

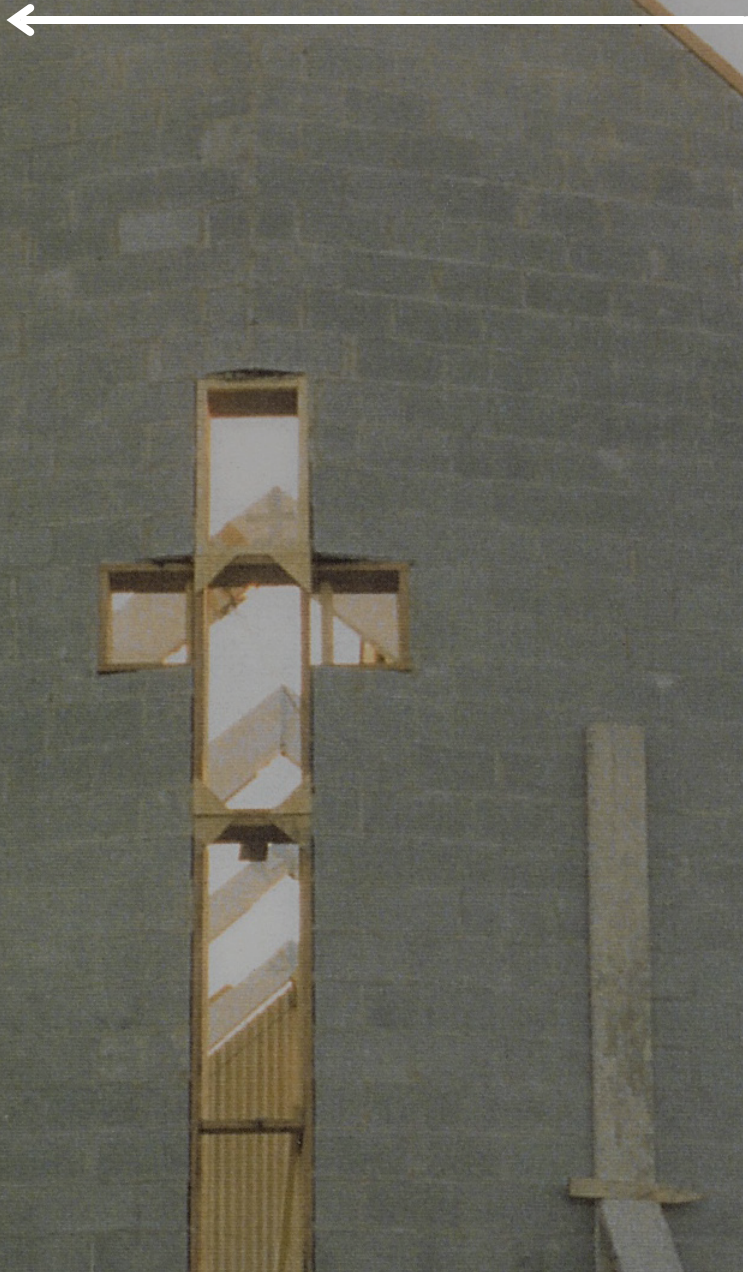


**PRINCE of PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS)



1971  
2021



2021 is a big year at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. **It is our Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of this church!**



Several milestones punctuate this year. To celebrate, POP welcomed back voices from the past, including Pastor Michael Newman on May 22/23, Pastor Norbert Kleidon on June 26/27, and Pastor Scott Christenson on July 17/18.

This publication illustrates 50 years of ministry in Palatine. Fifty years is older than the average age of Prince of Peace members, before the first personal computers and mobile phones.

**Let's celebrate with joy what God has done and will do with and through POP.**





In 1970 Steve and I had just been married two-and-a-half years, bought a new home in Pepper Tree, had a new baby, joined the core group of a new church and met new friends. It was dizzying, really. However, we were excited about where we were and where we were going with this new church, Prince of Peace.

Pastor Kleidon visited us and it seemed like a good fit. POP was close to our home and that was good, because we wanted to be involved... and we were! I became the new church secretary for Pastor Kleidon, played a pump organ for services eventually at Virginia Lake School, started a small choir, a Bible study. Steve was very involved with the men at church and moving altar, communion rails, kneelers, or whatever we needed for services at Virginia lake. We were moving!!! The Spirit encouraged every step of the way. God was good and helped us with all areas of our lives and church. We enjoyed our little group of people....Christians sharing all things as Acts says. What a blessing it was.

