



June 2026

Official Monthly Newsletter
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool
9320 Meadow Way, Everett, WA 98208

A Word From Our Pastor

**“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”
(James 4:10)**

Pride is the real problem. When the medieval church began to talk about the 7 deadly sins, pride was not specifically listed because it was thought to be the foundation of all sin. Martin Luther defined sin as unbelief and the condition of being “curved in on oneself” (*incurvatus in se*), which leads all humans to turn away from God and put self over others. And so, to counter our natural sinful pride, the word of God tells us to be humble: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you” (ESV). We stare at the verse and think, “If only I can look humble, not only will people see me as a good Christian, but I will also be exalted—hopefully in the eyes of everyone who can see how humble I am.” So, the call to be humble is also a problem because our sinful nature craves for exaltation and turns humility into a performance we can act out.

In C.S. Lewis’s *The Screwtape Letters*, the temptation to look humble is discussed as one of the most effective demonic traps. Screwtape, the senior tempting supervisor, tells his disciple that it occurs when a person becomes aware of their own humility. And, once they can see how “humble” they are, they begin to silently congratulate themselves for it. And just like that, a genuine virtue is transformed into a snare of spiritual pride. So, pride is still the real problem even when we try to “humble ourselves”. And, in that same chapter of the book, Lewis says that real humility is found in self-forgetfulness.

That thought caught my attention months ago, and so I began reading Timothy Kellor’s book, “The Freedom of Self-forgetfulness: The Path to True Christian Joy”. Our church book club has just finished reading it together. I would recommend it to the congregation. It’s only three chapters long and costs about \$1.49 on Kindle. Kellor maintains that the chief problem of pride is a wounded ego—that part of us that is empty and needs to be filled up. What is it seeking to be filled with? Approval from others. Appreciation from others. Status among others. An exalted identity higher than the rest.

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June 2026						
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Sunday Worship is at 9:30 AM
You can stream weekly Worship & Children’s Messages online at pplc.org

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PPLC Staff

- Pastor** Gib Botten
- Preschool Director:** Carol Guanzon
- Church Office:** Lauryn Brunskill
- Preschool Office:** Kelly Reynolds
- Children’s & Youth Ministry:** Lauryn Brunskill
- Audio-Visual:** Kevin Lord
- Organist:** Linda Walter
- Treasurer:** Jennifer Pidduck
- Custodian:** Sandra Barajas

Contact Us

425-337-6663
churchoffice@pplc.org
pplc.org

Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

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And, of course, if we can “act” humble in front of others, we can be exalted in their eyes. Our egos will never be satisfied through our own efforts. Our pride is insatiable. Pride cares what others think of us—even though we may deny it. It also cares about what we think of ourselves. But this is all a trap and pride remains the problem.

Kellor says that true Christian freedom and joy comes from self-forgetfulness. This means not caring what others think about us. It also includes not caring what we think about ourselves. He quotes St Paul in I Corinthians 4:3-4, who says, “I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.” It’s not that Paul is unaware of his sins. He knows he is a sinner and, at one point, tells people that he is the “worst of sinners”. Now this is the gospel point. What does Paul know about how the Lord judges him? What he knows is that the Son of God died for his sins and that therefore his sin has been put to death and that Christ now lives in him. His approval, appreciation, status, identity, and ego has been filled to the brim with the Lord. It was God’s approval all along that mattered anyway, and he has it.

And all of us who believe in Jesus have God’s approval, too! Jesus Christ became sin for us and took the totality of our sin to the cross on our behalf. And, through his sacrifice, we have been declared not guilty—loved and approved of by God—God’s child—a prince or princess of the Kingdom of God. We no longer need to fill up our empty and wounded egos. They are already filled up. We no longer need to protect our sacred personal identities. Our ultimate identity is safe in Christ. We can find freedom in self-forgetfulness. Read Kellor’s book. You’ll love it.

Pastor Gib Botten

Men’s Fellowship

**Meeting on Saturday,
June 20th at 9 AM
in the Fellowship Hall**

All men of the congregation are welcome to join in!



Contact
Matthew
Thorsteinson
with any
questions.

