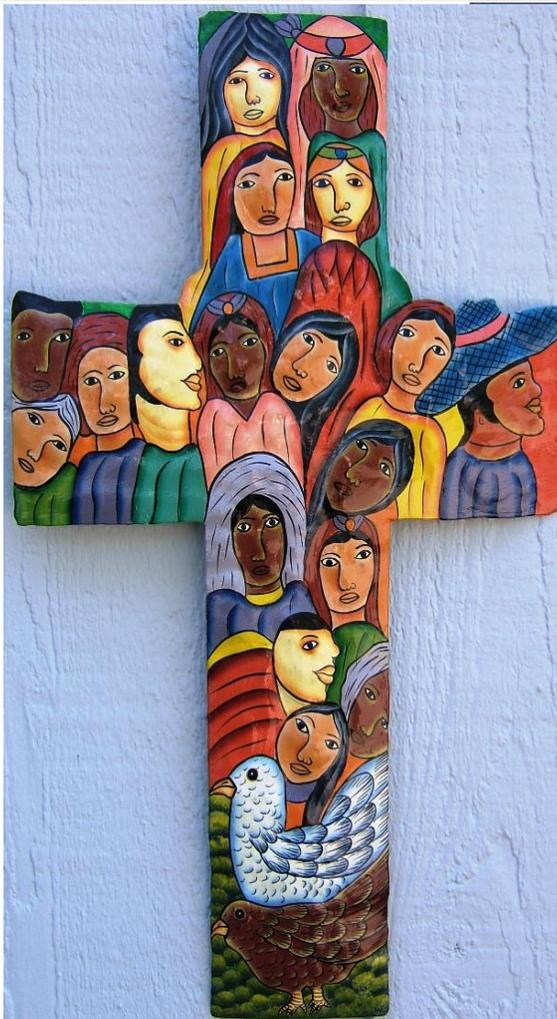


Annual Report 2018

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



Congregation Meeting
January 27, 2019

19030 Eighth Ave S
SeaTac WA 98148

PASTOR CONRAD TOLLEFSON

Jesus tells us several times in the gospels about loving God and loving our neighbors. Those two guides to life are central to all our ministries at Prince of Peace. They fit us.

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 12 people in God's eternal care in the year leading up to All Saints Sunday (November 4, 2018), 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. We remember them with tears. We will not be the same without them, but also they helped make us who we are. God's people. Thank you for them, Lord.

Having Sam Sseba and Samalie 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 helps with many ministries here, and is a central leader in some. He will complete his seminary studies and be ready for ordination in May of 2020.

In the fall of 2018, our talented organist, Justin Cormier, got a full-time job in music at another Lutheran congregation, which he needed to do to take care of his family. We wish him the very best. We are blessed with our other music staff (William Tollefson and Charity Tollefson) and other participants for music that puts our worship, I am told and agree with, in a place of inspiration. Other musicians who have also helped us worship so well are Paul Hoffman, Terry Ketcham, and Ali Webb. We have added a "Meditative Worship" time most Sundays 10 minutes after worship ends. Give it a try.

"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. In 2018 major progress was made with our Hope Hospital in Luwero, Uganda, in cooperation with another hospital and more medical staff. The other big event was the building of a new Chapel. Together with support of teachers and schools, computer lab equipment and training, VBS, hygiene, baking, and leadership training, it is such a joy to work side by side with the wonderful people in these African communities.

Our free 'community meal' (1st Tuesday of each month, 5:00 pm) still grows, and the number and the spirit of all who help out continues to inspire. 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 has 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). 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). The women's book club has studied some excellent books. We host the blood drive, and support AudioBook Ministries using the former parsonage. Our Care Committee and our Parish Nurses provide individual help, blood pressure checks, supportive and educational write-ups, prayer shawls, and prayer support. The year also included numerous programs of direct neighbor support, such as the Giving Tree, Coat Barrel, Thanksgiving Baskets, Thanksgiving Community Meal, our Human

Needs gifts, our partnership in Hospitality House women's shelter, and our Peace Shelter for homeless men.

2018 reminded us our buildings are aging and need upkeep. We installed a new boiler, did significant repairs, inside and out, to our Education Building, and deactivated, filled in, and repaved over three surprise abandoned septic systems in our parking areas.

