



Pastor's Message:

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. Jesus - John 10:10

What does it mean to you to be “a person of faith?” How does what you believe about God/Jesus/Church impact your day to day living? Is your faith something that comes out only on Sundays when you come to church? Do you feel a sense of God’s presence on a regular basis? Do the teachings of Jesus effect your daily choices?

If your answer to most of these questions was no, please don’t feel guilty! We don’t work in guilt equations around here. I ask these questions as a sort of assessment for how you understand your faith and its impact on your daily living. As a rostered leader in the ELCA, I have access to our church’s Health and Benefits program. A few years ago, they created this colorful little model for us called the Wholeness Wheel. As you can see, it is a way of understanding our faith life as something deeply intertwined with all aspects of our being.



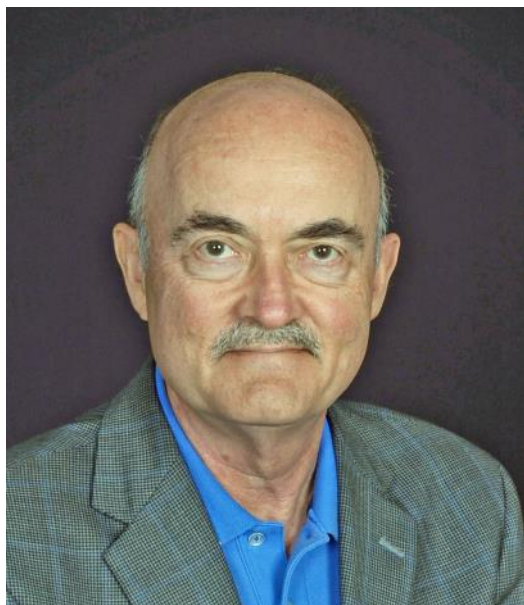
Throughout the 4 gospels, Jesus speaks widely on what it means to have faith in God. From how we spend our money to our interpersonal relationships, Jesus has much to say about the all-encompassing (and somewhat all-consuming) changes that occur when people are swept up in following him. As people who live in a culture and society that values busy-ness and full schedules as proof of how important we are, it can seem exhausting to imagine that our faith and its manifestation are more than just an hour on Sundays. But what Jesus offers in the gospels and in his conversations with others is exactly what you see in the center of the Wholeness Wheel...the freedom to be a New Creation! What this means is that We may live in an over-scheduled, high-achieving kind of valley, but also, we need not count our worth in those ways. Jesus and God call us to balanced lives that understand the gift of health and wholeness not just in our vocations and finances, but also in our interpersonal relationships, our intellectual well-being, our physical bodies, and our emotional health. When any one of these areas of our lives are not nurtured, it can leave us feeling out of sorts, imbalanced, stressed, and/or lost.

Over the next year of our time together during Sunday FED time, we will be focusing our Sundays together on one of the aspects of the Wholeness Wheel. We hope that this will serve to give shape to your faith growth and help you key in on certain Sunday FED times that will be most helpful for you and your faith. In addition, if you have any requests for FED topics for the year, send them my way! I look forward to the ways that we will grow in our faith together that we each may have life more abundantly!

Peace,
Pastor Sara

Featured Ministry: Music

POP STAFF PROFILE: KERRY LEWIS



Some of you may have noticed that I'm listed on the back page of the Sunday bulletin as a member of the POP staff: specifically, as *Staff Music Associate*. This article explains the duties involved in this position. What I

do is related to the POP music program, obviously. The position has three main components: filling in for Barbara as choir director when required, managing the music library, and writing/arranging music for performance at POP.

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTOR

Most of you have seen me directing the choir on a Sunday morning. I do this (and lead Thursday evening choir rehearsals) when Music Director Barbara is out of town, or indisposed, or perhaps rehearsing the San Jose Chamber Orchestra or another local ensemble. So *Assistant Choir Director* is one of my staff duties.

Having me available to work with the choir like this – sometimes on short notice – gives Barbara more flexibility in planning other conducting jobs, such as her annual gig with the Rimrock Opera in Billings MT, or the occasional San Jose Chamber Orchestra rehearsals scheduled for Thursday evenings.

