

The Numbers

Numbers help tell our story but we want to put them into the context of the bigger picture of Prince of Peace. For those who would like more detail, take a look at the “Addendum to the Annual Report,” but it is easy to get overwhelmed by all the rows and columns of data points. Before going there, take a minute to consider what these numbers represent: God at work in and through this church for the sake of the world. You don’t have to look too hard to discover that God is doing some really amazing things through Prince of Peace as we Listen. Learn. Love.

159 HOURS
were spent rehearsing
our many music groups.

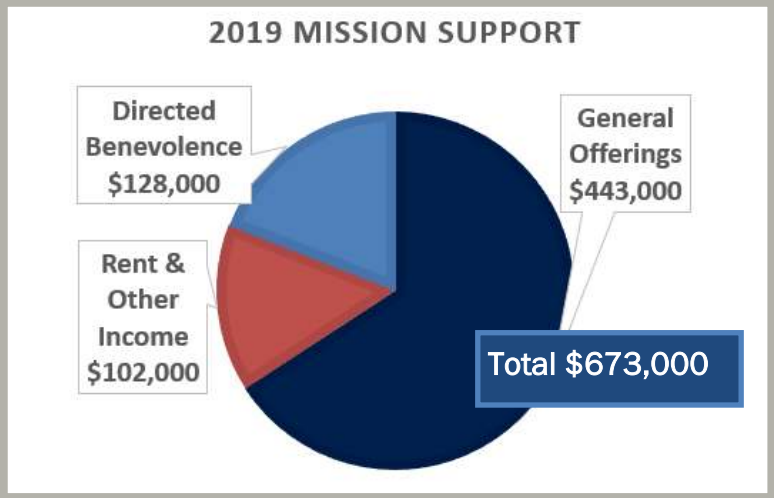
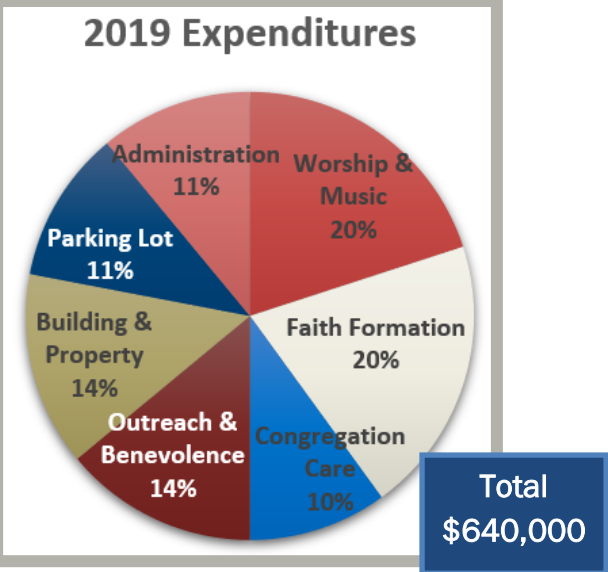
15,454 Dollars were raised for
DONATION TO
BEGA KWA BEGA

446 people received
FLU SHOTS
during our November
wellness clinic.

141 PARKING SPACES
Were newly resurfaced.

49 Is the
MEDIAN AGE
of our council members.

200 NEW CHAIRS
were purchased with
memorial funds for the gym
and reception room.



9845 WORSHIP ATTENDEES
Joined us throughout the year.

1686 POUNDS OF FOOD
were collected from the narthex
shopping cart and delivered to the
Keystone Food Shelf.

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Roseville, MN 55113
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Prince of Peace
Annual Report
2019



LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.



Council 2019

Listen. Learn. Love. is the theme that has bound us together in 2019-2020 as the people of Prince of Peace and inspires us to continue growing in faith.

Listening to one another when a group of 20 people gathered on a Saturday morning in the spring to brainstorm “Who are we?” and “What are we about as a congrega-

tion?” Dubbed the “Big Idea” team, the group brainstormed ideas, creating the theme of Listen. Learn. Love.

Learning from one another as we shared our stories in Lenten worship services.