Our newly-formed Emergency Preparedness Committee has done its homework well and has the secure container on our north property to store supplies. They have done evacuation drills, hosted a safety fair with expert presenters, trained many worship leaders to assist when needed, and make safety reminders.

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 2018. Good work, Stan. And our thanks to Deborah Santiago, our office administrator, Denise Beebe, bookkeeper, and Gordon King, our custodian. What a team!

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.

Please read the other ministry reports. See Sam's reflections.

Pastor Tollefson

PASTOR SAM SSEBA'S REFLECTION ON 2018

Inspired by God's Great Commission, we seek to be a neighbor among all neighbors. This has never been truer than it is today. Based on the Highline School District's facts, where our Church is located, there are 95 languages spoken, making our community one of the most diverse in the US. The top eight languages spoken are: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Amharic, Punjabi, Arabic, and Cambodian. According to the US Census Bureau, in 2011 – 2015 37.9% of the population of SeaTac was foreign born, and 20.5% of the population of SeaTac live in poverty. This current setting is in stark contrast to the setting 62 years ago when our church was founded.

Our Sunday worship service continues to be the heart and soul of our church igniting our faith and energizing our resolve to serve those that God has put in our care. Every Sunday we open our worship service with confession and forgiveness. We maintain a moment of silence for reflection and self-examination. This moment is especially treasured by many of our congregants. It sets the ground for us to receive the gospel but also in confidence, to confess our faith and receive the Lord at His table. Our worship inspires our every ministry, from our community meal to Peace Shelter, from our confirmation class to WELCA, from our Bible study circles to outreaches to community members who are homeless, with both local and global impacts. Additionally, our worship experience has been enriched by the introduction of meditative worship, thanks to our Music Director.

We feel fortunate, given our diverse context, to share our worship space with a Spanish-speaking congregation and an Ethiopian congregation. Our joint worship service with our Ethiopian and Latino congregations is a highlight every summer. We know to be true that worship is transcultural and cross cultural. During our joint service, for instance, despite our differences in cultures, we share in the gospel and commune from the same Lord's table. The words of institution are said in four different languages (English, Spanish, Amharic, and Luganda). We worship together as we sing songs and hymns in different languages (Spanish, Amharic, and English).

We are a part of Highline Ecumenical Leadership Circle that comprises seven other congregations around us, which has been instrumental in advocating for social justice mostly for those living in poverty and experiencing racial and economic discrimination. Right in our church neighborhood we are seeing an increase, almost exponentially, of those who are barely getting by and are living in poverty. We are experiencing a spike in youth violence where youth are targeted and recruited into criminal gangs. Equally on the rise is the hate and intolerance. There is not only a diversity of cultures, but also of needs. This is clearly requiring and demanding that our church adapt to innovative approaches of reaching our neighbors and being relevant in our community. Although it has not changed how we worship, it has given us an opportunity to open our worship space for our struggling neighbors to have community.

Pastor Sam Sseba

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year let's reflect on our ministries and outreach.

Our core ministry is, of course, worship. We are seeing a few new faces. Attendance has remained reasonably steady; better than many churches in our current environment. Silent time before worship and meditation service after worship has been added. Music continues to grow.

Outreach reflects a heart to help and bless those most vulnerable among us. Some make a lot of noise, such as the community meal. Others are very quiet, such as delivery of donated items to the food bank. Some are national, such as quilting. Others are international, such as Reaching Out With Hope. Some partner with other community organizations, such as Hospitality House. We participate in leadership with others with board membership, such as AudioBook Ministries. Some endeavor to establish a culture of service, especially among youth, such as feeding those who are homeless.

This list is by no means complete; many ministries are left out. It does show that Prince of Peace remains a dynamic and living congregation.

Stan Skjeie, President

POP LADIES BOOK CLUB

The Prince of Peace first Ladies Book Club began January 2006. We are now entering our 13th 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 2019 or visit the church's website at <http://www.princeofpeaceseatoc.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 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Committee members: Pastor Conrad Tollefson, Barbara Betlach, Denise Reinke, Karen Richter, Denis Short, Elizabeth Zeh, and Chuck Turner (moved away this year).

Lay Communion Ministry continues to provide home communion to shut ins. Denis Short is coordinator along with Barb Betlach's assistance. Three people continue to actively participate in taking communion to those who request it. There are eight people who were initially trained to provide this service.

