

Tidings of Peace



May 2026

Worship in May

*Worship at 8:30 Outdoors
In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>*



May 3

5th Sunday after Easter
“I am the way, the truth and the life”
Pastor Peter Preaching

May 10

6th Sunday after Easter
“St. Paul in Athens”
Pastor Peter Preaching
Mother’s Day/Prayers of the Growing
Season at the Peace Garden

May 17

7th Sunday after Easter
“Up to the Heavens”
Pastor Peter Preaching



May 24

Pentecost
“The Rush of the Mighty Wind”
Pastor Peter Preaching

May 31

Trinity Sunday
“Creator, Son, Spirit”
Pastor Peter Preaching

Pastor’s Page

Retirement is sneaking up. People ask if I am counting down the days. Not yet. I am not sure what that means, if anything. I continue to do the work.

Still, as I prepare to depart, I have some thoughts I would like to share with the congregation. On Sunday May 17th, I will devote the Adult Class to thoughts on forty plus years of ministry, not my ministry per se, but ministry in a church that has undergone significant change. I was ordained in 1985. To be honest, it does not seem that long ago, and yet today we live in a different church within a different world. I remember my first colleague in ministry, Pastor Ed Yost, who retired while I served with him at Redeemer Lutheran Church. He said, “Peter, love your God and love your people, and you will succeed.” Not bad advice, but if I am honest, ministry today takes more than love. I will give some more thought to this, and share it with the church on May 17th.

At the Adult Class on May 31st I will focus on Prince of Peace. I arrived in July of 2013. Again, it does not seem that long ago, yet that too was a different world, and Prince of Peace was a different congregation. Thirteen years have given me perspective on ministry in 2026. Ed Yost is right. You still have to love God and love the people, but not being afraid to be the church are words I am finding to be just as important as love. I will share more on the 31st.

I hope you can join me.

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to rclarecarlson@aol.com.

Deadline for the June issue is Sunday, May 31st

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
Victoria Chow, Church Musician
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary
Cheryl "Sherri" Daniels, Office Manager

Congregational Council

Joan New - President
Kathy Nowak - Vice President
Jessica Clarke
Michelle Conk
Ellen McBrearity
Beth Mitchell
Martin Rexroad
Dunja Saleh-Zaki
Janis Haddock
Wayne Dougherty
Con Sweeney
Claudia Thompson
David Herrington, Secretary (non-voting)

RAWTools at Prince of Peace June 7th

Since I beat a gun into my pectoral cross with Shane Clairborne at RAWTools Philly in 2023, I wanted to give Prince of Peace the same opportunity. I am excited that on my second to last Sunday, RAWTools Trenton will be coming to POP on Sunday morning. Pastor Erich from St. Bart's is the inspiration behind RAWTools Trenton and will be with us on the 7th. He will set up the forger and anvil outdoors. After church we all will have the experience of beating swords into plowshares. Join us in the parking lot June 7th!

New Jersey Synod Assembly

The New Jersey Synod will be in Assembly on Saturday May 30th at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset. Pastors Peter and Dale will attend along with Con Sweeney, Joan New, and Morigan Clarke as our youth representative. The House Next Door will have a table at the Assembly this year. Pastor Dale and Laura Glatz will serve the table. Pastor Peter will serve the Global Refuge table again this year.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation is Sunday May 24th, Pentecost Sunday. J'den Clarke will be confirmed at the 9:30 service. Join us on J'den's special day.

First Communion

Nathan Resch will be receiving his First Communion at the Joyful Noise service on May 17th at 1:00pm. The congregation is invited.

POP Hosting

Prince of Peace will host Faith New Jersey on Wednesday **May 13th** for a training session for pastors on immigration ministry.

Prince of Peace will host the West Windsor Religious Leaders on Wednesday **May 20th**.

Adult Class Schedule

Sunday May 3rd The final session on An Emergency Devotional, For Times Such as This

Sunday May 10th No Class. Mother's Day

Sunday May 17th Parting Words from Pastor Peter

Sunday May 24th No Class Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday May 31st Parting Words from Pastor Peter

Sunday June 7th RAWTools Trenton with Pastor Erich from St. Bart's

Thank You to Prince of Peace



March 31, 2026

Rev. Peter Froehle
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550-1625

Dear Pastor Peter,

Thank you for your generous gift of ~~\$50.00~~ ^{\$110} designated to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ for Easter baskets and dinners.

