- Blood pressure screening and healing service together required 40 nursing hours. Counseling was provided during the blood pressure screenings regarding blood pressure management, exercise, nutrition, diabetes, depression, stress reduction, and medication questions.
- Health education topics for the congregation in general were provided via Banner articles and the Parish Nurse Bulletin Board.
- Individual health counseling and referral for many people was provided this year during home visits, telephone visits and visits in the parish nurse office. We prayed with people, helped them to find resources for medical care for themselves or for family members, and assisted them in finding alternative living arrangements when their physical condition required a change. We provided grief support and sat with families of dying family members, as well as arranging for help from others in the congregation to give these families support. At most of our visits anointing was also done.
- Coordinating and leading the Care Committee by Karen Richter. Details of this are in a separate report about the Care Committee.
- Karen Richter and Teri Bottoms will continue to be your Parish Nurses.
- We have been reviewing the disaster and evacuation plans that the church has and assessed the need for more disaster supplies. This was an ongoing project for 2017 and will require the assistance of a committee.
- Denise Reinke is still purchasing food for our food cupboard. We fill sacks and bags for single and family people who stop into the office in need of help while Deborah is there.
- Articles for the Banner newsletter written by Karen Richter for most issues.

By Karen Richter, RN

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP – 2017

Thanks to all of you at Prince of Peace for being willing to participate in Partners in Worship when you get a phone call or are asked by your Worship Coordinator what you are willing to do during your month of service. The five teams have great leaders and a BIG thank you to each Coordinator for all the work you do in gathering volunteers for your month.

Our leaders are the following:

Nancy Hadley
Jude and John Gustafson
Mark Bergin
Eileen Severns
Cyndie Young
Alice Malmanger
Carla Teigen and Dan Skjonsberg

Every fifth month each team has the privilege of being a part of the worship service by ushering, being a reader of the lesson, leading the prayers, being a greeter, being an acolyte, being a communion assistant, or doing the communion preparations. Each task is honoring God and enhancing our Sunday morning service. Everyone who participates in worship at Prince of Peace is on a team. Let me know if you have not been asked to help and would like to be on a team.

Thank you again for all that you do for our Sunday services.

God's blessings to all as we serve Him,

Judy Voeller
Partners in Worship Coordinator

POP CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES/SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SPECIAL EVENTS

January to December 2017

POP Children's Elementary Sunday School - January to December 2017

In 2017, we spent some important time on the Lord's Prayer, the books of the Bible, differences between the old and the new testaments, and the important connections between Bible History and God's people and what it means to each of us today. An exciting change came in fall of 2017, when Dan Skjonsberg began to teach an advanced class for youngsters as they near Junior High age. Even our younger students go to new heights now, because most of our elementary students read very proficiently, and we can take on more difficult concepts! With the help of each of us who work with children, we try hard to coordinate texts, the Children's sermons, events of the church and age-appropriate classes.

Some of our **2017 highlights** included a little extra time to learn and enjoy more deeply the story of Martin Luther and his influence on our church and the church at large in our world. We learned how brave he was and influential in promoting not only the faith, but thoughtful reformers and the accessibility of reading and education that came with the new German translation of the Bible. Luther's Bible meant that even girls could learn to read and sing the hymns and to think and learn about the issues and influences on society and the world at that time. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation - this year brought Martin Luther (again played by Dan Skjonsberg) who taught us about the important roots of reformers who helped bring Christianity back on track after years of veering away from faith in a purer form. The Reformation had a huge effect on the history of our world, and faith and Bible history were in the middle of it all. **Winter 2017 to Spring** - Our Bible exploration took us through the New Testament - focusing on the life of Christ. In 2016 we had also focused on Paul and his journeys. So in 2017 we took on some of the less known stories, and chose a group of Bible figures we had not covered in the past 2 years. In the **Fall of 2017** we focused on the Old Testament, studied the patriarchs, and made a conscious effort to skip the whole study of Moses and the Israelites. In December we decided to take a break and went to Luke 2, leaving the Old Testament with the stories of Joseph and his brothers, and their ultimate move to Egypt! So in January and February 2018 we will go back and dive into Moses and the rich stories of the journey to the promised land. We hope to develop a timeline during 2018 that helps us learn and remember Bible history and the Bible figures we learn from in chronological order!

The POP **Egg Hunt the day before Easter** is one of these when we are privileged to tell the most important story ever told of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection! We offer an egg hunt to two age groups, crafts that help tell the story, and most important - the story is told in posters and pictures, retold by Pastors Sam and Conrad, and repeated in a simple video presentation. It is the center of our outreach and reminds us all of the foundation of our faith, forgiveness and redemption.