Baptismal blankets continue to be made by Willing Hands and are presented at the time of baptism. In addition, a "one-year anniversary of baptism" card was being sent by Elizabeth Zeh and is now being sent by Dottie Rosenauer since Elizabeth has moved away.

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. Thanksgiving cards were also sent this year.

One-year "memorial" cards continue to be sent (now sent by Dottie). In addition, Pastor Tollefson has a "Journey through Grief" booklet series which he sends to families. Deborah Santiago coordinates with Pastor to get these mailed out at the appropriate times.

Prayer shawls/lap robes are still being made by Willing Hands Knitting Ministry as well as a relative of one of our church members. The Care Committee continues to coordinate with Willing Hands 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. Ten shawls/robes have been given out this year. Since the ministry started in 2009, there have now been about 145 shawls/robes given out.

The Care Committee continues to work with the "Emergency Preparedness Team" to improve church safety in case of a disaster. Denise Reinke continues to represent the Care Committee on this team.

We continue to work closely with Karen Richter and Teri Bottoms, Parish Nurses, who offer "Prayers of Healing" at Sunday service once a month. Also Samalie Sseba, RN, who offers the blood pressure check service one Sunday a month. The Parish Nurse 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 that 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.

We also participated in the Ministry Fair this year; Elizabeth Zeh was available by our poster to answer questions that folks may have had, or were interested in joining our ministry.

In cooperation with Teri Bottoms, we recommended that the seating be changed in the sanctuary to better accommodate those with special mobility needs. This has been accomplished.

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

Respectfully submitted, *Denise Reinke, Chairperson*

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Report for Annual Report at January 2019 Congregational Meeting

The December 1, 2018, Annual Distribution Amount from the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund from TDAmeritrade account #886-305090 is a check for \$12,970.33 which is 4% of the December 1, 2018, balance of \$324,258.26.

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 2018 Annual Distribution Amount of \$12,970.33 provided the following:

- \$1,297.03 (10% tithe) to Human Needs portion of the Prince of Peace BECU Money Market Account (#3586217496)
- \$11,673.30 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, 2018, in the BECU Money Market Account 3586217496:

- Human Needs \$3,298.20 ($\$3,298.20 = \$2001.17 \text{ 9/3/2018 balance} + \$1,297.03 = \$3,298.20$)
- Facilities (Endowment) \$11,673.30 (12/31/2018 Balance = \$0)
- POP Scholarship \$0 (No scholarships were awarded in 2018 using Endowment Funds.)

As of December 31, 2018, the Prince of Peace Endowment Fund balance in the TDAmeritrade account is \$300,134.91.

For 2018, \$1,030.00 was received and deposited into the Prince of Peace Mission Endowment Fund resulting in a corpus total of \$217,278.58 on December 31, 2018.

Except for July and November, the committee met at 5:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month, one hour before the council meeting which is the regular meeting time for the Endowment Committee.

The Committee invited Beth Adams, a Regional Gift Planner of the ELCA Foundation, to speak at several of the Committee meetings. She also joined us at an Adult Education hour in September, providing several legacy gifts strategies for all of us to consider.

The committee requests suggestions, questions and comments from the congregation. During 2019 they may be directed to Pastor Tollefson, Mark Bergin, Don Rova, Paul Schumacher, Ed Fowler, John Gustafson, Dave Hill or John McKay.

Respectfully submitted, Don Rova

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Finance Committee Report

As we exit the year, Prince of Peace has much to be thankful for!

We ended the year with no unpaid obligations; are debt free, and even though our ready reserve has slipped, we do have a modest three and one-half month financial reserve to handle those unforeseen events that seem to pop up in a facility that is approaching 70 years old.

As our congregation has gotten smaller and older, giving trends have continued a slight decline over an extended period of time. Fortunately, that trend has been punctuated by short plateaus providing periods of relative stability, which was the case over the past four-year period through 2017. Comparatively, our giving for 2018 did decrease by \$14,000 to \$272,872. Is this lower giving what we can expect in the future?

The budget we approve each January is nothing more than an extension of our collective contributions ensuring our ability to fund those programs we are so passionate about. For clarification, **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 annual budget...salaries we pay staff, the medical benefits we provide, paying utility bills, insurance premiums, office and worship supplies, monetary support to fund ministries, and our benevolence commitments to the Synod and emergency human needs.

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

In His Service!