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**Jan Christianson**  
POP Charter Member







“...how blessed it was to see how the Lord used my evangelism calls to grow his church.”



It was an honor being invited back to POP to celebrate the 50th anniversary year. It was nice to see a few of the members still there before I left, and some of the new members and the gracious comments they made to me.

If you attended one of the services, you might recall that my sermon was that it is God who builds the church, but He has chosen to use us to share the Gospel that is the power that brings people to faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior. And I am so thankful that the Lord had chosen me to begin Prince of Peace as a missionary.

What special blessing to have personally known all the members while there, since I had the privilege of visiting in all their homes, getting to know all about them and their families. And how blessed it was to see how the Lord used my evangelism calls to grow His church. God indeed works in a marvelous ways His wonders to perform.

I believe it was also significant that I chose the name Prince of Peace for the new congregation as it was a loving and peaceful congregation with emphasis on the Gospel. What a blessing to have a church without any major conflicts all those years.

Since I was the founding pastor, POP will always have a special place in my heart. May the Lord continue to bless all of you as you carry out great commission of making disciples of all peoples.

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**Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon**

Founding Pastor 1970–1988

# 1970

**June 16, 1969**

Mission Board of the Northern Illinois District purchases land in north Palatine for a new congregation.

**May 1970**

N.I.D. calls Rev. Norbert Kleidon as Missionary-at-Large to north Palatine.

**February 7, 1971**

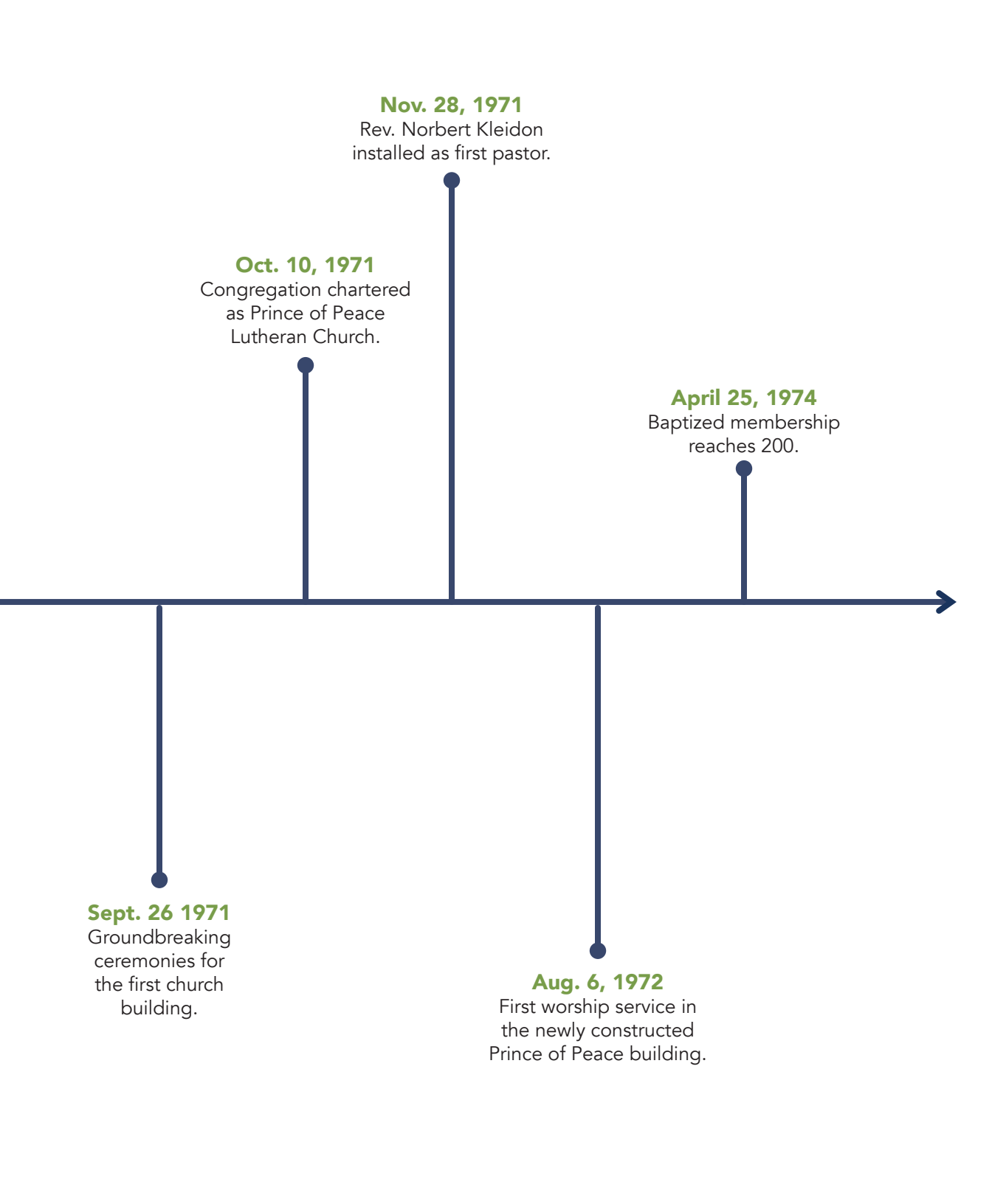
First worship service held in basement of Virginia Lake Elementary School in Palatine.  
(Attendance: 150)