Learning from the voices we heard in book studies as we stretched ourselves to understand the perspectives of our neighbors.

Learning from the wonderings of children and the wisdom of elders.

Learning from our sisters and brothers here in Roseville and on the other side of the world in Tanzania.

Loving one another across generations as people, ages newborn to 90, gather on Sunday mornings to serve our neighbors and learn together at monthly inter-generational events.

Loving one another as more than 40 people participated in our largest ever fall retreat at Camp Wapo.

Loving others as we packed food at Sheridan’s story, tied fleece blankets and made sandwiches for Simpson Shelter.

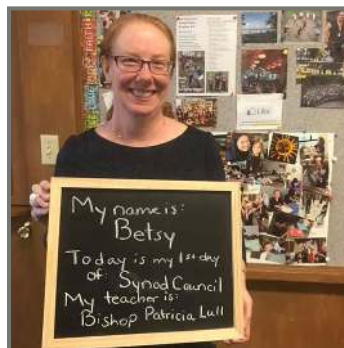
Loving one another as we pass on the faith by worshipping together, celebrating faith milestones and welcoming new people into our midst.

Continuing to grow together as we Listen. Learn. Love. It is a privilege to walk with you and serve as your pastors as we listen, learn, and love together.

*Pastor Peter, Pastor Betsy
and Pastor Ruth*



Pastor Ruth was officially called as the pastor of visitation and congregation care and installed by Deacon Krista Lind on All Saints Sunday.



Pastor Betsy Hoium



Pastor Ruth Sorenson-Prokosch



Pastor Peter Christ

Worship

LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE: Worshipping Together

Worship is at the heart of what we do. 2019 included exploring Why Jesus? What’s in a Name? A Great Big Fish Tale, Who is My Neighbor? and Prepare to be Amazed.

Interactive Good Friday Worship

“I wonder what a crown of thorns feels like?”

“How hard would it have been for Jesus to carry the cross?”

“What did it sound like to have Jesus’ hands and feet nailed to the cross?”

People didn’t have to wonder about these things at the interactive Good Friday family worship service. Instead they got to experience them. From reenacting the Palm Sunday parade, imagining they were present at the very first Last Supper, trying on the crown of thorns, carrying a very heavy cross, to pounding nails.



Summer Outdoor Worship



Interactive Good Friday Worship

LOVE: Paving the Way

On September 15 we gave thanks for and blessed our new parking lot!

Trikes, walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers all lent a hand (or a wheel) as we prayed for those who enter our lot to hear the good news! We are



grateful for the workers who worked hard to pave the parking lot, and for all those who pledged financial support to pay for the work. May the lot serve us well as an instrument of ministry that brings the community together for worship, learning, and service!





LOVE: The New Creative Arts Team

A large, Advent calendar art installation in the narthex helped usher in Christmas 2019. Twenty-eight church members and pastors, ranging in age from high school youth to 80-plus, submitted their personal reflections or artwork on the topics of Advent and looking ahead to Christmas, helping to enrich the season for others.

The messages were bundled weekly and offered each Sunday as handouts on illustrated cards. The messages were also made available on the Prince of Peace website.

Themes included: the quiet beauty of the season, peace amid the busy times, memories of handmade ornaments, and prayers offered for peace and strength.

As the month progressed, the plain, white days of the calendar were exchanged for colorful 8" x 8" art pieces. These interpretive pieces included watercolor and acrylic paintings, paper collages, weaving, quilt squares, and photos representing forests, candles, stars, abstractions, and nativity scenes. —Ruth Hagander and Diane Dodge



LOVE: Milestones

Giving Thanks For:

Dan Dodge
Eleanor "Elly" Osterhoudt
Maureen Dudley
Paul Bernards
Kay M Johnson
Verona Mae Bush
Jean Urie

Baptism:

Avery Dalton
Rennerfeldt

Confirmation:

Charlie Burkhardt
Kaelyn Wold

First

Communion:

Alice Rawitzer
Erynn Wold
Ellie Thornton



Baking bread for First Communion



LEARN: Worship on Victoria

On Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August, we listened to birds chirping, speed boats buzzing, children playing, guitars strumming, pastors teaching, and people praying. We learned from our neighbors and partners in ministry from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shepherd of the Hills, and Peace United Methodist. We loved sharing both the communion table during worship and the dinner table afterwards during the potluck. Amazingly, the weather was delightful each time we gathered; Mother Nature was certainly smiling on our weekly "Worship On Victoria" at Island Lake Park. And so were the 75-150 people of all ages that came together each Wednesday evening. And now we're excited that plans are under-way for another summer of weekly gatherings with our neighbors. We hope you'll join us this summer!