I enjoy working with the choir, and I don't consider it a difficult task! I know everyone in the choir of course, since I've sung in it for over 15 years, and they're all accustomed to working with me. Plus I'm already familiar with most of the music that Barbara programs.

Though my conducting skills are not on the same level as Barbara, I have lots of previous experience

conducting church choirs and school choirs. And, of course, the formal musical training I received at San Jose State and Stanford. Choral music is a special love of mine, and I'm glad to be involved in a way that goes beyond just singing in the choir.

MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Since I was a kid I've loved to organize things. Books, records, CDs, magazine articles, printed music, tools... And – oh yes – ask me about the thousands of family photos I've mounted in new archival albums and logged on a spreadsheet!

So 4 or 5 years ago when I fully realized that most of the music in the POP choir room was not filed or indexed, my mission became clear! I'd had enough experience working with music libraries to know *how* the task should be approached: storage boxes for all the choral octavos, a logical numbering system for everything, a spread sheet to log and sort all entries, and a plan for physically storing all the music in the choir room. The initial task was nearly overwhelming, with hundreds of choral pieces to process. But – hey! – by this time I had retired from my day job and was ready for a challenge.

Some of you may remember the time 2 or 3 years ago when I could be found with my laptop and marking pens at church on weekday mornings sorting through piles of music in the choir room or in the narthex. Oh, and then there was also the hymn arrangements, instrumental music, and solo voice music. The initial indexing took months, but now it's done! If you peek in the choir room, you can see how all the numbered boxes are organized in the cabinets. And on top of the cabinets is an alphabetized printout of the spreadsheet, so any piece can be located instantly.

The music librarian job is still there, but now it's much easier: re-filing music after it's been performed, adding new pieces to the library as needed, and keeping everything tidy in the choir room. What a snap!

One reason this music organizing project was so satisfying is that I know it saves Barbara a lot of time

when she's looking for music she wants to use with the choir. And anything that makes Barbara's life easier is something that's well worth doing!

COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Most of you have probably heard pieces of mine performed on Sunday mornings at POP, or at San Jose Chamber Orchestra concerts. I've been writing music since I was in junior high and now, with my "day job" behind me, I've embraced composing and arranging as my main creative activity. (Check out my composer web page at www.jwpepper.com/myscore/kerrylewis.)

I especially enjoy writing anthems and other music for the church. On several occasions Barbara has commissioned me to write new pieces for the choir. For example, "Come Sing a Song of Harvest" for choir, brass, and organ, which we've performed a couple of times at community Thanksgiving services. Or "Transforming God, Renewing Christ," a Reformation Day piece that we premiered four years ago.

At other times, Barbara has programmed existing pieces of mine, such as my arrangement of Luther's "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," which we sang for Reformation Day in 2017, and "I Am Your Vessel," which we sang for summer choir this year.

For Holy Week and Christmas Barbara often asks Mike Touchi and me to write new hymn arrangements or hymn introductions. And if we have visiting instrumentalists she sometimes asks us to add a part for their instrument to an existing published piece that we're performing. This type of work is satisfying because it enriches the music that we present to the congregation.

More recently, I've tried my hand at writing hymn texts – specifically, the verses about Shiphra/Puah and Rahab during Pastor Sara's recent sermon series. Who knows what will come next? I am totally ready to launch into new musical projects that will glorify God and enrich our worship at Prince of Peace.

TANZANIA FUNDRAISER CONCERT



New Life Band Concert

The New Life Band is an outreach organization of the New Life Foundation in Tanzania. Their mission is to support a school and medical services in their home country, while spreading the gospel of God's love through music.

There will be a fundraiser concert at Prince of Peace **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11.**

Learn more at newlifeband.org.

Look for sign-ups to host a band member, etc in the Narthex.

CONCERT FOR THE HOMELESS

The Henry Mollicone composed and directed Beatitude Mass for the Homeless concert raised \$3000 for our homeless ministry programs. Most of those attending the concert and donating were from outside Prince of Peace.



CHOIR

Still welcomes new members who are interested in vocal music, regardless of skill level, to join anytime. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room.

Special Message from former Intern Amanda



To my dear friends at Prince of Peace!