**April 22, 1971**

First building committee formed.

**September 1970**

First core group meeting  
(Attendance: 6)



**Nov. 28, 1971**  
Rev. Norbert Kleidon  
installed as first pastor.

**Oct. 10, 1971**  
Congregation chartered  
as Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church.

**April 25, 1974**  
Baptized membership  
reaches 200.

**Sept. 26 1971**  
Groundbreaking  
ceremonies for  
the first church  
building.

**Aug. 6, 1972**  
First worship service in  
the newly constructed  
Prince of Peace building.

*After Don and Joan Peters were married in 1958, and their sons, David and Brian were born, the Peters family needed more space. Joan's sister Winnie and her husband Neal Peterson lived in Rolling Meadows, so Don and Joan bought a lot in the Reseda subdivision in Palatine and moved in 1963. Their last child, Julie was born in 1966. Don worked as an electrical engineer and then in quality control. They were POP founding members, and Don generously shared his memories which have been edited for space:*

Our family attended the Missouri Synod church in Palatine. One day, Pastor Kleidon from the Northern Illinois District visited our home and invited us to attend a Bible study in his home. This so-called "Core Group" evolved into the new congregation called the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Norbert Kleidon was a tool-and-die man, who attended seminary, and became our first pastor.

I regret that I have forgotten many people in the "Core Group." But I remember Phyllis & Wayne Peterson and Fred & MaryAnn Ostrem. I was close to Ernie Baker, Roger Groenland and his family, and George Hanson and his wife Margaret. Another George Hanson was musically-gifted and later led our emerging choir.

As the "Core Group" grew, we met at Wayne and Phyllis' house. Then we began to meet in the basement of a school on Rohlwing Road. This time was unforgettable for my family. We would set up a small sanctuary in the basement, hold a full church service, and then take it down after our service. This was a time of bonding for many in our church. Around this time, I met Al LaVanture and we remained friends for many years.

As time passed, we needed more room. We moved our services out of the basement to a gymnasium and had Sunday services there. Plans were made to buy land on the corner of Cunningham and Hicks. The tree nursery on one side was part of this land.

Around this time, Pastor Kleidon initiated an "Evangelism Explosion" teaching program. He was taught how to conduct evangelism calls. He then taught me and others. We



learned by emulating him. We learned a Presentation Plan and prepared personal testimonies. Pastor would present part of the call and we were invited to contribute. I liked this program and continued to participate in the Evangelism Call Program for several years with Phyllis, Ernie, and Al.

Richard Maxwell joined our church and became an important leader of our congregation. Also, around this time, many of us became charter members of Prince of



Peace Church. I remember talented pastors that guided us. As I finish this recollection, I would like to mention people who I knew and regard with great admiration:  
Dave Penner, Todd Kruse, Richard Maxwell,

John Raley, Al Sittaro, Dick Riffner, Louis & Barb Lawrence, and Joan Peters, my beloved wife.

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**Don Peters**, POP Charter Member

**W**hat a joy it has been to be a member of Prince of Peace for 50 years. God took a group of people, filled them with the Holy Spirit, and guided them to be the church we are today.

It did not happen all at once. We took time to discuss what we would want our church to be, and we concluded we wanted the Word to be taught in its truth and purity and all were to feel welcome. For as it says in 2 Corinthians 2:15, *"We are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing..."*

Let us spread our fragrance of Christ to our families, to our friends, and to those we do not know. As Pastor Matt said in his sermon, *"Let us look into the eyes of those we meet; let us show them the love of Christ."*

Take time to look at the cross in front of the church. Hear Jesus calling your name to sit at His feet. Take time to have a personal relationship with Him through prayer and scripture reading.

