



Glad Tidings



Vol. 33, Iss. 2

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

Mar 2014

Lent and Beyond

Here at PoP we have already started a season of change and making things new. We voted in our new council members in January with the full council installation in February. (Page 3) Pastor Christine Stephan was officially “installed” as our new Associate Pastor in February. (Page 3)

We are now entering the season of Lent, the beginning of a new beginning. This is the time when we prepare ourselves with reflection and sacrifice for an experience of rebirth with the resurrection at Easter. To help guide us through this time, many events will take place here at PoP starting with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Palm burning (Page 2) which prepares us for Ash Wednesday. (Page 1) Then, the remaining Wednesdays until Easter will see our community coming together to share in soup suppers followed by evening prayers. A new Adult Bible Class based on the resurrection and its implications is on Sundays. (Page 5) The Youth learn and teach with the 30 Hour Famine and Youth Sunday (Page 4). Besides our Youth (and others) participating in the 30 Hour Famine, the Social Ministry committee is sponsoring a family farm Lenten Activity. (Page 5) First Communion classes will start towards the end of the month. (Page 4) A Big Church Clean rounds out the month as we scrub, vacuum, and dust to make our building fresh and welcoming for our big events next month. (Page 2)

This isn't all that is happening. We are already looking into the future with thoughts of preparing and maintaining Fruitful Fields, our community garden plots. (Page 3)

Farther into the future, we see our youth packing their things to head off to New York for Workcamp, spreading the news of Jesus by helping others in need. (Page 4) However, our youth need our help, too. A fundraiser is scheduled at California Tortilla to help support them at Workcamp. (Page 4)

Links to:

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Follow the links below to keep up with the many activities and other information for this season that takes us into spring!

Lent page:

<http://poplutheran.org/worship/lent14.html>

Holy Week Page:

<http://poplutheran.org/worship/holyweek14.html>

Easter Page:

<http://poplutheran.org/worship/easter14.html>



Come join us as we begin our [Lenten journey](#) at our [Ash Wednesday](#) service on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 pm.

During the winter months, if inclement weather requires us to cancel services, a notice will appear on the website homepage (poplutheran.org).



March Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Worship with piano and guitar

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship with organ and piano

A Supervised nursery is available during all Services

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Every Wednesday

5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir

7:30 pm Adult Choir

Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

7:45 am Men's Group

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

At our Annual Meeting last month, I mentioned that the Association of Theological Schools in the United States has re-defined “regular church attendance” as “once a month” rather than “once a week”. In fact, this isn’t really news. We’ve known for a long time now, especially in our area, that folks have crazy, hectic lives and often can’t attend church every week. At Prince of Peace, we have better average attendance than most Lutheran churches. Still, even on a good weekend, only about 1/3 of our active participants are in church.

But, we want people to be fed spiritually and to grow in faith all the time, whether they’re able to be in church on a given Sunday or not. So, as you may have noticed recently, we’ve been stepping up our efforts to make what happens on Sunday available to everyone.

One of the things you’ve hopefully noticed is a change in the Monday emails that are titled “Sermon Reflections and More”. The Monday email used to only include written sermon notes and the Sunday Gospel reading. Now, this email includes links to: YouTube videos of both the Sermon and the Children’s Sermon; the weekend Bible readings; music from one or more of our services; additional things to read on living your faith; an online way to donate and support our ministries; and links to connect with us through Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

There’s lots of great stuff here to help feed you spiritually and grow in faith throughout the week. Even if you’ve been to church that week, you’ll find additional articles, music you may not have heard and opportunities to get involved. These emails, and material in the emails, will also always be available on our website, as well as through our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Since so many of us use these social media sites every day, this is great opportunity to bring church to everybody, especially when people can’t come to church. And, this is a great opportunity for all of us to share pieces you find inspiring with others.