Finance Committee

Mark Bergin, John Kelly, Claudia Sawin, and Bookkeeper Denise Beebe

2018 Summary of Additional Giving
(Printed January 24, 2019, 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	\$ 3,056
○ Thanksgiving/Christmas special offering	\$ 8,832
○ Memorial gifts-Endowment Fund	\$ 1,805
○ Memorial gifts-Memorial Fund	\$ 12,065
○ Local Hunger	\$ 6,099
○ World Hunger	\$ 1,530
○ Human Needs	\$ 5,293
○ Evangelism	\$ 400
○ Youth Fundraisers & Special Gifts	\$ 350
○ Building Fund	\$ 10,000
○ Special Gifts	\$ 420
○ Hospitality House	\$ 410
○ Rent	\$ 2,700
○ Contributions (not reimbursed)	\$ 1,740
○ Uganda Ministries – ROWH	\$ 27,902
○ 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 & Street Distributions	
▪ Quilts – some used locally, some to distant regions	

THIS IS NOW AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET

MONETARY VALUE of the ITEMS LISTED ABOVE: \$ 97,922(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” \$ 182,922(C)

Benevolence amounts that are part of the Spending Guide:

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

TOTAL of ALL BENEVOLENCE “GIVING” in SPENDING GUIDE \$ 13,300(D)

POP LAFF 2018 ACTIVITIES

In 2018 L.A.F.F., Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship, held fewer activities and events due to a variety of issues, including injury, surgeries, etc. The group includes singles or couples, a wide circle of individuals from PoP and their guests. (Some current participants have been regulars since the 1960s.)

Shared leadership is the hallmark of the organization. Watch the *Banner*, bulletins, bulletin board, and email for the monthly announcements of activities in 2019. We are on board with a strong calendar in 2019, already in the planning.

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 nine to 11 months of the year with help from Deborah Santiago and Cindy McKay inviting and informing attendees, and the crucial individuals who host these activities!

We already have suggestions for a strong 2019 set of activities from 19 people who have made recommendations for events/hosting in 2019.

Thanks for input from everyone!!!

LAFF serves as a communication link to reach out, offering events like movie night, bunco parties, potlucks, and events like Hi-Liners musicals, cookouts, and gatherings to learn together!

Offer ideas or plan to host in 2019! Thanks for fun and fellowship!!

Cindy McKay

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT DES MOINES CREEK RESTAURANT

Morning Bible study regular meetings were held throughout 2018 on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. at Tuscany Des Moines Restaurant, 21830 Marine View Dr S.

During 2018 the book of Acts was studied.

Attendees during 2018 included (but was not limited to) Pastor & Susie Tollefson, Stan Skjeie, Carol & John Gilbert, Julie & Art Landskov, Denis Short, Paul Poehlman, Bob Atkinson, Don Rova, Jake Jacobssen, and Pastor Sam Sseba.

Each meeting was attended regularly by an average of seven to 11 attendees. Please feel free to join us. We meet every Tuesday throughout the year (including summers).

*Respectfully Submitted,
Don Rova*

MUSIC MINISTRY AT PRINCE OF PEACE

2018 has been a year of transition and endurance for the Prince of Peace Music Department. After too short a time as our fabulous organist and accompanist, Justin Cormier departed as part of a family move to a new congregation. I've heard from him recently, and he is doing quite well in his new position. This change was followed by knee replacements for two of our sopranos in choir, and a number of other events that have lowered our attendance in choir as compared to our 2017 numbers.

This however should be taken in the context that our choir doubled in size in 2017. Despite challenges this year, our team of musicians has faithfully and zealously maintained the music at Prince of Peace in our 10:00 a.m. worship service, feast and holiday services, special events, and meditative worship services. We owe special thanks to Paul Hoffman, Terry Ketcham, and other guest musicians who have joined us and participated in worship.

Exciting things are on the horizon. At the end of 2018, we interviewed David Barela for our Organist position. He will begin as Prince of Peace's Organist in mid-February, and we can't wait to have him on board!

2018 also saw the addition of meditative worship at Prince of Peace. This abbreviated worship service features contemporary music played and sung, encouraging contemplation and spiritual reflection. This service has been warmly received, and has become an integral part of Sundays at Prince of Peace.

This year we in the Music Department are excited to utilize our new Organist and Accompanist in worship in varied and exciting ways. We are looking to perform more often with the choir, continue to develop meditative worship, and bring exciting liturgy, hymns, and anthems to festival Sundays.