—Pastor Peter



An amazing escape from the Nazis, a dramatic airplane crash, a postpartum battle with depression, a surprising discovery on an Egyptian adventure, and an important lesson from a funeral director – these are the real stories that captivated, entertained, and imparted unexpected wisdom to us during our Wednesday evening Lenten worship.



Pet blessing worship



Kazoo Choir at Worship on Victoria

LISTEN: Lent Storytelling

Bookended within Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer, five brave story tellers told first-hand accounts inspired by the theme of "Journey." Each week was a roller-coaster ride of inspiring vulnerability, deep emotion, and more than a few plot twists. It also became quickly evident that God's story was woven in and amongst our storyteller's tales as well, encouraging each of us to listen even more deeply for God in our own lives. We look forward to more great tales in the year ahead. What story might you be willing to share?

LOVE: Coloring Table

I sat down at the Quiet Coloring Table during worship one Sunday with some of the kids. We were coloring pictures that related to the day's Bible Story. A four-year-old leaned over to me and whispered, "Can I tell you a secret?" I nodded yes and leaned closer. "I love God," he said. I was stunned. It was so simple, but so profound. I don't recall what the sermon was about that day but those three words made a huge impact and stuck with me. Even when we think kids might not be paying attention, they are listening. They are participating in worship. And they get what this faith stuff is all about.

—Pastor Betsy



LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.



LOVE: Packing More Than Food

We look good in hairnets! I know this because I've seen so many of our members and friends invest time and energy at *Feed My Starving Children* (FMSC). If you are a nerd for efficiency like I am, there is great joy to be experienced in such an operation.



They turn middle school students into machines for good, which is a sight to be seen. They are able to pump up intergenerational groups of people to fight world hunger. And they do it all to save the lives of God's children. Prince of Peace packed meals three times in 2019, all of which were excellent intergenerational opportunities. It was amazing to see our youth alongside our older adults working as equals on a project that they all care about! —Cori Forcey



She was crying because she didn't understand why people were being so nice to her.

LOVE: Middle School Food Pantry Makes a Difference

I was opening packages and stocking the shelves of the food pantry with one of the school administrators. A student came into the office and the administrator asked her if she wanted to take a *Sheridan Story* bag home and pick out some items from the pantry. I don't know all the details, but I understand she and her family have gone through some great hardships and face continuing struggles. The girl was uncertain and so I invited her into the pantry and showed her the things that were there for her to choose from. As I was doing this, she lowered her head and started to cry. The administrator brought the girl to the social worker for support. After the girl left, the social worker came to tell me that the girl told her she was crying because she didn't understand why people were being so nice to her. She left school for the weekend with a bag of food from Sheridan and another bag of food from the pantry.

It isn't often that we see the difference this program makes in the lives of the people we serve, and I wanted to share what a big difference this makes for the kids at the middle school. I have cried multiple times thinking of this interaction today – it breaks my heart to think that this 12-year-old girl couldn't understand why people would be kind to her. The tears of sadness are blended with tears of joy - I am so thankful for the generosity of this congregation supporting this much needed service.

Prince of Peace started the food shelf at the middle school in the fall of 2018. The food has been flying off the shelves this year and it seems that participation is increasing as students and staff are becoming more familiar with the service.

—Jennifer Duncan



Fellowship and Fun

LOVE: Take A Seat

Meetings, presentations, and potlucks became much more comfortable (and stylish) this year with the addition of new event seating for our gathering spaces. With generous support from the family of Margaret Sorensen and all the families who dedicated remaining memorial funds to the effort, 200 new stacking chairs have replaced our old folding chairs. 50 of the chairs feature arms for easier transitions and have quickly proven to be favored chairs throughout the building. The congregation's prayers and posteriors blessed the new seating during a community celebration in October and we look forward to the many more comfy sittings to come.