Prime Timers Potluck Lunch

“The Over 50 Group”

*Join us Thursday, June 11th at
noon in the Fellowship Hall*

The topic will be:

*“The Joy of Color : How Color
Enhances Our Lives”*

*This will be the last Prime
Timers until September.*

JOIN US FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



Exploring the Nature of God

Contact Connie Smith for more information about volunteering & questions while Lauryn is on leave!

JULY 27TH - 31ST
5:30-8:30 PM EACH NIGHT
AGES 4 YEARS BY JULY 27 (MUST BE POTTY-TRAINED) THRU ENTERING 6TH GRADE



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

9320 Meadow Way, Everett, WA 98208
425-337-6663 churchoffice@pplc.org

For more info & to register:
pplc.org or scan QR code



OUR 2026 ALBANIA TEAM!

Pastor Gib and Denise Botten
& Pastor Phil and Carolyn Lee will be
leaving at the end of June for Albania

Please be praying for the 19 team members
from across America as they prepare for their mission trip!

If you are so led, you may give financially in either of these ways:

- During the month of May, make a check out to Spiritual Orphans Network and place in the offering. Funds collected will be sent and evenly divided between our 4 Prince of Peace team members. Please do not put our names on the check.

OR

- Go to Sonetwork.org. On the main page scroll down to the 2026 Team Member Support box and click. Go to the drop-down box and locate team members. Botten's and Lee's are listed separately.



Your gift not only helps pay for team member travel, food, and lodging expenses, but also pays for student tuition and supplies!



Committee Highlights

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR COMMITTEES?

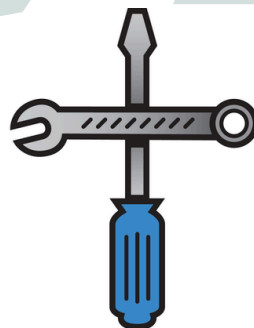
This month we are featuring the Property & Maintenance!

The Property and Maintenance Committee basically takes care of the church property: the landscaping and the exterior and interior of the building. We try to react quickly to needed repairs from changing light bulbs to major fixes, such as the Sanctuary and Narthex lighting repair. We also obtain bids for needed outside work. Currently we are receiving bids for landscaping the yard at the back of the church and the cleaning and repair under the Preschool Luther Building.

We sponsor Clean-Up Days in coordination with the Men's Fellowship when we pressure wash exterior walls, maybe paint and perform landscaping and other tasks. We rely on volunteer help as much as possible and appreciate all the work done. We have special people that show up when needed and get the job done; often no one even knows there was a problem.

If you see a repair is needed, you can call the Church Office or Preschool and they will inform us. We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who helps maintain our church property.

Rod Gust, Chair Property and Maintenance Committee



**CHURCH
MAINTENANCE**



Prince of Peace Preschool & Academy



Wonderful changes are taking place at Prince of Peace Preschool & Academy!

Recently, Church Council approved a new logo made by our director, Carol Guanzon, and our PPLC.org website is under construction to reflect the awesome work God is doing in our growing preschool! Your prayers are needed now more than ever as this year comes to a close and we prepare for the anticipation and excitement of 2026-2027!

In May, the teachers were blessed by the gifts and treats parents brought in for the teacher appreciation celebration, and the super hero themed Mother's Day event was a smash hit! A heartfelt thanks to all who made these events a success!



Ms. Carol, Pastor Gib, and Ms. Kelly at the preschool Mother's Day celebration



Ms. Carol leading chapel time



Summer Book Club

The Book Club will continue to meet this summer on Tuesdays at 2PM. Each week they will be reading a chapter from Daniel and having a casual discussion time following. All are welcome to join!

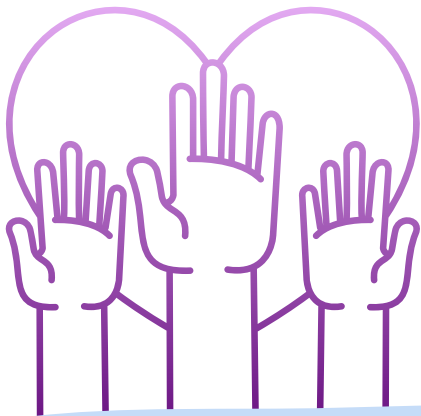


YOUTH & EDUCATION NEWS

- **Monthly Teen Bible Study Lunch – Sunday, June 28th** around 11 AM. All teenagers are invited! Please contact Matthew Thorsteinson with questions.