Silent Night our 2017 Sunday School Christmas Program/service - which allowed children to share in telling the story together with congregants, parents and grandparents; with musical direction and help from Charity Rasmussen and William Tollefson, and the joy of partnering with the congregation as we told the Greatest Story Ever...**together** on December 12. We thank an amazing list of volunteers - parents, grandparents and more for helping us offer the Saturday morning rehearsal, with costumes and special lunch and supporting with so much love and care as we create the service together on Sunday. Thanks to Pastor Tollefson for skillfully adapting the service to include our program and pageant! Thanks **Diane Pierson and Pastor Tollefson** for great support for education, to Charity Rasmussen for exploring music with/for our POP Kids! and to Deborah Santiago for

her support and help to reach out to parents and kids! (POP Elementary Sunday School January 11, 2018.)

As our faith kids always say, and we repeat often, God is with us **24/7/365/forever!** We are never alone!

Cindy McKay

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Remembering our statement of purpose:

As a community of women created in the image of God, Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Once again in 2017 Prince of Peace Women had a busy year of learning and service. The following list will give a flavor for some of the happenings:

Peace, Joy, and Faith Circles continue to meet the third full week of the month. Grace changed their meeting to the second Monday.

Currently the women who attend the Circle Bible Studies used multiple topics and studies in the Gather magazine. The latest study was a three-part study on the Apostles Creed, which was outstanding.

Love projects included the Peace Shelter (socks, hats, and gloves, hygiene products), gathering of baby items, quilts and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, the Food Bank, Hospitality House, Buck-a Chick in April, and the Giving Tree.

Ladies continued to gather on Thursdays to quilt. Quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief in the spring and more in the fall. Our graduating high school seniors, Peter Malmanger and Bryan Flynn were gifted one as well as Bishop Unti's wife, Kim, Pastor Kirsty Daniels, and Claudia Sawin the raffle winner on Reformation Sunday.

LWR says, "Tied in Faith, Sent in Hope, Wrapped in Love." That is certain!

10 School kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief along with 150 quilts.

Women also helped organize and serve coffee hours this year following many memorial services, Confirmation, graduation, and new member welcoming. Circles continue to deliver altar flowers to the sick and those who are shut-in.

The Women of Prince of Peace enjoyed a salad supper in May with guest speaker Kristy Daniels from The Church of Steadfast Love. The evening was most enjoyable. We loaded her car and sent her home with many items for women.

Officers: President: Mel Schneider; V.P.: Cindy McKay; Secretary-Treasurer: Diane Pierson; Education Secretary: Julie Landskov; Stewardship Secretary: Gail Kelly; Circle Chairs: Enid Coning, Mary Ann Pray, Karen Richter, Betty Zeh.

*POP WELCA (Women of the ELCA) or locally WOPOPS (Women of Prince of Peace) is made up of diverse individuals and groups within the congregation. It is this cross-section of talents that helps each offer their gifts to others and to the church. Many of these activities will be highlighted in different sections of the annual report.

WILLING HANDS -2017

We have had an interesting year. With Rosemarie Schibalski's retirement, we have been struggling to find knitters and crafters to continue making our baby blankets. Barbara Betlach and I are still making the christening blankets. We were given a large bag of scarves, hats and a baby blanket just before Christmas from Kathy Peterson. These were given to South Hill Elementary for distribution.

A thought I have is to consider changing the baby blanket product and still serve the community. Possibly changing to a fleece baby blanket may help capture more folks who are willing to make this type of product.

We offered a finger knitting session after church recently and it was well attended and fun. I was happy to see so much interest. This type of knitting is a way to bring younger interest into the skill. I'm hoping to have more sessions this year.

Yours in Christ, Kathy Hand

2017 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

George (Jake) Jacobssen
Betsy Poehlman
Paul Poehlman
Charity Rasmussen

ADULT BAPTIZED

None

CHILDREN BAPTIZED

Jaden Jeffrey Rova
Jaxon Kasien Rova

CONFIRMATION

Quinn Bergin
Charity Rasmussen

MEMBERS DECEASED

Herald Bowman
Betty Evenson
Warren Starkey
Don Zeh

Norma Dallen
Reta Smith
Louise West

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

Merri Long
Lorin Long

MEMBERSHIP

	Baptized	Confirmed
Total Membership – January 1, 2017	351	287
<u>Accessions</u>		
Baptism of children (15 & under)	2	
Baptism of adults (16 & over)		
Affirmation of Faith	1	1
Transfer from ELCA congregations		
Transfer from other Lutheran congregations	3	3
Transfer from non-Lutheran congregations		
Baptized members confirmed	1	1
For other reasons and statistical adjustment		
Total Accessions	7	5
<u>Removed from rolls</u>		
Death	7	7
Transfer to ELCA congregations		
Transfer to other Lutheran congregations	2	2
Transfer to non-Lutheran congregations		
Transfer to inactive status	2	2
For other reasons and statistical adjustment		
Total members removed	11	11
Total Membership – January 1, 2018	347	281

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Stan Skjeie at 11:30 a.m.