Be His fragrance! We are a world of technology, but let that not take the place of a personal relationship with one another or with Jesus Christ, your Savior and mine.

Let this be our prayer:

Ephesians 3:20 • *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

---

**Phyllis Peterson**

POP Charter Member



# 1980

**January 1, 1981**

Prince of Peace removed from district subsidy and becomes a self-supporting congregation.

**1982**

Second worship service added. Attendance increases 20%.

**Sept. 9, 1986**

Mortgage burning celebration as loan from Lutheran Church Extension Fund is paid off.

**September 1986**

Richard Leasure hired as first music director.

**Easter Sunday  
April 4, 1987**

Groundbreaking on 7,000 square foot addition of classrooms, choir room, fellowship hall/ gymnasium, restrooms, storage space, kitchen, and an extended lobby.

**May 21, 1989**

Rev. Michael Newman, Assistant Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota, installed as pastor at Prince of Peace.

**October 1988**

Prince of Peace partners with Hispanic congregation, La Santisima Trinidad of the Little Village Community of Chicago.



## Prince of Peace Grows

A little church in the northwest suburbs  
became fertile Gospel ground;  
New residents were excited to echo  
the Good News sound  
To young and old with love and joy  
in a mission place brand new;  
A little band of Christians, by grace,  
soon grew and grew.

When I arrived in Palatine  
with my wife and child so small,  
The people of Prince of Peace  
welcomed us just as they welcomed all.  
With love and care they included us  
in the mission of Jesus to "Go!";  
By God's grace I saw all of us,  
together, grow and grow.

We grew as a family and as a church,  
we grew in faith and vision;  
The goal was to glorify God  
and share His blessings in every decision.  
New staff and buildings, new outreach and groups,  
fruits of the spirit to show;  
We planted in faith and watered by grace,  
marveling at God who made it grow.

It's now been fifty years of laboring  
in God's great harvest field;  
Prince of Peace has formed  
and sent with a plentiful and blessed yield.  
"Well done!", the Master cries,  
and a cloud of witnesses asks, "Do you know?"  
"Do you know the world still needs you?"  
Keep reaching, POP! Let your worthy mission grow!"



---

**Pastor Michael Newman**

President, Texas District LCMS; POP Pastor 1989–2004



19  
90s



Congratulations POP on your 50th anniversary! How awesome it is that this church has continued to grow and thrive for all these years.

My husband, George, and I and our three children, Michael, Gregory, and Jennifer moved into a new home in Palatine in July of 1971. Shortly thereafter Pastor Kleidon called on us and invited us to join the small group of people who were starting a new congregation. We became charter members.

I have wonderful memories of those early years - being involved in LWML, VBS, singing in the choir, etc. My eldest son was in POP's first confirmation class - all boys!

Those experiences at POP enriched my life immeasurably. I will always be grateful that the Lord placed us there at that time. POP has a special place in my heart.

My hope is that POP will continue to thrive and flourish for the next 50 years! Praise the Lord!

God bless you all.

---

**Joyce Hanson**  
POP Charter Member

# 1990

**1991**

Average church attendance rises to 253. Annual church budget reaches \$200,000.

Baptized membership reaches 482.

