

Pastor's Summary

Welcome to Prince of Peace. We are pleased that you are checking us out via our web page. Let me take a moment and tell you a little about us, and about me.

Lutherans talk a lot about grace. It is a powerful word, actually we would say it's an idea that has changed reality itself. *We are saved by grace, through faith*, an idea penned first by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. What do we mean by that? We mean that life is a gift from God. It is a gift we are meant to enjoy and celebrate, but which far too often (try all the time!) we have messed up. Grace is God giving us back this gift after we have thrown it away. Paul said it this way, *Even when we were still God's enemies, Christ died for us*. God invites us to use that gift well.

How does that happen? It happens when we chose to be generous ourselves for the sake of our neighbors, especially our neighbors in need. There are no limits to the different ways that can be lived out. At Prince of Peace we encourage you to discover how God's grace gets lived out in your life.

When we seek to live this life out today, we change the world, and we are changed by the world. Thanks be to God for what He is doing in this world, and thanks that He is using us. God wants to make a difference through your life too. That's what we hope happens among us, and perhaps to you, at Prince of Peace.

On the personal side, I am not a native of Northeast Ohio (although my wife is, she graduated from Euclid High School). I was born in Montana, but spent most of my childhood in a small farming community in North Dakota. I graduated from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and Luther Seminary (St. Paul, Mn), although I did spend the first year of my seminary training in Columbus at what is now Trinity Lutheran Seminary. I spent a year interning in Toledo, so it was during my graduate school days that I got to know Ohio.

My first call to parish ministry was in Detroit, MI where I served a church on the far west side of the city. In 1983 I made the move to Ohio following my marriage. Deb was working in the Cincinnati area and I accepted a call to a small urban church in Dayton. I remained in urban ministry until 1986 when I was asked to join the staff of Bishop Robert Kelley in the months leading to the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bp. Kelley was elected as our first bishop in Northeast Ohio, and he asked me to join his staff up here. In December 1996 I began service as Sr. Pastor of Prince of Peace.

Deb and I have raised three children, all "out of the nest." We keep the house from being too quiet with two playful dogs (no cats!), and the sounds of music. Ours is a musical family, Deb plays viola with the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra and I sing with the Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus, so of course there is the sound of practice around the house lots of nights. When not singing, working or reading (which I love to do) you might find me with a paddle in my hands and a canoe or kayak under my seat. It's great to live near Lake Erie!

We hope to get to know you better and invite you to visit us at Prince of Peace. You are most welcome in worship or at any of our service, education or fellowship activities.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Sherman Bishop