Unpacking the new chairs was like Christmas morning!

LEARN: Older Kids



A field trip to the fire station sounds like something kids would do and it is! The Older Kids Senior Group's February 2019 program was presented by the Roseville Fire Chief Tim O'Neill and David Brosnahan, Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Manager. They told of the variety of the Fire Department's responsibilities and how the list is growing. With the many new senior housing and care centers in the Roseville Area Community often the department is left short staffed to respond to an emergency because of fire fighters being out helping with other responsibilities for the senior population. Additional staff of two or three fire fighters are needed and we were asked to do advocacy work of letting the City Council know that the Roseville Fire Depart-

ment needs to hire more fire fighters. Some went on a tour of Fire Station No. 1, the only fire station in our community. We saw the new ladder truck, the fire pole, the sleeping quarters and showers, their community kitchen, and exercise equipment. You can be sure Roseville's Fire Department Staff is kept in good shape and ready to respond to any call 24/7. We all were sent home with a firefighter's hat. The OK's meet monthly over lunch and delight in fellowship with one another, as well as learning from a guest presenter. —Anne Haugan



LOVE: Lawn Dawgs

The Lawn Dawgs is our outdoor maintenance team. The project of maintaining our grass alone is covered by approximately 15 people doing 200 hours worth of work. That doesn't even include the people and hours put in for tree trimming and maintaining of the multiple gardens. In addition to that, a small army of Cub Scouts and their parents take time each spring to clean up the property in preparation

for the Lawn Dawgs routine. We have a beautiful property, and a sea of volunteers who care for it as if it were their home. We see evidence of love in the work that the Lawn Dawgs do!

—Dave Olson



LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.



LOVE: Community Nights

PoP Community Night continues to be a thriving program. Events like a Hawaiian Luaus, Sock Hops, picnics, movie nights, and game nights bring our community together for an evening of intergenerational fun. These events are such an important aspect of ministry • We connect with, learn from, and grow with friends, neighbors, and even the occasional passer by like John who came bearing a watermelon. • A bunch of middle aged parents can take on a group of young'uns in an intense game of beachball volleyball and even though Anna Miller's competition is fierce, in the end, there's too much laughter to bother with keeping score. • Long-time member Jim Geopfert patiently spends an evening teaching Eric Wetteland to play cribbage and the lessons learned extend beyond the game board. • Socs and Greasers all hang out together dancing the steps to the Bop and Twist of the 50's and the more current day Dab, Floss, and Twerk, compliments of Enna and Claudia. • Barb teaches us that Zentangle is as much about meditation, reflection, and relaxation as it is about art—even when drawn on a pumpkin. • Little hands leave a Hansel and Gretel trail of popcorn through the church to guide all to the big screen where we came together to learn that the Grinch never really stole Christmas at all. • We find joy, laughter, family time, friend time, conversation, and care for one another through relationships and community in a safe and welcoming place. —Erika Wold



LEARN: Elders Rising

Senior Ministry continues to think about serving the needs of older adults in and outside of PoP. In November we had the delight of hosting Rollie Martinson for our Elders Rising event. He talked about pioneering a new epoch in aging, how to use your spiritual gifts as you age, and how much the world needs elders who share their stories, their faith, and their gifts of encouragement. We had a number of guests from neighborhood churches and a good time celebrating the gift of aging and think about purpose in our later years.



LOVE: Seniors Supporting Seniors

A new ministry that was launched this year was Seniors Supporting Seniors, a monthly support group for those over 70. Topics have ranged from gratitude, to transitions, to creativity, and more! This has been an important addition to how we gather to support and grow together as the Body of Christ! —Esther Tatley



Spreading Abundance



The young woman has come into *Soup For You* for a bowl of warm soup, bread, salad, hot coffee, and a respite from the cold. It is apparent that she has been struggling in the cold weather for a while.