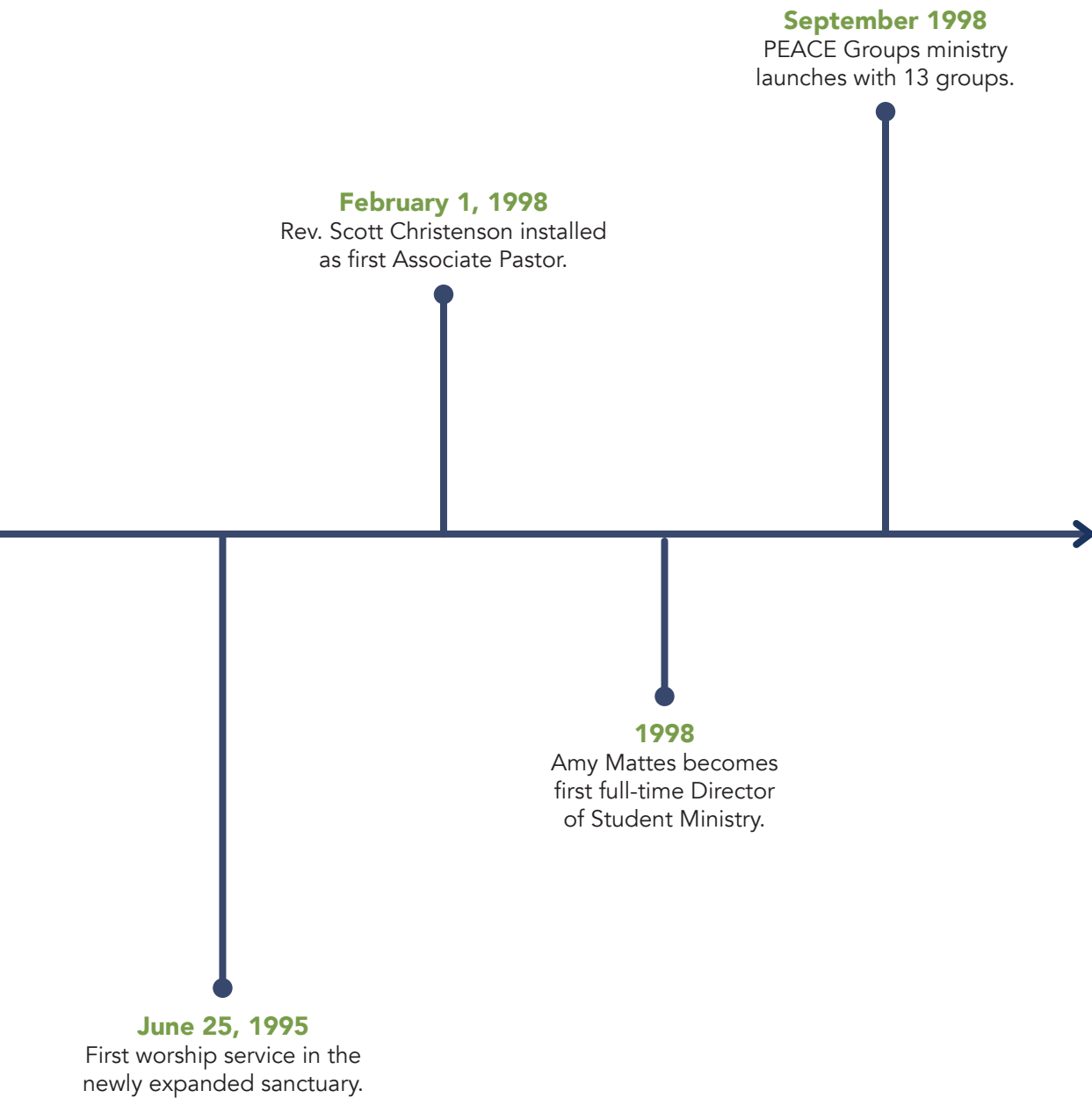
**May 1992**

Matthew J. Hoehne called as Minister of Parish Life.

**June 5, 1994**

Groundbreaking for second building extension. Congregation worships in the gym for seven months as new sanctuary is constructed.







# 2000s





“I’m certain God has great plan for your future!”

## Dear friends in Christ,

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary as a church!

It’s hard to believe it’s been seven years now since my family said farewell to Prince of Peace to follow God’s call to Orange County. Time flies! Even after all these years, we still think of our time in Palatine often and remember all of you with much love and gratitude for the time we spent together.

I was blessed to serve as Prince of Peace’s very first Associate Pastor from 1998 to 2004 and then as Senior Pastor from 2004 to 2014. Your love for the Word of God, commitment to outreach, and devotion to creating a loving community inspired and encouraged me. I’m a far better man and pastor today because of my time at Prince of Peace.

God bless you all as you ponder, pray and plan for the next 50 years. I’m certain God has great plans for your future! I will be watching and cheering you on from afar, and holding you all in my heart.

Sincerely,

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### Scott Christenson

Senior Pastor, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School, Orange, CA  
POP Associate Pastor 1998–2004, Senior Pastor 2004-2014

2000

**2002**

Third building expansion completed, adding classrooms on west side of gym and north offices/classrooms/library.

**September 7, 2003**

Prince of Peace "Master Plan of Discipleship" introduced to the congregation.

**October 17, 2004**

Rev. Scott Christenson installed as Senior Pastor.

**2002-03**

Addition of four full-time staff:

- Vera Wisniewski, Music Ministry Assistant,
- Tim Kaufmann, Senior High Student Minister,
- Craig Mattes, Director of Outreach, and
- Jeni Walker, Children's Ministry Director.