Your gift helps LSMNJ continue to provide hospitality, healing, and hope for those in need. On behalf of LSMNJ and those we serve, please accept my appreciation for your commitment and gift to sustain the mission. Together we provide that helping hand and the support of compassionate care.

We thank you for your partnership in our mission of serving those who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices. May your gift of compassion and concern bless you and your loved ones. LSMNJ can only continue our work with the generosity of donors like you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Van Es".

Jennifer Van Es
Director of Marketing & Fund Development

Thank You!

This letter will serve as your receipt in accordance with the 1993 Tax Act. We verify no goods, services, or benefits were received by you as a result of your gift. Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey Foundation is a registered charity with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs-CH-3176900

3 Manhattan Drive, Burlington, NJ 08016
P 609-386-7171 | F 609-386-7191
www.lsmnj.org

Thank You From Prince of Peace

Thank you to Barbara Kelly for the gift of a new bench located near our circular driveway.

The bench is in memory of Barbara's husband, Michael Kelly. We are very grateful for Barbara's kindness and generosity.



May Food Donation for St. Bart's

Throughout the month of May we are collecting rice and beans for St. Bart's. Please place your donation on the table in the narthex. If the church is closed, please leave your food offering in the bin outside the Community Wing entrance.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
177 Princeton Hightstown Rd
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

April 6, 2026

Dear members of Prince of Peace



Thank you so much for the generous Easter bags of food, monetary gifts and gift cards. The families and seniors across the Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSMNJ) programs are so thankful. You truly bring the hope and promise of the Easter season to the lives of the people we serve. This year with so many generous gifts we provided Easter dinner bags to all the families living in LSMNJ affordable housing and all the seniors who requested assistance.

Residents of affordable housing in Camden and Jersey City enjoyed the food bags. The housing managers had an Easter party and egg hunt. Additionally, we purchased hams for all the families.

Thank you,
Beth Gebhart

Director Community Relations & Volunteers

bgebhart@lsmnj.org, 609-760-6073



Your need is our mission.®

3 Manhattan Drive, Burlington, NJ 08016

P 609-386-7171 | F 609-386-7191

www.lsmnj.org

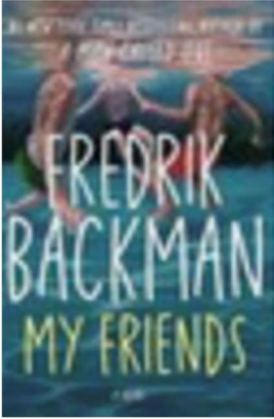
Book Group

*If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com*

*We meet once a month in the church lounge at 1
p.m. Please bring your lunch and/or snack for
others to share.*



**Thursday, May 14th at 1 p.m. in the
Lounge**



My Friends by Fredrik Backman

Eighteen-year-old Louisa is entrusted with a beautiful work of art that depicts three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier jutting into the ocean. She is so moved by the painting that she decides to learn all

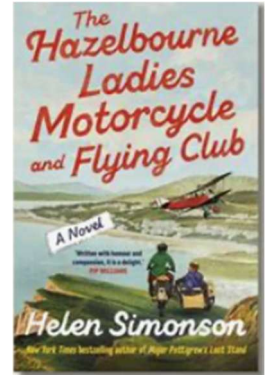
she can about its origin. Her journey takes her to the seaside village where twenty-five years earlier a group of teenagers from troubled backgrounds find love and friendship in each other's company. This beautiful story highlights the transformative power of friendship and art.

**Thursday, June 11th at 1 p.m. in the
Lounge**

The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson

This witty and delightful novel takes place in the aftermath of WWII when women who took on "men's work" during the war are expected to return to traditional female roles.

Constance becomes a companion to an elderly lady at a seaside hotel where she meets Poppy, a woman who wears trousers, operates a motorcycle taxi service and employs local women. Poppy also runs a motorcycle and flying club and welcomes Constance into her circle of friends. Soon, however, club members find that their newborn freedoms are being threatened by those who do not welcome change.



Season of Change

Prince of Peace is about to enter a season of change in June— lots of it! Pastor Peter is retiring after 40 years of ministry (13 years at POP). Dr. Doug is starting a new chapter after 20 years in music ministry (17 years at POP). Our Parish Administrator Sherri Daniels is also retiring – a second time – after 3 years at POP. These servants of Christ have been faithful and we will miss them – but we can also be excited about what God has in store for POP in our next chapter!!

