



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bangor had a vision to extend the use of our outdoor grove for our community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we found that our grove provided a new opportunity to worship together before we opened for indoor worship in late fall. Our vision took on a new reason: to make the grove more accessible and available for more use to complement worship.

The first step identified was building a walkway to make the grove easy to enter and exit. We applied for a grant from the Synod Witness and Service Team Ministry, and received it. (We also applied for a special ELCA grant, but we did not receive the ELCA grant.) As buying supplies became an issue, we needed to apply for a second Witness and Service grant. We received this grant in June of 2022, which enabled us to complete the walkway for our 50th Anniversary picnic and joint worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Mt. Bethel.

Since the completion, we have held several outdoor worship services. We have also added "Faith by Firelight", a monthly gathering for anyone who wants to be in God's beautiful creation, play a few bible trivia games and enjoy s'mores. God has blessed our congregation with this beautiful space, and we keep visioning and planning for ways to make it a safe haven for us and our community. We are thankful that this grant was made possible through mission support giving from congregations in our Synod.