Please check this material out if you haven’t already! [Get on our email list](#), like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and subscribe to

our channel on [YouTube](#) to make sure you’re getting these new and improved opportunities to be fed spiritually and grow in faith every day!

Yours in Christ,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

All are invited to attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, March 4th in the Fellowship Hall from 5-7 pm. Youth 6th grade and up are needed to cook and serve a delicious dinner of pancakes and sausage.

Allergen free pancakes are also on the menu. After dinner, Pastor Steve will lead us in one of his favorite rituals - burning palms for this year’s Ash Wednesday service the following evening. A free-will donation will be taken during the dinner, which will support our Youth attending Workcamp in Buffalo, NY this July. For more information about the dinner, contact [Jean Bernstein](mailto:jean.bernstein@poplutheran.org) (bernsteinjmb@yahoo.com). For information about the allergen free pancakes contact [Martha Rogers](mailto:martha.rogers@quantumdog111@gmail.com) (quantumdog111@gmail.com).



The Big Church Clean-Inside Property



The big inside church clean will be held on **Saturday, March 29, between 9am and noon.** Please come and help spruce up the church before Easter! Anyone who can help for any length of time will be most appreciated. We'll provide snacks and drinks. There is a signup sheet in the narthex or call Joanne Pulliam.



Wednesdays in Lent

Join us during the [Wednesdays in Lent](#) (March 12 - April 9), for soup suppers from 6:15-7:15 pm and Evening Prayer from 7:15-7:45 pm. You can help by bringing soup, salad or bread. Signup sheets are in the narthex. Please consider inviting a friend who might benefit from experiencing God's peace and community.

Fenced-in, deer-proof garden plots

are available in *Fruitful Fields*, the name given to our community gardens located on the church property at the far end of the parking lot, directly behind the Besecker Youth Center. There are three large beds for growing vegetables to give to **Gaithersburg Help**, surrounded by smaller beds to "grow your own". To reserve one of the individual raised beds, email larryspeicher26@gmail.com or add your name to the **Garden Plot sign-up sheet** in the narthex. All plots will be ready to be planted by **May 1**.

RECENT EVENTS

Souper Bowl Sunday Final Score

The final score is in, and Gaithersburg HELP wins! A total 277 canned soup, stew, and food products, along with \$122 were donated to Gaithersburg HELP. Thanks so much to all who contributed. And, it's not too late to donate... our food collection baskets are always in the foyer, so consider donating regularly. You really make a difference!

Church Council

The Church Council elected officers for this year at their February meeting. They are: Jim Bostrom, President; Elizabeth Cockerham, Vice-President; and Tam Harbert, Secretary. We thank them for stepping up to leadership positions in our congregation!

Church Council is now installed. Newly elected members are Tracy Barr, Ric Kienzle, Joan Kowalik, and Denny Tritinger. Continuing members are Jim Bostrom, Elizabeth Cockerham, Deborah Dixon, Tam Harbert, and Jessica Prentice.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex.

Welcome, Pastor Christine!

Saturday, February 20, 2014 was a red-letter day for Pastor Christine. That is the day she was officially installed as Associate Pastor here at PoP by Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Dean of the Montgomery Conference. A large and welcoming crowd attended the service which included a Children's Sermon by Pastor Christine and a sermon by her intern supervisor, Pastor Renata Eustis. After the service, many attendees stayed for a warm and welcoming reception. Welcome, Pastor Christine!



The adult choir sang "Lift Thine Eyes" by Felix Mendelssohn



Claire Cho played the violin.



Pastor Christine and son Carter had fun with the kids in the children's sermon.

Pastor Renata Eustis praised God's gifts of Pastor Christine and Pastor Steve in the sermon



Pastor Dave Sonnenberg served as the installing officer of the Synod

Pastor Renata Eustis, Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Pastor Christine Stephan, Pastor Steven Buechler, Pastor Travis Kern



Good food and good conversation at the reception.