William Tollefson

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The Parish Nurses for 2018 are 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 2017 are:

- Rite of Healing Service the third Sunday of every month during the church service. We prayed with and anointed 41 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 72 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 Denise Reinke. 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 Santiago is there.
- Articles for the Banner newsletter written by Karen Richter for most issues.

By Karen Richter, RN

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Thank you to our wonderful leaders for being willing to be in charge of the Sunday service activities every five months. Our great and faithful leaders are:

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

They spend a lot of time organizing all of the helpers for the month for the various activities. Thank you to each one of you also for being involved in the Sunday worship service. It is our hope that you are blessed by being involved and by being a blessing to others.

This ministry thrives because you are willing to be involved, try something new, and step out in faith. We are God's hands as we take part in the activities for the Sunday service. Every Sunday there is a need for ushers, greeters, someone to read the Bible lessons, someone to lead the prayers, acolytes, communion set up and clean up, and communion assistants.

Please continue to say "yes" when you are asked by your leader. Thanks so much to all of you and God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Judy Voeller
Partners in Worship Coordinator

POP CHURCH BLOOD DRIVES

2018's schedule of donation dates were February 5, April 16, June 11, August 6, October 1, and December 10; all Mondays. We've found that having the blood drive on the first Monday of the month is a difficulty for our custodian and we will work with BloodWorks to schedule on a different Monday for 2020 (2019 is already scheduled).

We thank POP donors and volunteers for their dedicated service this past year.

Volunteers to operate the cantina portion are still needed.

Nancy Hadley, Blood Drive Coordinator

POP CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES/SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SPECIAL EVENTS

January to December 2018

In the winter and spring of 2018, we took several weeks to more fully focus on the many stories of Moses and the Israelites' flight from Pharaoh, that we never have time to fully explore. We feel that there are so many messages of faith and patience that those stories are wonderful to explore with young students, and critical to serve as a basis for understanding Bible history and the history of our world. We covered 30+ stories before moving on to the life and crucifixion of Jesus.

So in the fall of 2018 we focused on creation and the garden, and other lessons of the Old Testament, because Moses provided a foundation.

Some of our 2018 fall highlights included a little extra time to read the many lesser stories of the Old Testament, and we committed to more deeply work on music as it relates to the Christmas story. Charity Tollefson worked with students each week between Thanksgiving and December to focus on the music of the Christmas story with Saturday, December 15, pageant rehearsal and Sunday, December 16, Christmas service. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, our 2018 Sunday School Christmas program/service, allowed children to share in telling the story together with congregants, parents, and grandparents; with musical direction and help from Charity Tollefson and William Tollefson, Pastor Conrad's skillful script organized to include many faith elements.

Thanks for congregational support for children. Your prayers for the children and their families are so important to Sunday school. We also thank the many who offered special events - Samalie Sseba the Easter egg hunt, and a harvest festival for all; volunteers who serve with costumes, special lunch, and program parts, and worship coordinators who work with PoP kids teaching them the skills of service and much more.

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 2018 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 during the third full week of the month for most of the year. 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: “Multiple Meanings” in the way we look at scripture (fascinating); how we express our “hospitality;” “prayer” during the summer; “repentance” – a wonderful word; and the devotional “Fear Not” in December...(“Fear Not” is used 365 times in the Bible...hmmm).
- Love Projects included Peace Shelter (socks, hats, gloves, hygiene products), quilts, personal care and school kits for Lutheran World Relief (119 quilts, 17 personal care kits, and nine school kits were sent to LWR), the food bank, Hospitality House, and the Giving Tree.
- The women also helped organize and serve coffee following many memorial services, confirmation, graduation, and welcoming new members.

The Officers: President Mel Schneider, Vice President Cindy McKay, Secretary-Treasurer Diane Pierson, Education Secretary Julie Landskov, Stewardship Secretary Gail Kelly, Circle Chairs Enid Coning, Mary Ann Pray, Karen Richter, and Elizabeth Zeh.

We are always interested in finding women who would be interested in serving on the WELCA Board. New ideas are always welcome AND encouraged! Come and see!

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.