Interested in Volunteering at PPLC?



Consider volunteering in our various ministries!

- **Greeting and Ushering** – talk with Pr. Gib or Rod Gust
- **Children’s Ministry** – such as teaching Sunday School, VBS, etc!
- **Homebound Visitations** – talk with Pr. Gib about our diaconal ministry!
- **Hospitality** – sign up to make coffee and bring goodies for fellowship hour after worship!
- + many other committees & opportunities – contact the church office or Pr. Gib if you’re interested!

Ways to Give at Prince of Peace



Bill Pay through your bank



online at pplc.org



Vanco Mobile App



with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA

Council Corner & Financial Update

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Council

President: Steve Peterson
Vice President: Dan Hughes
Secretary: Wendy Beard

Linda Fargo
Lynn Junell
Bill Kann
Arne Sandvik
Camie Embacher
Phil Lee
David Miles

Pastor: Pr. Gib Botten
Treasurer: Jennifer Pidduck



The Executive Committee of the Council (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Pastor) meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The Church Council meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month via Zoom.

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE as of 5/06/2026			
INCOME	FEB	MARCH	APRIL
General Offering	\$11,218.00	\$18,904.00	\$19,192.10
Electronic Offering	\$4,801.19	\$4,947.54	\$4,760.09
Thrivent Choice	\$557.00	\$0.00	\$192.00
Fred Meyer Rewards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$60.00	\$505.00	\$0.00
Christmas Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Interest Earnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
VOA Offering	\$0.52	\$0.56	\$0.77
Facilities Use (Rentals)	\$2,660.00	\$7,380.00	\$300.00
Facilities Use-Memorials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annuity Income	\$2,466.25	\$2,466.25	\$2,466.25
Total Operating Income	\$21,762.96	\$34,203.35	\$27,111.21
Budgeted Expenses	\$27,197.90	\$25,516.49	\$20,958.01
Operating Income less Esp.	(\$5,434.94)	\$8,686.86	\$6,153.20

FUND BALANCES YEAR-TO-DATE			
General Fund	\$78,304.16	\$86,991.02	\$93,150.28
Youth Fund	\$9,068.47	\$9,068.47	\$8,970.47
Saefke Fund	\$21,259.51	\$21,259.51	\$21,259.51
Member Relief Fund	\$500.63	\$500.63	\$500.63
Memorial Fund	\$7,297.21	\$7,297.21	\$7,297.21
Endowment Fund	\$57,401.39	\$57,515.87	\$56,642.62
Men's Fellowship Fund	\$41.45	(\$140.72)	\$248.28
Women's Ministry *	\$1,174.21	\$1,174.21	\$2,562.68
Capital Facilities Fund	\$43,740.37	\$43,740.37	\$45,240.37
Capital Reserves Fund	\$8,370.11	\$8,370.11	\$8,370.11
Short-Term Missions	\$7,390.00	\$8,390.00	\$8,390.00
Preschool Balances	\$107,369.00	\$108,884.00	\$109,641.00

Let us pray for the whole people of God...

Prayer is powerful! Please call or email the church office (425-337-6663 or churchoffice@pplc.org) with prayer request additions or updates. Names will remain on the list for about a month unless updated/renewed.

Al – Mindy Staudinger’s father who has worsening heart failure.

Andrea Miles – daughter of Dave & Debbie Miles, dealing with asthma & influenza A, prayers for her recovery.

Cherry Hughes – Dan & Sandy Hughes’ daughter-in-law, diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. She will be having CT done and deciding her course of treatment from there.

Deanna – Blayne Cundall’s mother, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, still awaiting tests to determine treatment.

Debbie – Charlotte Kaiser’s daughter is finishing up with her cancer treatments and is doing well! Prayers for the last few treatments.

Heidi Fosse – daughter of Dan and Sandy Hughes and grandmother of Ellie and Arliss, who has received news that she is cancer free!