Greetings in the name of Christ!

It is with great excitement that I write to you to invite you to participate in a campaign for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) called #proclaim300.

Proclaim is a ministry of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries - where I currently serve as Executive Director. Proclaim is a professional community of publicly-out LGBTQIA+ pastors, deacons, and seminarians that provides fellowship, support, and enrichment through their advocacy, regional and national gatherings, and support groups.

I was a member of Proclaim long before I became the ED of ELM. As a ministry, it helped me tremendously as I was going through seminary. It made such a difference to me to be able to have a community of LGBTQIA+ folks that I could talk to to process my personal identity as well as my pastoral and professional identities. The support systems in place through Proclaim helped me navigate my way in a church that was just opening itself to publicly LGBTQIA+ leaders.

We're excited that this fall, we anticipate that we will welcome our 300th member of proclaim! This is an enormous milestone for our organization and for the church - this means there are 300 publicly out LGBTQIA+ leaders who are dedicating their lives to calls to public service! This means that LGBTQIA+ folks are feeling more and more free and able to say "yes" to God's call - even in a church that for so long said "no" to their leadership.

To celebrate this milestone, ELM has created a campaign called #Proclaim300 and the campaign has three goals: to celebrate, to raise friends, and to raise funds. We're hoping to get 300 people to donate \$300 and we have asked our Proclaim members to reach

out to people and places that have made an impact on their ministries - so, of course I thought of you all!

Prince of Peace was one of the first places I felt free and able to step into my pastoral and professional identities knowing that my personal identity, as a queer woman, would be held with love and respect. You helped me become the leader I am today and I think about our ministries together with great fondness and joy!

I am writing today to see if you would be willing and able to join us in this #Proclaim300 campaign? Would you be willing to donate \$300 (or more)?

We recognize that some congregations may be able to afford a gift like this out of their annual budget; but some may be interested in taking a special offering or raising funds in another creative way. I would just hope that you would do what works best for you!

My wife, Tasha, and I have made a \$300 gift to this campaign in honor of you I would love to have you join us in giving!

If you have any questions about this campaign, I would be more than happy to answer them! Please give my love to everyone in your midst!

Thanks for your consideration!

With great fondness!

Amanda
Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Executive Director

WAYS TO GIVE TO PROCLAIM 300:

Write a check to Prince of Peace, write ELM on the memo line BY OCTOBER 15th.

Mail directly to ELM: ELM; PO Box 14317; Chicago, IL 60614-8503

Give online: <https://www.elm.org/proclaim300>



WHAT DOES "LGBTQIA+" STAND FOR EXACTLY?

If you're just learning about sexuality, gender, and all these other things, they can be a little hard to remember. This acronym not only serves as a symbol of our movement for rights, but even as a memory tool for those who need a little help.

L - Lesbian. Lesbian is a term used to refer to homosexual females.

G - Gay. Gay is a term used to refer to homosexuality, a homosexual person, or a homosexual male.

B - Bisexual. Bisexual is when a person is attracted to two sexes/genders.

T - Trans. Trans is an umbrella term for transgender and transsexual people.

Q - Queer/Questioning. Queer is an umbrella term for all of those who are not heterosexual and/or cis-gender. Questioning is when a person isn't 100% sure of their sexual orientation and/or gender, and are trying to find their true identity.

I - Intersex. Intersex is when a person has an indeterminate mix of primary and secondary sex characteristics.

A - Asexuality. Asexuality is when a person experiences no (or little, if referring to demisexuality or grey-asexuality) sexual attraction to people.

+ - The "+" symbol simply stands for all of the other sexualities, sexes, and genders that aren't included in these few letters.

From: <https://lgbtqiainfo.weebly.com>

CONFERENCE ROOM UPDATES



In the last few weeks, Brian Davis and Michael Tews initiated a make-over of our Conference room. The room received a fresh coat of paint in a light, bright color. In addition, some of the furniture was moved, junk was cleared out, and a nice arm chair was moved into one corner of the room. Why would we put an arm chair in a conference room? To create a place where parents can feed a baby when they are on campus. The joy room is a great place for being noisy, but not helpful when you need a quiet place.