WILLING HANDS

Thanks to Kathy Peterson, Willing Hands sent some beautiful baby blankets to the hospital on a regular basis. The nurses would all gather around and praise them, telling Ken how beautiful the blankets were. For some strange reason, they never asked him if he made them. There were some other blankets taken in as well. We just need more people who are willing to knit or crochet for the children. We are trying to foster more to help out. Pray for the children. We had 12 blankets on the altar brought in from unknown knitters.

As the Quilters pull together the rooms in the Education Building, our shelf of yarn has reappeared and the christening blankets were found. There was joy all around. It takes some pressure off me as I have been pushing to finish the third christening blanket in time for the little one's baptism. What blessings we have. Bring on the babies! We are also glad that the Quilters have taken us under their wing.

Rumor has it that Rosemarie is crocheting again in her new home. We are all praying for her and that it is true as that is a double blessing.

A big thank you needs to go to Barbara Betlach for sewing into every blanket a label provided by Barbara and Bob Atkinson. The Atkinsons not only provided the labels, but also made them. We feel the labels, advising the families receiving the blankets that they are a gift from Prince of Peace, is a form of evangelism.

Do you remember the Sunday we had no lights in church? Ken and I took a basket of baby hats to the hospital. We didn't have blankets to give them and they were out. I felt so bad, but we told them that with so many out of heat and power we felt we needed to bring the warm hats for the babies. The nurses were so glad to have the hats to give out. Thank you for your donations of yarn, and your donation of time in making hats and blankets.

Thank you also for the donations of lap blankets, scarves, prayer shawls (which the Care Committee distribute where needed). We are so blessed and I do such a small part in this ministry. Thank you all for your help and support!

Yours in Christ, Kathy Hand

2018 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

Klara Dunn
Braxton Dunn
Casey Huyler

ADULTS BAPTIZED

None

CHILDREN BAPTIZED

Arne Frank Johnson
Cameron George Kendall
Delaney Rae Kendall

CONFIRMATION

Britta Astrid Kleitsch

MEMBERS DECEASED

Audrey Anderson
Sandra Jennings
Kenneth Schultz
Margaret Thor

Norma Heath
Frank Lentz
Mary Lynne Short
James Wray

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

None

MEMBERSHIP

	Baptized	Confirmed
Total Membership – January 1, 2018	347	281
<u>Accessions</u>		
Baptism of children (15 & under)	3	
Baptism of adults (16 & over)		
Affirmation of Faith	2	2
Transfer from ELCA congregations		
Transfer from other Lutheran congregations		
Transfer from non-Lutheran congregations		
Baptized members confirmed	2	2
For other reasons and statistical adjustment		
Total Accessions	7	4
<u>Removed from rolls</u>		
Death	8	8
Transfer to ELCA congregations		
Transfer to other Lutheran congregations		
Transfer to non-Lutheran congregations		
Transfer to inactive status		
For other reasons and statistical adjustment		
Total members removed	8	8
Total Membership – January 1, 2019	346	277

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by Council President Stan Skjeie at 11:20 a.m.

Pastor Conrad Tollefson opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting Agenda:

- Budget Spending Plan
- Lenten Offering
- Ministries
- Campus Housing Alliance

John Kelly introduced the budget and asked the assembly to approve the 2018 budget.

John Kelly told the assembly that PoP entered the year 2018 debt free. The 2017 revenue exceeded the giving expectations. A couple of years ago the church started the E-church giving which represents up to 12% of the current church giving. Sunday service offerings represent 71% of the giving, Simply Giving 8% and stock giving is 10%.

John Kelly also noted that unlike in previous years where our church attendance would go down in the summer, last year our summer attendance didn't dip. Church attendance has evened out throughout the year.

Pastor Conrad invited the assembly to turn to page 8 of the Summary of Additional Giving. He noted that we got rid of the unified budget and people are giving to the causes close to their hearts and as a result, people are giving more to the causes of Prince of Peace's vision to be a neighbor among neighbors.

Kathy Hand raised a question and asked Pastor Conrad to speak to what the Spanish congregation does? In response Pastor Conrad reminded the assembly that if we were to name and count all that the Spanish congregation does, PoP would feel ashamed. The Spanish congregation keeps our grounds, cleans the parking lot, mows our lawn, to name but a few plus all the manual labor like trenching that would cost PoP thousands if we were to hire a contractor.

John Kelly took time to thank Claudia, Suzan, Jude, Bob Coning, and Andrew Smith for their dedicated stewardship.