Rest assured that Prince of Peace will be better than OK. We will thrive as the people of God during the season of change and whatever God has in store for us next. We have faithful disciples participating in strong ministries. This doesn't stop during the season of change. We have lots of footwork to do but the results are in God's hands. There will be plenty of opportunities for every POP disciple to participate in this footwork! Stay tuned!

Joan New, Council President

Celebrations!

June 12 – Cocktail Reception for Pastor Peter for clergy from the Mercer Cluster and WHAM (Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium).

June 14 – Pastor Peter's last Sunday at Prince of Peace. Bishop Christa Compton will be with us to preside at the Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call. Michelle and Mike Conk are planning a champagne Brunch for after worship (see the signup in the gathering area soon). There will be words of remembrance and toasts. If you have any pictures you would like to share, they can be dropped in this Google drive ([Pictures of Pastor Peter](#)) or physical pictures can be left in the office.

June 28 – A special fellowship with words of remembrance and toasts for Doug and Megan Helvering. Everyone is invited to bring a sweet or savory treat to share. If you have any pictures you would like to share, they can be dropped in this Google drive (Pictures of Doug or Megan) or physical pictures can be left in the office.

Peace Garden News

As announced on Sunday, the Peace Garden's new fence is underway thanks to John Durie and his Eagle Scout Project. The fence will be a foot wider on each side, have wood at the top to make it harder for animals to jump or climb in, and will go deep under the ground to make it much more difficult for others to burrow below. We look forward to the fence's completion in the coming month!

POP's Peace Garden volunteers have already planted many seeds and seedlings donated by Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to help us feed the needy of Trenton through Enid's Food Pantry at St. Barts. In just a few weeks we'll be supplying them with fresh produce! Volunteers are ALWAYS needed - NO experience necessary...Join us whenever you can...for an hour or more...Tuesdays and/or Fridays, from 10-12 for now but earlier as the temperatures rise.

Contact Shari Rexroad, our Master Gardener, at srexroad915@gmail.com to be added to our email group for scheduling changes and announcements or JUST COME!

Council Corner

Your congregation council is hard at work both attending to the short term and looking ahead.

- A grant opportunity from the NJ Synod concerning debt reduction will be looked at carefully by the finance team and a few members of council.
- Victoria Chow will be returning to the keyboard for worship services in July and August.
- Sherri Daniels, our Parish Administrator, will be retiring at the end of June. Laura Glatz, the house manager for the House Next Door, will be expanding her role starting in July to cover most of the role of Parish Administrator. Details are still being worked on but there will be opportunities to assist in the office.
- We anticipate Pastor Paul Rorem, Pastor Fred Schott, and Pastor Becky Resch, members of Prince of Peace, to preach and preside at worship for some of the Sundays in July and August. Pastor Erich Kussman from St. Bart's has also expressed a willingness to preach and preside.
- The 8:30 service will not continue after Pastor Peter retires - at least for a while. The council agreed that it would be beneficial to have all disciples worshipping together during this season of change.
- The Synod Assembly will be held on May 30. Pastors Peter and Dale along with Con Sweeney, Mo Clarke and Joan New will be attending. Arundel Clarke will also be there in his role as the Vice President of the Synod.

Parish Care - May 2026

Amazing

April has gone by so quickly.

Holy Week was very special.

Easter Day Celebration was beautiful and moving.

We are thankful for this Beautiful Easter Season.

As May begins we continue with our monthly mailings - SPLASH (to families with infants to 3- year olds), Hope through Healing (to families who have lost loved ones); weekly Sunday bulletins mailed to out homebound. If you would like to include someone, please let us know.

Care Notes are in breezeway to take. Care Notes are booklets with inspirational messages for many different life situations. They are displayed in the gathering area and are for folks to take and read and/or pass them along to others that might enjoy the message. Many thanks to Chris Wethe and Ginger Reiersen for maintaining this ministry.

Easter Wishes were mailed to our homebound/senior resident church family.

Thank you to everyone that took a few moments to add an Easter message. Greatly appreciated by me and our homebound members loved being remembered.

Spring is here and we are thinking about confirmation and graduations.

We will be honoring our graduates in June. If you are graduating this spring please share some information about you – where you are graduating from and what you might be up to after graduation. Please leave the details with the church office or with the Parish Care Team.