YOUTH MINISTRY

30 Hour Famine

Youth and Adults from PoP will again be joining up with a few other local youth groups on **March 7-8** to participate in the 30 Hour Famine, sponsored by World Vision. This is a phenomenal program where those participating may engage, learn, grow, and serve, all in an effort to combat global hunger & poverty. Those wishing to support the efforts may join our group for the two days, conduct a personal fast, volunteer to pray (sign up in the narthex or e-mail [Chris Schaefer \(christophe.schaefer@ymail.com\)](mailto:Chris.Schaefer@ymail.com)), donate juice for the attendees, or donate money to support World Vision in their incredible work. To donate money, go to http://donate.worldvision.org/OA_HTML/xxwv2ibeCCTpltmDspRte.jsp?item=414&go=item&xxwvCampaign=81555).

Youth Sunday

Come recognize and support the youth and all they contribute to this community on **March 15 & 16**. Youth will be serving at all three services as greeters, ushers, assistants, and lectors. They will even deliver the sermon. Opportunities are available for ages preschool - high school, so if you have a youth interested in serving, please sign up in the narthex or contact [Chris Schaefer \(christophe.schaefer@ymail.com\)](mailto:Chris.Schaefer@ymail.com).

First Communion Classes

First Communion Classes will be led by Pastor Steve and Pastor Christine beginning Sunday, March 23 at 2:00 pm! Instruction is offered for children who are at least in 3rd grade and wish to begin receiving communion. Please contact [Pastor Steve \(pastor@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org) for more info.



Workcamp

Workcamp is back! A team of youth and adults from PoP will be headed up to Buffalo, NY, **July 5-12**, to engage and support the community by repairing and refurbishing houses of families and individuals in need. If you want to find out more info about the trip or register to go, contact [Chris Schaefer \(christophe.schaefer@ymail.com\)](mailto:Chris.Schaefer@ymail.com) as soon as possible - spots are filling up quickly!

Dine Out Fundraiser to Support Summer Workcamp!

Please join us Tuesday, March 18th at California Tortilla (12211 Darnestown Rd) from 5-8 pm. Just use the "secret password" [Prince of Peace](#) when ordering and they will donate 25% of all our sales to the summer workcamp trip to Buffalo, NY!

Student Corner

This column is dedicated to the extra activities our youth participate in outside of Prince of Peace. Please remember to submit any and all information by the deadline for Glad Tidings to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com - thanks!

James Rogers is performing in "High School Musical" with the Midnight Players at Poolesville High School. The performances will be **Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 pm; Friday, April 25 at 7:30 pm; and Saturday, April 26 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm**. Come on out for a fun and interesting evening (or afternoon)!

Please keep all our youth in your prayers and support their endeavors outside of PoP!

Faith-Full Families

Faith-Full Families' Lent event will be held **Thursday, March 20th from 6:00-7:30 pm** in the Fellowship hall. Families with pre-school - elementary age children, and their siblings, are invited for dinner, crafts, a Bible story and fellowship. Sign up in the narthex, email Judy Bruening or just come! We will provide a main dish. If you would like to bring a side dish/salad or a dessert sign up in the narthex or let Judy know. If you just have younger children you are welcome to join us for fellowship, too.

Our Easter event will be held **Thursday, April 24**.

Questions? Contact [Judy Bruening \(Judy.bruening53@gmail.com\)](mailto:Judy.bruening53@gmail.com)

Handbell Ensemble

Children in 1st-6th grade rehearse on Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 pm. For more information, contact Danielle Drobny (danielledrobny@gmail.com).

Upcoming Youth Events

Please refer to the website calendar or the Youth Ministry bulletin board for details about events throughout the year. Also, don't forget that the High School youth meet weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Drissel (Drissels@comcast.net).