John Kelly presented that based on 2017, giving was more than budget by 8%. He added that the 2018 budget is \$279,940 and the bulk of this budget is labor. He noted that the church hired Deborah to work 18 hours a week. When Andrew left we have had to hire a bookkeeper, Denise Beebe, to work 5-8 hours a week. We also hired a nursery attendant, director of music, organist, as well as a children and youth choir director.

Phyllis questioned why building repairs take long to be affected and at least ignored all together? She said that the buildings need attention before they fall apart and offered \$10,000 to the fund for building repairs. John Kelly explained that we fund the building repairs through the special projects fund and welcomed Phyllis' offer.

A motion was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the last meeting.

Pastor Conrad spoke to the Lenten offering. A motion was moved by Julie Landskov and seconded by Nancy Hadley to have all Lenten offering go to AudioBook Ministries as suggested by the church council.

Stan Skjeie reminded the assembly of the importance of our church ministries and noted that as Sam Sseba was returning from Uganda, he met a customs officer at SeaTac Airport who said that he is a regular blood donor during our blood drives at PoP. Stan also reminded all about the importance of supporting our local food bank.

John Gilbert introduced the task force tasked with finding a viable project to make the best use of the church land that lies east of the church building. He reminded PoP that we worship, read the Bible, but how can we better be neighbors among neighbors? He spoke to the worsening affordable housing situation that is driving our neighbors, moms, and children to live in their cars or become homeless altogether because they are being priced out of their neighborhoods. John introduced Mike Anderson from Compass Housing Alliance to speak to the current homeless situation.

Mike Anderson spoke about the steps that can be taken to improve the homeless situation and also the types of housing possible on our property. Mike reminded us that it's not much about "what Compass Housing can do" but "what is the church's vision?" He gave an example of Roland Commons, a 60-unit apartment complex that cost \$23 to develop. He reiterated that such an investment requires at least a 50-year commitment. He suggested that PoP starts to examine what the city requires and what they are willing to do, what are the needs in our community, and who are the stakeholders?

Mike Anderson said that they are seven types of housing properties that Compass Housing Alliance does. First they do shelters; second – enhanced shelters; third – permanent supportive housing, where people highly vulnerable, mental, substance challenged persons are housed; fourth – permanent housing with support for people who have some sort of income but no place to live; fifth – veteran permanent/transitional housing; sixth - affordable housing treated like normal apartments; and seventh – affordable senior housing.

Kathy Hand asked Mike Anderson, "do we pay you?" Mike answered and said that Compass Housing has different partnership arrangements. Land can be gifted or leased to Compass. Mike Anderson also said that he will put PoP in touch with Bill Ready to help give further technical support.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

**2018 FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2018**

Meeting Agenda:

- Use Memorial Fund to finance Disaster Preparedness
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Special Offering Nominees
- Election of New Council Members
- Adjourn

Members Present:

- See List Attached

Meeting called to order by Outgoing President, Stan Skjeie, at 11:30 a.m.

Use of Memorial Fund: Outgoing Treasurer John Kelly invited the members to turn to Page 23 of our constitution which sets a limit to the use of Memorial Funds. He asked the congregation to allow utilization of \$11,000 from Memorial Fund to be used for the church's safety/disaster preparedness.

The safety committee has already commenced the work but had borrowed the money from the general fund. Fred Reinke presented the congregation an itemized four page list of all the equipment and items to be purchase and/or donated.

Jude Gustafson made motion to utilize \$11,000 for our disaster preparedness, Nancy Hadley seconded, all members present were in favor and the motion was approved and adopted.

The 2018 Thanksgiving and Christmas special offering nominees: The nominees were presented to the congregation. They are: AudioBook Ministries and Highline Schools Foundation. They were presented by Denis Short and Diane Pierson respectively. The congregation appreciated the awesome work done by both ministries and all present voted unanimously to convey the special offering to both ministries.

Election of New council Members: Outgoing Council president presented the outgoing council members (Stan S., president; Bob Atkinson; John Thoma). He also presented the incoming new council members (Dave Hill, president; Stan Skjeie, vice president; Mark Bergin, treasurer; Pam Randall and Heidi Larson, at-large council members; Don Rova and Paul Schumacher, Endowment Committee; Suzan McDonnell, Audit Committee). Mentioned as well were members whose terms are still current.

Nancy Hadley moved the motion to accept the elected council members, Stephane King seconded and all were in favor and the council was installed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.