Thanks to the microgrant program *Soup for You* (a community soup café in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis) has been stocked with over 300 pairs of warm socks, hand and foot warmers, and mylar blankets. She leaves with new, dry and warm socks and the warmers. Clean, dry socks are very important to a person's health, especially if they are diabetic. Every week when I am volunteering at *Soup for You*, I encounter numerous people who are so grateful for the new socks and the other items that provide warmth. As one guest told me a few weeks ago, "you don't just serve soup here, you serve love".

—Janet Brahier

Microgrants 2019



I took friends to FMSC. I wanted to show people what it feels like to help others in need. I picked FMSC because it is fun to pack food and it is amazing to hear about how many kids you are helping each time you are there. I told each of my friends that they could have an item from the marketplace and then use it to tell others about FMSC. We used some of the money as donations as well. I hope each person I brought will go again and also invite a friend.

—Lyla Burke



I wanted to give basketballs to kids who didn't have them because I think kids should be able to play basketball. It is a good way to pass the time and be active. *Solid Ground* is close to my house. It is an organization that helps families out of homelessness. They have summer programming for kids so parents can be at work. Some basketballs were used in this summer program and some were given to kids as gifts. Thank you for helping kids be happy and active.

—Kieran Burke

In October, the Raising a Reader mission grant began purchasing children's books through Scholastic Book Clubs to distribute to families participating in St. Paul School's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Family Literacy classes. With the support of evidence-based parent engagement, parents learn how to share books with their children both in English and the languages spoken at home. For each dollar spent, Scholastic Books awards bonus points which can be used to purchase additional books, therefore increasing the number of books provided families through the Raising a Reader mission grant. With the grant, we have purchased over 300 books and have almost 3000 bonus points to purchase additional books.

—Barb Burkhardt



LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.

Who is my Neighbor?



and in turn meet others in love.

In the spring participants in the Sunday morning Adult Forum read “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” by Matthew Desmond. Rather than statistics and dollar figures, Desmond tells the stories of people living on the margins and how one job loss or medical expense means a missed rent payment and possible eviction from their homes. The group had lively conversation about what poverty looks like in the Twin Cities and here in Roseville.

This summer we read “The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew— Three Women Search for Understanding,” by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. We gathered over multiple sessions and had vibrant discussions about the journey of three women learning about each other’s faith traditions. The book was a rich example of how to talk about sensitive issues, respect differences, embrace our commonalities, and learn about our different traditions.



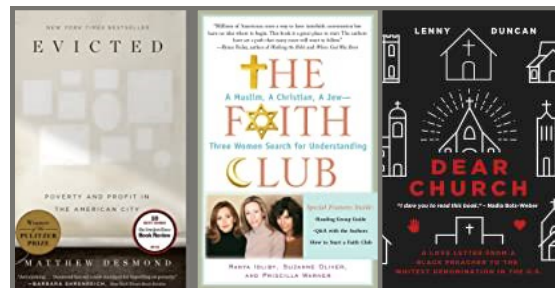
God’s Work Our Hands Sunday –Cleaning up the Park & Selling Lemonade for Lutheran Social Service



LISTEN & LEARN: Book Studies

As a community we use books to listen to others’ voices. We can learn from the authors

This fall we read “Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.” by Rev. Lenny Duncan. This was a powerful book that challenged us to examine our part in white supremacy, nationalism, toxic masculinity, and heteronormity. The readings led to honest and thoughtful conversations about us as a church and how God is calling us into transformation.



Holy Hammers –Habitat for Humanity

Youth & Young Adults

LEARN: Camp Christikon

The first night of staff training everyone goes around the room and shares a few things about themselves. A room full of mostly strangers, we are all anxious for the summer ahead, wondering how we will make friends with each other, how we will lead together, and how we will grow in faith together. The last night of the summer, everyone goes around the room and shares favorite memories from the months past. More often than not, memories are centered around this new family we’ve built—like the time Bella ate a pinecone in a desperate attempt to



Pastor Peter took three youth out to Christikon



Della Christ served as a counselor at Christikon

get her campers to listen; how Phil would always have to run out during the last two minutes of dinner prep to use the bathroom; Olsen in the old brown onesie, trying to convince campers that he is in fact Bigfoot. Twenty-five people spend 11 short weeks together building a radically loving community, knowing and being known by God. It's awesome. —Della Christ

LOVE: MEA Getaway

We are exhausted after another long day at MEA Getaway. We have prayed, eaten, worshiped, and played together. After listening to our guest speaker, Rollie, for the third time we gather at our cabins in small groups.