Opening prayer by Stan Skjeie.

Welcome: Stan spoke of our vision for the future, that we are a hand up community of people. Ministries we support such as the Uganda Mission and Hospitality House represent these ideals. A ministry we hope to develop in the future is the potential use of the land behind Prince of Peace. This idea is still in the brainstorming phase and nothing will be decided on without a vote from the congregation.

Pastor's Corner: Pastor Tollefson spoke about the Prince of Peace ministry, how God is making things happen in and through us. The challenge is to look at the ways we can continue to make a difference today and not get stuck in past years when things were so much different. The community meal is a wonderful example of caring people reaching out to touch the lives of individuals we may not have ever had the opportunity to meet. The people that come to these meals are touched by the care and love they receive at Prince of Peace.

Pastor also spoke about the number of deaths in our congregation, the wonderful souls we have had to say goodbye to. We thank them for their gifts and are reminded of the work yet to do for the rest of us. You are never too old to play a role at Prince of Peace; your presence is important to all.

There will be an upcoming meeting to re-write the bylaws, some of which are no longer needed.

Raffle Drawing: The winners of the beautiful quilts and Seahawk pillow cases were announced. Chris Usher a friend of the Schneider's won the Seahawks quilt, Amanda Kendall won the Seahawk pillow cases, and Mel Schneider won the beautiful red and white quilt. Thank you to all who contributed to the raffle, the donations will go to the Human Needs Fund.

Approve November Congregational Meeting Minutes: After review a motion was made to accept the minutes as written, the motion was seconded and approved by all.

Recognition: Stan Skjeie recognized the outgoing council members, Lorin Long, (council member), Sharman Thoma (treasurer), Teri Bottoms (vice-president), and John Gilbert (president). We thank them all for their service. John Gilbert was presented with a plaque noting his years of service as president.

Also recognized was Janet Alcantara, a member of Prince of Peace who recently moved to Mexico. We thank her for all her contributions to our congregation, we wish her well and will miss her.

Election of Council Officers and Other Leaders: The three council members nominated are; Anna Wagner, (council member at large), John Kelly, (treasurer), and Dan Skjonsberg, (vice president). A motion was made to approve these nominations, it was seconded and approved by all.

Select Lenten Offering Recipients: The three candidates for this special Lenten Offering are; Westside Baby, Habitat for Humanity, South King County, and Fund for Leaders. A motion was made to divide the offering collected three ways, it was seconded and approved by all.

2017 Budget Proposal: A spending guide proposal for 2017 of \$259,380 was brought before the congregation. The projected revenue is \$258,000. These figures are down from last year, that spending guide being \$278,122 and the revenue being \$277,750. In the short

term the pluses are that the 2016 giving and expenses are stable, we have a 4-month cash reserve and our church is debt free. The concerns moving forward are a decline in attendance, giving loss due to attrition and the negative impact this may have on our ministry. After review of the 2017 spending guide breakdown, a motion was made to accept the new budget, the motion was seconded and approved by all.

Closing prayer by Pastor Tollefson.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Signie Fowler

**2017 FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2017**

Call to Order: President Stan Skjeie called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Opening prayer by Pastor Tollefson

Adopt Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes as written from the November 2016 Congregational Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by all.

Election of officers, council members, and ministry leaders: Special thanks were given to the nominating committee for all their work. A motion was made to elect all the candidates on the list, the motion was seconded and approved by all. The following is the complete list of all those elected:

Council Officers:

President: Stan Skjeie; Vice President: Dan Skjonsberg; Secretary: Sam Sseba; Treasurer: John Kelly.

At-Large Council Members: Jude Gustafson, Susan Vernon, Nancy Hadley, Anna Wagner, Bob Atkinson, John Thoma, and WELCA Representative Mel Schneider.

Nominating Committee: Ed Fowler, Arnie Walter, Signie Fowler, Jackie Dallen, and Pat Richard.

Endowment Committee: Ed Fowler, John Gustafson, John McKay, Mark Bergin, and Paul Schumacher.

Audit Committee: Suzan McDonnell, Phyllis Bowman, and Art Landskov.

2017 Thanksgiving and Christmas Special Offering Nominees: There were two candidates for special offerings: Pastoral Mentoring Conference and Operation Nightwatch. A motion was made that the offerings collected would be divided evenly between them. The motion was seconded and approved by all.

Affordable Housing Presentation: Stan presented some of the information collected by the committee researching the possibility of using our vacant property to extend a helping hand to the homeless in South King County. The proposed facility could have 50-100 units and house tenants ready to start or continue the path to permanent housing. Their rents would be income based to be adjusted yearly. There would be a project manager on site for those that need supportive help. A possible partner, Compass Housing Alliance, has 22 such properties now which are well run and maintained. If anyone is interested in joining in on the discussion, there is a meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the library; all are welcome.

Adjourn: As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Signie Fowler