**November 15, 2003**

Prince of Peace recognized by LCMS President, Gerry Kieschnick, as one of the top 30 congregations of the LCMS in worship attendance growth.

**October 9, 2005**

Rev. John Glover installed as Teaching Pastor.

**July 18, 2006**

Pastor James Bauman hired as Visitation Pastor.

**May 11, 2008**

Change of congregational governance structure to "policy-based governance."

**September 7, 2008**

Prince of Peace recognized by the Northern Illinois District and LCMS World Mission as an "Ablaze Covenant Congregation."

**June 29, 2008**

DEI Campaign launched as long-range strategic plan adopted by Voters Assembly. Included plans to plant two new congregations.

**2006**

Hope Shawl Ministry launches.  
First Stephen Ministry training session occurs.

**September 27, 2009**

Rev. John Scott installed as Outreach Pastor.



# 20 10s

“I’ve seen you continue living out the gospel DNA with which this church was planted.





**50** years? That sounds like a lot, but it's not that much! I'm aware right now of churches celebrating 150 years or more!

**50 years?** Are we feeling old? Thinning hair, growing gut, tiredness from all that life has thrown at us!

**50 years?** Prince of Peace, you're still young! What if what they say is true: 50 is the new 30!

**50 years?** Some momentous years here. Glory days! Charismatic leaders! Stalwart, faithful Jesus followers!

Some seasons of epic growth and expansion! Seasons of change, transition, struggle, and loss! I've been so thankful to live the past 8 years with you and serve you as your pastor.

These 8 years I've seen you:

- welcome immigrants and refugees,
- mentor children in neighboring public schools,
- comfort and offer resurrection hope to community members grieving the loss of loved ones,
- pack meals for people in other parts of the world where food is scarce,
- feed kids and families in our own neighborhood,
- plant and tend a community garden that has produced great harvests and cultivated friendships,
- host hundreds of neighborhood kids at VBS Arts Camp, where they've

learned to see their talents as gifts from God to be used in service to others,

- visit and send cards to those who are isolated at home or in nursing homes,
- grow life-changing friendships that support each other through both hard times and good,
- cheer and support our daughter church, Crosspoint in Lakewood, as they become an established church in their neighborhood,
- and so much more!

In other words, I've seen you share Christ's peace! I've seen you continue living out the gospel DNA with which this church was planted.

Previous senior pastors at POP served 18 years, 25 years, and 17 years respectively. So, my 8 years isn't that long. God isn't done with me here! Prince of Peace: 50 years young! God's not done with you yet!

*Holy Spirit, breathe fresh life into us! As we have in the past, lead us to faithfully share Christ's peace in our community for such a time as this! Lead us to love relentlessly in words and actions! Remind us again and again how the world needs Jesus and our community needs us.*

---

**Karl Fay**

Discipleship Pastor 2013–2015,  
Senior Pastor 2015–present

**May 8, 2011**

Launch of public worship services at Crosspoint Lutheran Church in Lakewood, IL (Prince of Peace's first daughter church).

**August 5, 2012**

Martha Garmon installed as Minister of Worship and Music.

**June 29, 2011**

Rev. Steve Deombeleg of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ installed as Prince of Peace's first Hispanic Outreach Pastor.

**July 1, 2016**

Matt Koenig called and hired as Vicar of Discipleship.

**Dec. 5, 2015**

Rev. Karl Fay installed as Senior Pastor.

**2010**

GriefShare ministry begins.

Susan Klemstein hired as Director of Outreach.

**Fall 2014**

Partnership with Lincoln School, Palatine, begins with Kids Hope USA mentorship program.

**June 1, 2016**

Dave Penner hired as Director of Care.

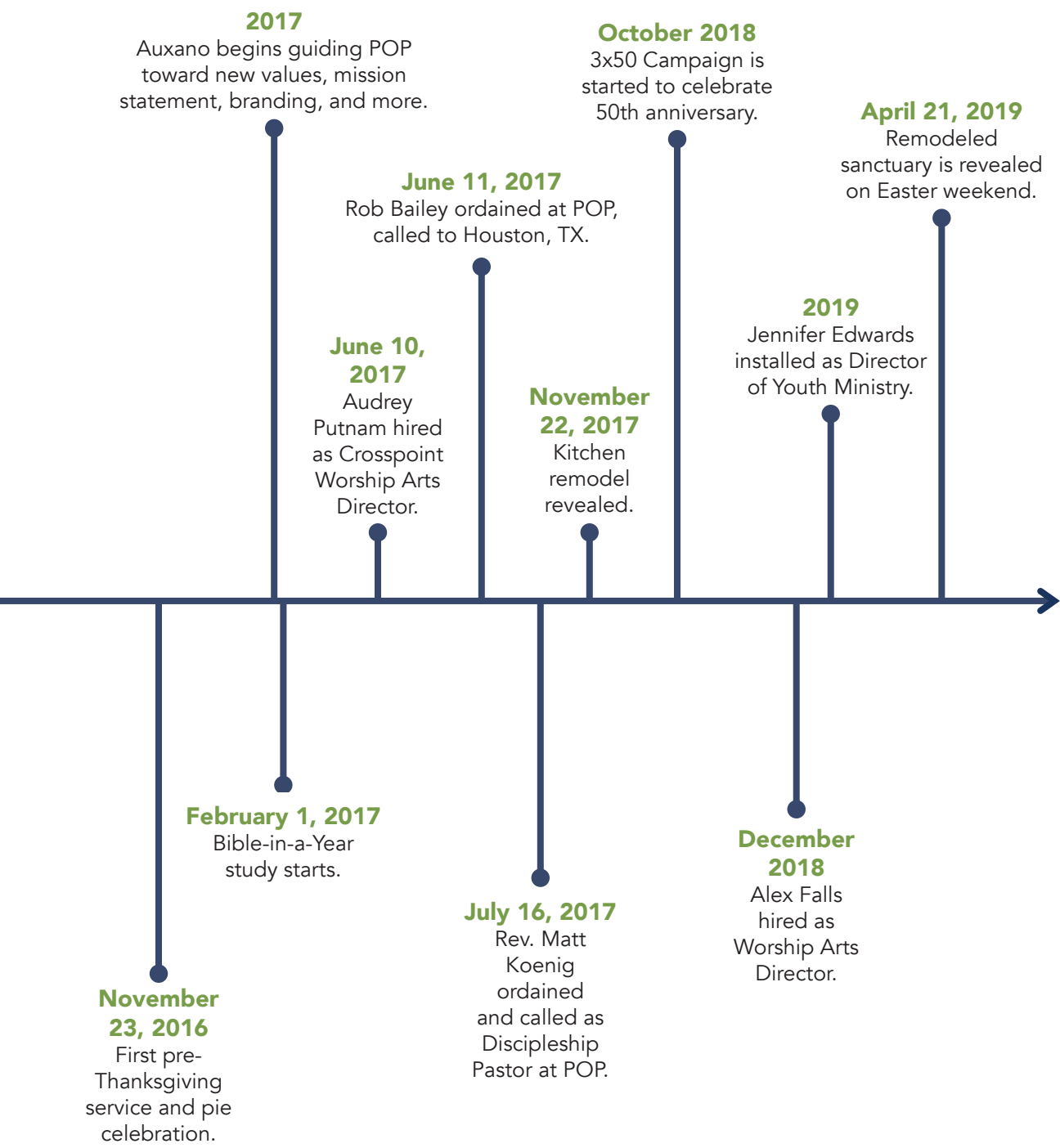
**January 27, 2013**

Rev. Karl Fay of Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA installed as Discipleship Pastor.

**June 25, 2016**

First Here2Serve summer serving day.

2010



**2017**

Auxano begins guiding POP toward new values, mission statement, branding, and more.

**October 2018**

3x50 Campaign is started to celebrate 50th anniversary.

**April 21, 2019**

Remodeled sanctuary is revealed on Easter weekend.

**June 11, 2017**

Rob Bailey ordained at POP, called to Houston, TX.

**June 10, 2017**

Audrey Putnam hired as Crosspoint Worship Arts Director.

**November 22, 2017**

Kitchen remodel revealed.

**2019**

Jennifer Edwards installed as Director of Youth Ministry.

**February 1, 2017**

Bible-in-a-Year study starts.

**July 16, 2017**

Rev. Matt Koenig ordained and called as Discipleship Pastor at POP.

**December 2018**

Alex Falls hired as Worship Arts Director.

**November 23, 2016**

First pre-Thanksgiving service and pie celebration.



# 20 20s





**W**riting about POP's 50th anniversary? For the first time in my life, I am speechless. My five years here have passed quickly. What do I say about the church that took a chance on an "older" Seminary student for vicarage? A first time for POP, this church that ordained me as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church. How do I say anything about a church that has reinvigorated my ministry?