We’ve learned that in our time together, two of our nine girls were unsure about their belief in God before coming on this retreat. Tonight, however, something seems different. So I offer the question to them, and both girls indicate that they think God is real. They are interested in pursuing a relationship with Jesus. Praise God! MEA Getaway is 1:00am bedtime. It is 9:15 breakfast. It is free time, hot tubs, archery tag, coffee shop, climbing wall, and JESUS. MEA Getaway is the recipe for sharing Christ with teenagers.

—Cori Forcey

LEARN: NYC Youth Mission Trip

This summer we found that life in the Big Apple was both amazingly different, and amazingly the same as Suburban Minnesota. Nine of our youth joined youth from St. Luke's in Bloomington to bring VBS to two churches in New York City. One of the highlights of the trip was when we were invited to the home of a member in Queens. We found a house with a garage and a backyard much like what we can find in Roseville. The backyard was set up like a graduation party with tents, tables and chairs, and a HUGE buffet table. Once we arrived, Pastor Bob led us in song and prayer and shared a brief message. Then we indulged in the amazing food that this kind family had prepared. The family that was hosting us, like much of Bob's congregation was from Guyana. The food they prepared reflected their South American heritage and it was delicious!



LISTEN: Generosity Committee

Rose Diestler provides us with a great example of generosity. Rose was an artist, a woman of faith, and a woman with much love to share. She has also inspired generosity among those at Prince of Peace today. The sale of the belongings was executed by Andrea Clepper, Tammy Jackson, and PoP youth. The volunteer hours put into making the sale possible were im-

mense and greatly appreciated. The hours and consideration put in by the Generosity Committee are also greatly appreciated. This committee was formed in 2018 to discern how to best use the bequest of Prince of Peace member Rose Diestler, who joined the church triumphant in April 2018. Rose bequeathed to the congregation her home, all of its contents, her car, and about \$500,000 in investments. After significant work in the selling of Rose's estate, home, and car, the current cash bal-

ance is about \$760,000. The committee is now engaged in creating a recommendation for congregational consideration on the best use of these funds.



Estate Sale at Rose Diestler's home

LOVE: Caring Congregation

As I look back over this past year I am overwhelmed by the way this congregation steps up to care for one another. Whether it is serving lunch at funerals, Befriender visits, prayer shawls, or praying for those in need, this is a congregation that cares and I'm honored to be one part of that work. When I think about the care ministry of this place I think about long time member, Maureen Dudley, who passed away this year. Maureen shared love, music, her presence, and friendship with us at church for many years. In her last years, Prince of Peace members visited her at her home, brought her flowers and cards, enjoyed music and stories with her. This is what congregational love looks like. We give and receive and find out that we are all gifts to each other, no matter our age or ability. At her memorial service we came together to give thanks to God for her and our relationship with her. We prayed, sang, cried, and laughed. And then we ate. We shared a meal, prepared, served, and cleaned up

by the people of Prince of Peace. That day is just one example of how we as the church share the love of God with each other! —Pastor Ruth



Caroling at care centers



Jan in her Prayer Shawl



Cards for homebound members



Filling backpacks with weekend food at Central Park Elementary



Do Justice.
Love Kindness.
Walk humbly
with your God.
Micah 6:8

LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.



LOVE: Painting Ceiling Tiles

"I want to paint giants," says 3-year-old Warren Lehman. "How about David and Goliath?" asks his mom. "Yes, yes, that one!" he exclaims.