Transportation Needs:

If you can help with getting folks to and from church, please let me know.

We have the need for two different rides to Sunday services.

Let me know if you would be willing to help.

Many thanks for all your care and support of our ministry

Any thoughts on how to share our care please reach out

Martha Winder
609-799-7280
maw14jpw@aol.com

Prince of Peace Racial Justice Library Lending Library Highlighting Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is **Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**, and our church library is highlighting books by AAPI authors and stories that reflect AAPI experiences. From children's picture books to memoirs and award winning novels, these titles invite us to learn, reflect, and appreciate the rich diversity within God's family. Look for our display in the Narthex featuring titles for all ages—an opportunity to deepen understanding, celebrate culture, and engage with voices that enrich our shared life of faith. These voices help us grow in empathy and strengthen our commitment to justice and inclusion as a church.

If you have any suggestions or would like to discuss ideas or resources for the library, please contact Kathy {kathynowak@verizon.net} or Greg Nowak {gregsnowak@verizon.net}.

Racial Justice

POP Job Training Grant and Legislation in the Courts

This month was the beginning of a new effort to help both our Haitian family and POP. Joan New and Nancy Reyes applied for and received a **Fund for Mission grant from the ELCA NJ Synod** modeled after the job training program run by I-RISE to help immigrants earn some money and get some practical job experience while learning related English. With the funds received, POP can hire three different immigrants to work at POP learning maintenance skills that could be used in the future at similar jobs in offices, schools, or businesses. Each hire can work 15 hours a week for 3 months, getting paid minimum wage plus transportation is provided as needed, either by a POP member or employee driving them home or to the bus or train or by paying for transportation if they don't have their own vehicle. Our neighbor next to the House Next Door, Priya, is working part-time as supervisor and the father in our Haitian family is our first trainee. He's been working 2-3 days per week to help with cleaning that our paid service can't get to because of the limited hours POP can afford to pay. When this three-month period ends, another immigrant will be hired and then a third, helping POP to get through the end of this year with extra deep cleaning and some other work on the property at no cost to POP. We are grateful to Wendy Schutzer who's helped gather information and build a list of tasks to be done. Hopefully you've noticed less dust, crumbs and cobwebs, clearer windows, and an overall cleaner building. And if you happen to be at POP when one of them are here, please thank our new employees and say hello!

A few other notes of which you might not be aware. Though there are many lawsuits going on regarding immigration, a few of the important ones for which decisions are expected over the next few months are:

Birthright citizenship: The Supreme Court heard arguments on April 1, 2026 about whether some children born in the U.S. can be denied citizenship based on their parents' immigration status.

TPS: The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments later this month on the termination of TPS (Temporary Parole Status) for Haiti and Syria. This decision will directly impact whether our family and many of the clients Trenton I-RISE is serving can stay in America legally.

Asylum at the border: The Supreme Court heard arguments on March 24, 2026 about turning asylum seekers back before they can reach the border.

Please do your part to research these issues and even if you don't have time for that, pray that fair and humane decisions and procedures come from the courts on these and other immigration issues and that those enforcing the law do so humanely and provide those detained with due process as required by our laws.

D.I.R.E. Legal Services

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION & ASYLUM APPLICATION

SELF-FILING PROGRAM

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR WORK PERMIT OR ASYLUM APPLICATION?
IS YOUR WORK PERMIT EXPIRING AND NEED TO RENEW IT?

WE PROVIDE SUPPORT, INCLUDING COVERAGE OF FILING FEES.

COMPLETE THE REFERRAL FORM:

<https://forms.gle/ENFgT6Um7hMuyFen8>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(908)-493-2524 & 908-955-3748

YESICA@INTERFAITHRISE.ORG
MELISSA@IMPROVINGNJ.COM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
• Interpreters available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Ukrainian, Russian and more



Join the NJ Synod Anti-Racism
Team
for a zoom workshop

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS:
CONFRONTING THE SIN OF
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026
7:00 - 8:45 PM**

An interactive workshop explaining
& exploring the misapplication of
Christian scripture, symbols, and
language to justify a policy agenda
that runs counter to the teachings of
Christ.

Presenters: Pastor Serena Rice &
Pastor Sara Lilja

[Download the flyer here.](#)

To register: **[Click here](#)**



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 Outdoors

9:30 am (in person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin