



January 11 – 12, 2025

Welcome

Genesis 18:1-15 & 21:1-2



### MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

**CONTEMPORARY**  
SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

**Praise**  
**Rest On Us**  
**Worthy Of It All**  
**Better Hands**

**CLASSIC | SUN 8:45 am**

**Blessed Assurance**  
**Praise**  
**Rest On Us**  
CHOIR ANTHEM: **I Choose Love**  
**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

MESSAGE: **Paul Dean**  
**Communion** (Saturday, 5:30 pm)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Classic: Sun 8:45 am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm, Sun 10:30 am**  
Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links at [popmn.org](http://popmn.org)

### JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

**Spring Musical Auditions | Sunday, January 12 | 12:30 – 2:30 pm**  
Kids in grades 3-5 – come audition for the Praise Choir spring musical, *The Agape League*. Contact [ehagen@popmn.org](mailto:ehagen@popmn.org)

**Congregational Survey | Capital Campaign Feasibility Study**  
We need your feedback! Which capital projects matter the most to you, and why? Review the Feasibility Study Prospectus (available at the Connect Desk) and complete the survey by January 26: [surveymonkey.com/r/PoPBurnsvillegampaignsurvey](https://surveymonkey.com/r/PoPBurnsvillegampaignsurvey)  
We want to hear directly from you! Join us for a listening session on **Sunday, January 26, at 9:45 am** to share your insights.

### JOIN US FOR MISSION

**Mission Outpost Open House THIS WEEKEND after all services!**  
**Mission Outpost Volunteer Orientation**  
Tuesday | January 14 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

### JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

**Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!**



## Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



**Connect** with Prince of Peace! Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.



Scan here to donate to Prince of Peace's **Mission & Ministry**.



Scan here to make a **prayer request** or to have a member of the Spiritual Care Team contact you.

PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.



Trust the Story | A New Way | **Welcome**

## What does welcome look like?

Think about the time you felt welcomed. Not welcome in the sense of being “allowed” inside somewhere, but truly welcomed into a community – a new family, a new job, a new home, a new school, etc. – with wholehearted love, warmth, support and joy.

- What was that experience like?

In this text, Abraham kills his best calf to prepare a feast for strangers who show up at his door. Sarah also springs into action, baking bread for their unexpected guests. Despite the hardships they’d been experiencing in their own lives, they are enthusiastic about extending hospitality.

- When have you shown hospitality like this? Why did you do it? How did it make you feel?

One of the themes you could find in the Abraham/Sarah story is about hospitality: a family leaving their comfortable lives in their home to go out into the world and bless other people in any way they could. Despite the scarcity of the wilderness and the struggle of the journey, they leave their comfort zone to help others. This was a countercultural idea at the time.

- Does it still feel like a countercultural idea today?  
In a time when money feels tight, the future feels uncertain, and the economy feels unstable, does it make sense to treat strangers who show up at your door to a five-star meal? Why or why not?  
Do Abraham and Sarah seem particularly remarkable? Why do they do it?

These strangers, who turn out to be messengers, give Abraham and Sarah a promise: that they will have a child. The whole story starts with a welcome. Abraham and Sarah lived open-handed, and through their open-handed welcome of these strangers, they receive a promise and the world changes. Sarah becomes the carrier of this promise, giving birth to Isaac who becomes the father of Jacob, who is named Israel.

- What would have happened if Abraham and Sarah met these strangers with a closed hand instead?  
What if they would have sent the strangers on their way instead of inviting them in?
- Is this story transactional? Is hospitality the price Abraham and Sarah paid for a baby?  
Or does filling the world with abundant hospitality simply breed life and love in all kinds of ways?  
What is the difference?
- How does living with open hands and open arms change the way you experience your own life?  
Are you more able to see inspiration and hope when you live that way? Why, or why not?