Forty people ages 3 through retirement painted their favorite Bible story on ceiling tiles that people can see as they are coming into worship. This project was the culmination of our year of "Telling our Story" where we heard stories from the narrative lectionary from Genesis through the New Testament. The rainbow images in the sanctuary inspired multiple people including Barb Lyman to paint various aspects of the Noah's Ark story. Other paintings included Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem by Ali Immerman, Jesus in the wilderness by Ashwini Sandanakaye, and many more!



LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE: Making Music Together

PoP music ministry is an instrument through which we listen, learn, and love. With four different regular music groups, listening is a must. Listening to each other, listening to the intonation, listening to the beat, not to mention, if no one listens to the music being made, there is hardly a reason for making it. Rehearsing and learning through the music selections offers opportunities for growing musically and in relationship. Love is at the core of all things music! Music invites people to love one another, and breaks down barriers. In 2019, Bells of Peace collaborated with other musicians to create beautiful works including intergenerational percussion ensemble of Gary Olson and Sofia and Micah Sethi playing *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*. All the musicians at Prince of Peace share their love for this community through the countless hours of rehearsals and worship. Kathy Tunseth, Milt Warkentien, and Melissa Burke keep our musicians inspired to listen, learn, and love through the ministry of music!



Children and Youth



LEARN: Vacation Bible School

"Hey! We're on our way to Mars." This is the first line in the chorus of our theme song for VBS this past summer. I traveled *To Mars and Beyond* four times this past summer. In June we assisted with VBS at St. Luke's in Bloomington. We then took it to NYC and shared it with two churches there. By the time August rolled around, we were expertly

prepared to share it with the children of Prince of Peace. VBS offers not only fun and learning for our elementary kids, but it is a great opportunity for our middle school and high school youth to provide



"We're on our way to Mars!"

leadership. We welcomed children from our church, our community, and Caterpillar daycare. We taught them Bible stories and the values of faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness, and hope, in order to refuel a neigh-

boring spaceship so they could return

home. Day 1 we introduced the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. The song that accompanied this was "Roar." We praised God with these words that I still have stuck in my head: "I will not be shaken, I will not be moved, all my hope is in you... even when the lion ROARS!" Ask me sometime, and I'll even teach you the actions. —Cori Forcey



LEARN: Foundations

What's in a name? We find a level of identity in names. Last year we had our high school youth come up with a name for Wednesday night youth group, and they became *PoP Rocks*. 7th-12th grade Sunday Morning Ministry doesn't have much of a ring to it, so we decided it also needed its own name. It became *Foundations*. *Foundations* is where our youth can ask hard questions and explore what it is like to live life in Christ. They meet in the newly updated Triangle Room located adjacent to the gym, and discuss all sorts of topics related to life and faith. They consider how a relationship with God impacts life at school and home, or how followers of Christ respond to immigration policy. All youth are welcome and encouraged to join!



LISTEN. LEARN. LOVE.



Acting out Bible stories



Creating oil lamps



LISTEN: Sunday School

Sunday morning at 9:40 is a lively time downstairs and each week is a bit different. The Sunday School lesson relates to the same story heard in worship that day. One particular Sunday, Jesus tells a story about ten bridesmaids who wait all night for a bridegroom to come, but he is late and half of them run out of oil for their lamps. "What's an oil lamp?" one student asks. Pastor Betsy smiles. She doesn't need to explain an oil lamp to them because the activity for that day is a science experiment of making their own oil lamps. The students get to try different kinds of oil and different wick materials to see which ones burn the brightest. Suddenly, this isn't just an abstract story but an experience they will remember for a long time.



LOVE: Confirmation

"Give us this day our daily bread..."

These are words that we say so often but may not think about what they mean. The 7th & 8th grade confirmation students spent a day immersed in the Lord's Prayer. The day began with sorting rotten potatoes from good ones at Second Harvest (while collecting misshapen ones for the funny potato contest). It was hard work but they really got into it. At first they didn't see "potatoes" as "bread," but then they read Martin Luther's explanation about "daily bread" being all of our daily needs.