To help us maintain this space please do not leave anything in the Conference room.



Theology in the Pub may be moving. October will continue at Eureka! In Cupertino, but we have heard that the parking is an obstacle for some. And noisy Pubs are difficult for deep conversations. So other options are being considered. Please stay tuned to the weekly email, or contact Pastor Sara if you would like updates on the Theology in the Pub location.



Global Mission Advocate

The ELCA has a long and beautiful history of supporting missionaries all over the world. Our model for missionary work focuses on *sustainability* (will this work continue?), *inclusivity* (all can benefit from the services provide, not just those who profess a certain faith), *vulnerability* (opening ourselves to the other), and *empowerment*. We have missionaries who serve in over 50 countries, each and all doing work of community building, health, environment, and education.

We are looking for a member who is passionate about Global Missions to help us decide on an ELCA missionary to support, do regular updates on their work, and write brief updates for publications such as this one. **If you are that person, talk to Pastor Sara!**

Constitution Review

The first vote on the Constitution changes overwhelmingly passed. The next vote will be held during our regular meeting in January. If you have not had a chance to review the changes yourself, find them at: propeace.org/popconstitution

End of the Christmas Fair

Prince of Peace will not host a Christmas Craft Fair this year. Community interest has been waning and we have many new opportunities to open up our facilities to the neighborhood. Thank you for your support over the years!



Farmer's Market

The Wednesday Saratoga Farmer's Market moved to the Prince of Peace parking lot on September 5th. So far the vendors seem to be happy with the community participation. The community members we have spoken to are all thrilled with the opportunity for mid-week shopping close to home. None of them were regulars when the market was in downtown Saratoga.

Some of the vendors are doing very well at our location, others report that business is not as strong. Those particularly affected include the staples of fruits, vegetables, and eggs. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and everyone you know to come support the market so we can keep it going!

In addition to the small payment we receive from the market, Prince of Peace has gleaning rights. This means that fruit and vegetables that can not be sold are donated to the church to use in our ministries. The donations change week to week. The first week we received a crate of peaches and nectarines that were devoured by our Youth. We are looking to find creative uses for the donations, or ways we can use our talents to engage neighbors at the market. Ideas include cooking demos of seasonal fruits and veggies, book swap, etc. We only need the manpower and skills to execute!

Please contact Anne Hess if you could add your support once or on an on-going basis.

Thanks!

Nursery

Welcome to a new programming year in the Nursery! It's been an exciting transition for all of us. We are doing more to connect all of Sunday's events around the day's readings, and so now the nursery has its own collection of stories and activities, available to any nursery staff: FROLIC. Frolic is an ELCA created (and a MOPS supported) way of sharing the stories of the Bible with little ones. So each Sunday our littlest ones can still hear and connect with the same readings we adults are hearing in the sanctuary. Here's an example page for your enjoyment too:

Sunday School

As I hope you are hearing, we are having a lot of fun singing and learning together. So far attendance has been up over last year, and I think that trend is going to continue as the year rolls along and we have even more events for our young students and families.

K5PoP

Our first event will be in mid to late October (Doodle Poll out now), as we find a time to fill homeless bags, play games, dress in costumes, and visit our neighbors. More details will be sent out as the date gets ironed out. :)