Jacque Perry – She is recovering well in the care facility she now lives in Martha Lake.

Julia – Dave Miles’ sister has been hospitalized for a heart issue. She’s going through tests now to find the cause.

Julie Hughes – daughter-in-law of Dan and Sandy Hughes who had emergency surgery over Mother’s Day weekend for gallstones. Praise that she is feeling better and mending well!

Kailey – granddaughter of Dave and Debbie Miles who continues to suffer from severe abominable pain as well as back pain from a prior car accident. Pray for relief, healing, and God’s comfort.

Larry Werner – Larry is currently unconscious in comfort care at Providence. Prayers for his wife, Karen, and their family as Larry passes into the Church Triumphant.

Mark – grandson of Dan and Sandy Hughes who had a second seizure. Prayers for him and his family as he goes on seizure meds and determines his next steps.

Mia Popkins – prayers for Mia, who is a student of Jennifer Pidduck, as her family has begun hospice care for her.

Mitchell Thompson – grandson of Dan & Sandy Hughes, on dialysis 3x a week, awaiting a kidney donor. We thank God that he now has a job and appreciates having something useful to do.

Phil Lee – Prayers for continued improvement for his health.

Teresa Heimbigner – Prayers for her continued cancer journey.

Tom – Lurlene Grannan’s brother-in-law diagnosed with kidney cancer and has also been diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Pray for healing, comfort and God’s presence.

Tim Lee – Phil & Carolyn Lee’s son, prayers as he continues to heal from his bicycle accident and praise that it looks like he will be back to work in August.

Tim Meehan – friend of Camie Embacher, pray for his comfort as he suffers pain from cancer treatments.

Tyrell – son of Steve Peterson’s cousin, who is in the final stages of brain cancer. We pray for his wife, who has been diagnosed with cancer as well with a prognosis that is not promising, and the family who are stepping up to support Tyrell, his wife, and their two children in this time.

Serving in the Military:

Andre Fahim – Lindsay Fahim’s husband (Lurlene Grannan’s granddaughter), serving in the USAF.

Dante Guadagnoli – Andrea Miles’ friend, serving in the US Navy on Middle East deployment.

Davin Arellano – Leif & Stephanie Hylback’s nephew, serving in the US Marines in San Diego.

Garret Mayo – close friend of Davin Arellano, nephew of Leif & Stephanie Hylback, who is deployed to the Middle East.

Ian Pidduck – Alex Pidduck’s brother, serving in the US Navy in Sicily, Italy.



Kailin Rime & husband Nathan Duffy – Tom & Donna Dickson’s niece, serving in the USAF.

Kyle Warner – Debbie Miles’ cousin, serving in the US Navy.

Steve Vranish – Andrea (Miles) Vranish’s husband, at sea with the Merchant Marines.



June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00am Quilting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	2 2:00pm Book Club	3	4 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	5 6:00pm Miracles Happen Meeting	6 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church
7 8:30am Worship Band Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Kid's Sunday School 10:40am Adult Sunday School 1:30pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	8 4:30pm Missional Concerns & Evangelism Meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music Meeting	9 2:00pm Book Club 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	10	11 10:00am Prayer Group 11:30am Pre-K Graduation 12:00pm Prime Timers 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church Lauryn is back!	12 6:00pm Miracles Happen Meeting	13 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church
14 8:30am Worship Band Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Kid's Sunday School 10:40am Adult Sunday School 1:30pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	15 10:00am Quilting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	16 2:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Council Meeting	17	18 10:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Preschool Graduation 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	19 Juneteenth 6:00pm Miracles Happen Meeting 5-7PM VBS Craft Night 	20 9:00am Men's Fellowship 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church
21 Happy Father's Day! 8:30am Worship Band Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Kid's Sunday School 10:40am Adult Sunday School 1:30pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	22 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 	23 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 2:00pm Book Club	24 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip	25 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	26 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 6:00pm Miracles Happen Meeting	27 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 7:00pm Ukrainian Baptist Church
28 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 8:30am Worship Band Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:40am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Teen Bible Study Lunch 1:30pm Ukrainian Baptist Church	29 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip	30 12:00am Albania 2026 Trip 2:00pm Book Club			