In the afternoon they dove into the story of the widow of Zarahphath who planned to make a small loaf of bread with her last morsels of food to feed her son. Elijah convinced her to feed him too and there



Second Harvest Heartland- Confirmation Students

was enough! When asked, "Why are we reading this story?" one of the students responded, "It's about food insecurity in the Bible!"
—Pastor Betsy



Confirmation Retreat

Intergenerational Ministry

LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE: Intergenerational Sundays

Once a month we join as all ages to serve together, learn together, and just be together!



LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE: Intergenerational Fall Retreat

Worship with puppets, a game show, and an impromptu dialogue between Moses and God really only takes place in one setting: camp. As part of the fall retreat, we worship together on Saturday night. Part of the fun we plan: our confirmation students used puppets and a quiz to teach us the Ten Commandments. Part of the fun you cannot plan: six year old Elie plays Moses conversing with God played by youth director Cori. They recited the conversation at the burning bush as if it were rehearsed. This is the sort of fun that takes place on the fall retreat. The fellowship is unlike any other. It feels like a large family gathering with joy in just being with one another. There is joy in caring for the many children. There is joy in playing games together. There is joy in having conversations with old and new friends. Of course, there is also joy in the crafts that were done! Mostly, it reminds us of how God cares for us through the people in our lives. What a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the community that we have here at Prince of Peace!



Bomalang'ombe Tanzania



Visit to Bomalang'ombe June 2019

Our Advent theme of "Prepare to be Amazed" could easily have applied to our partnership with Bomalang'ombe Tanzania this year. When our vehicle approached Bomalang'ombe last June we were prepared for a wonderful greeting and were amazed to be met well before we reached the village by an escort of several 'pikipiki' (motorcycles) decorated with flowers and ribbons that led us to a parade of villagers waving branches and singing songs of welcome. Greetings of "Karibuni wageni!" (welcome guests) were shouted by old friends and new as we joined them in the parade.

We were prepared to see the newly finished house for the pastor – funds from Prince of Peace had recently been used to help with the 'finishing touches' - and were amazed to find out that we were to be the first people to stay overnight there! We were prepared to give and receive gifts during an enthusiastic Sunday morning worship service and were amazed when we received dresses and shirts that had been custom made for each of us. We were prepared to visit the new preaching point of Mangalali and had come prepared with a new banner for them and were amazed to receive the gift of a chicken from them and to find out that Bomalang'ombe is planning yet another preaching



New Preaching Point

point and that the Vikongwa preaching point has grown so large that they plan to spin off and become their own congregation! We were prepared to see some destruction of houses and businesses in town due to a new modern road and were amazed to see new storefronts owned by some of our congregation members and to hear that even in the midst of destruction and loss they have faith that a new modern road will bring opportunity and growth. We were prepared to meet members of the Iringa Hope SACCOS and AMCOS (micro finance and agricultural cooperative) and were amazed to be able meet in their new building that includes offices and space for crop storage, and to hear wonderful stories of how this initiative has improved the lives



Huruma Center



Worshipping with our partner congregation



Widow's Goat Project



Batik Paraments made by Linda Olson



—Caryn Josephson

19th Annual Tanzania Dinner



of their families. We were prepared to hear from the widows about their goat project and were amazed to hear one of the widows telling everyone that her goat is now giving milk, that she has been drinking the milk and that it's healthy and delicious! We were prepared to meet with the women's batik group and were amazed to be given a demonstration on how to make a batik and to hear of their hopes and plans to purchase additional equipment and new markets for their cloth. We were prepared to meet with some of our prayer partners and were amazed to find several more members who became prayer partners with Pastor Betsy Hoium and Lea Thornton – and to receive many greetings to send back to prayer partners at home. We were prepared to meet some of the students who are receiving scholarships and were amazed to meet Ombi Mponzi who is now a nursing student at Ilula Nursing school. Ombi is the son of the late Pastor Mponzi and was a recipient of 6 years of Prince of Peace scholarships. Ombi and his sister Tumlaki were also residents at the Huruma Center orphanage and Ombi's nursing program is being funded through a Friends of Huruma scholarship. God is truly doing amazing work through our partnership with Bomalang'ombe! Bwana Asifiwe! Praise be to God!