Confirmation

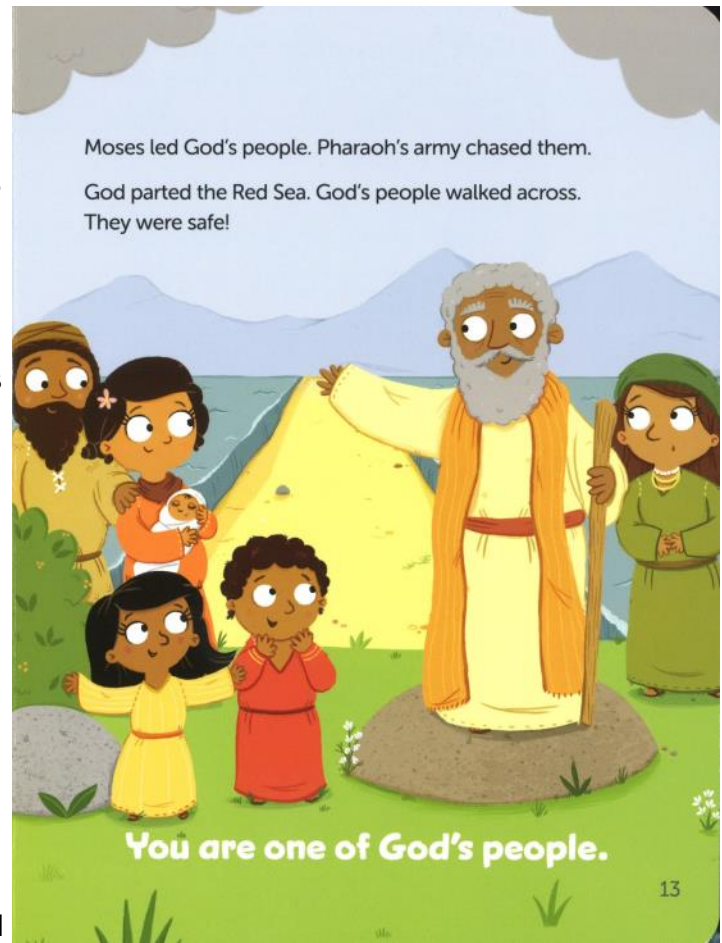
Classes began officially on September 18th, and we are already gelling into a fantastic group. We began our year with games and some great conversations around belonging and fitting in and how we think about treating people so that they know they belong. We have some very mature minds here, in every grade.

Youth Band

Leads worship for the first time on September 30th and make sure your socks are clean because they are going to be knocked all the way off. We've got a bevy of new instrumentalists this year, and while it's taken a while to work things out, it's gorgeous when Brian and Yvonne get us working together well. Kudos to and prayers for both of them in their continued leadership and guidance. We are blessed.

Sr. High

There's work to do this year and this is a great group to work with. Sr. High nights are a time away from school, which is, on purpose, a both silly and serious but always loving and supportive group, which is seeking ways to live out their faith in their own ways. On September 30th, that will mean riding go karts. ;)



Community Calendar

There is always a lot going on at Prince of Peace. Please note the special events and changes to our calendar in the next two months. You can find all of these, plus our regularly occurring events, on our website at: propeace.org/news--calendar. Get weekly reminders, details, and photos by signing up for our email list (through the office or website) or "Like" our Facebook page facebook.com/popsaratoga.

October Special Events

1-31		Volunteer hosting Rotating Safe Car Park at West Valley College
3	W	Theology in the Pub
5-7	F-Su	Camping Trip
11	Th	Concert by New Life Band from Tanzania
13	Sa	Phitness walk/hike
13	Sa	Boy Scout Donation event at PoP
19-21	F-Su	Women's Retreat
24	W	Fellowship Lunch
28	Su	Octoberfest Fellowship event

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Prince of Peace and officially joining this wonderful community of people? We are forming a late fall New Member Class and would love to include you. If you are interested and/or have questions about membership, please talk to Pastor Sara.

November Special Events

4	Su	Clocks fall back one hour
7	W	Theology in the Pub
9	F	Game Night
17	Sa	Chili with Bishop in Morgan Hill
22	Th	Saratoga Inter-faith Thanksgiving worship
22-23	Th-F	Thanksgiving holiday, office closed
28	W	Fellowship Lunch

SAVE THE DATES

Dec 2—Carol Gobby's retirement

Dec 9—Choir Concert

Dec 16—Children's Christmas Program

Dec 16, 23, 30—One worship @ 9:45

Dec 24 —Worship at 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm

Dec 25 —Worship at 9:45am



Rotating
Safe
Car
Park

October 1-31, RSCP will be located at West Valley College, Parking Lot 5. POP is operating the RSCP at WVC, so we are ready for the great support you showed when we hosted in June and July. The evening is 8:30pm-9:30pm, and the morning checkout is shorter: 7:45am-8:15am.

If you missed the volunteer evening training session at West Valley College, contact us to arrange an individual training. Leave a message or send a text to the RSCP number at 408-434-2995.