As I write this, I am listening to the song that sums up who and what POP is all about. The song is, "Good God Almighty" by Crowder and the refrain is:

*Good God almighty  
I hope You'll find me  
Praising Your name no matter what comes  
'Cause I know where I'd be without Your mercy  
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs*

No matter what is happening at POP, all the people here raise their voices, their hands, their love to the Lord. They let the glory they have for God rise to the heavens and praise Him all the time. I have been in many churches and served in a lot of areas in the Midwest and what I know without a shadow of a doubt is there is no other congregation like POP.

POP is a very special group of people who, no matter the circumstances, will always rise to the challenge, rise to help, and rise to praise Jesus. It has been a blessing serving here at Prince of Peace and I cannot wait to see where God leads us over the next 50 years.

---

**Matt Koenig**

Discipleship Pastor/Director of Adult Ministry 2016-present

# 2020

**March 18, 2020**

First online worship service livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

**July 11, 2020**

First outdoor Saturday evening worship service.

**2020**

Baptized membership reaches 1,094.

**Spring 2020**

Church management website, Planning Center Online, and Church Center app launched for staff and member communication.

**April 16-30, 2021**

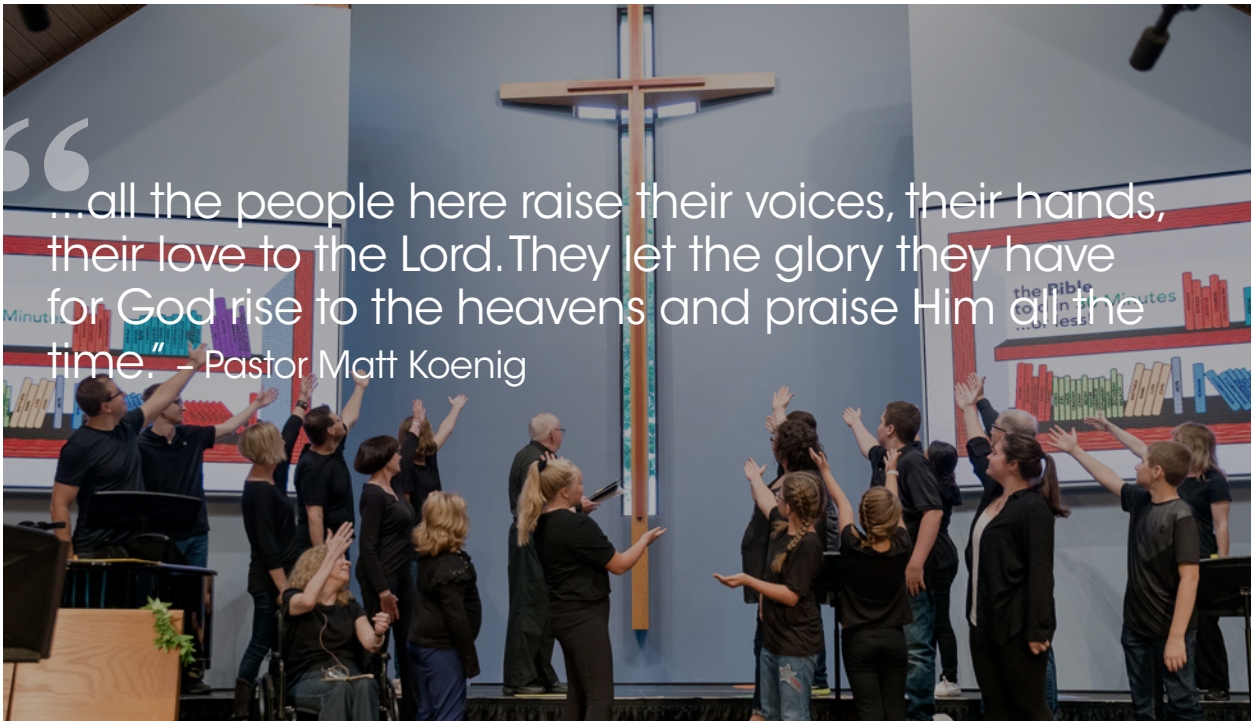
First annual multigenerational art show held at POP.





**September 26, 2021**

POP celebrates 50th Anniversary!



“...all the people here raise their voices, their hands, their love to the Lord. They let the glory they have for God rise to the heavens and praise Him all the time.” – Pastor Matt Koenig



PRINCE of PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*discover peace. together.*



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*To the next 50 Years... and beyond!*



2021  
2071