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Class

New Adult Study starts Sunday, March 9th ~ During Lent we will be offering a Sunday morning class on the resurrection and its implications for the mission of the church today. The class will be based on the book, *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright, however reading the book is not necessary. Our class will include a video segment which is about 15 minutes long followed by discussion questions and conversation. Lent is a great time to really delve into the resurrection and begin to think more broadly about what hope in Jesus Christ really means. The class will meet for 6 sessions and be facilitated by Pastor Christine. She promises to challenge you to think more broadly. The first session will be **Sunday, March 9 at 9:45 am**. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org). For more info, check out this link: [Surprised By Hope Group Bible Study by N.T. Wright - \(www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRnXmn8X48M\)](#).



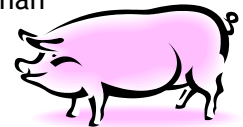
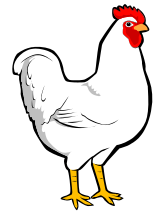
Pop Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues their discussion of the book *Insurrection* by Peter Rollins. It's not too late to join us on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm. A new study is scheduled to start on March 18. Questions? Contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Lenten Activity

This year's Lenten activity is a focus on world hunger with our gifts carrying God's love to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. Through the congregation's generous contributions we hope to be able to provide two family farms to help families achieve a fresh start. The farm includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs and farming tools. Agricultural training and marketing support are also provided to the family. With new tools and techniques, crops will grow bigger, and stronger than ever before. Eggs, milk, and meat from farm animals will provide enough food to eat and sell on the market, helping a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty - for good.

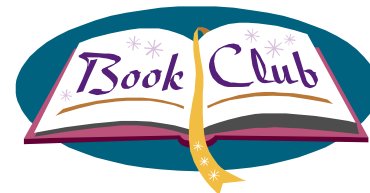


Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin or visit www.ELCA.org/goodgifts.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

All men of Prince of Peace and their male friends are invited to the March meeting of the Men's Book Club, in which we will discuss *Dante's Inferno*, an allegory telling of the journey of Dante through Hell, guided by the Roman poet Virgil. Time is 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 20. Our host is Garry Linton. Please RSVP to Garry at cglinton@verizon.net.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month. In March, Gina Linton will host the gathering on Thursday, March 13th. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. The group will discuss *The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story* by Lily Koppel. Deborah Donovan describes the book - "Koppel offers a revealing glimpse into the lives of "the women behind the

spacemen”—from Project Mercury, of the Kennedy years, to the two-man Gemini missions and finally the Apollo program. Beginning with the announcement in 1959 of the seven Mercury astronauts, Koppel paints chatty, personal portraits of each woman as she adjusts to dramatic changes: one day she’s living the life of an ordinary military wife; the next she’s married to a major celebrity. The wives were closely monitored by NASA and expected to be perfect, right down to what they wore and what food they served their husbands. They needed a support group, so the Astronaut Wives Club came into being in 1966.” All POP women are welcome to participate for one meeting or for all. If you would like to receive email reminders, please send an email to Jennifer Maloney (Maloney.jenn@gmail.com).

Future Dates, Book Selections, and Hosts:
 April 10th-The Language of Flowers: A Novel by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, hosted by Nancy Wolejsza
 May 8th-The Husband’s Secret by Liane Moriarty, hosted by Lisa Woodard
 June 12th -The Scapegoat by Daphne du Maurier, pool party hosted by Susan Victor and Joan Kowalik

PoP Playgroup

Join PoP Playgroup for...a play! On **Saturday, March 22nd**, the playgroup will meet at Imagination Stage in Bethesda for "Inside Out", a special show just for children under 5. We'll gather in the cafe area at **10:30 am** for a snack, just before the **11:15 am** performance. The show includes a "free play" session, allowing the audience to explore some items used in the show. For tickets and more show information, see <https://tickets.imaginationstage.org/public/show.asp?shcode=446>

Then, on **Saturday, April 12th at 11:00 am** we'll meet again at the PoP nursery - and hopefully enjoy some outside time on the playground if the weather is nice!

PoP Playgroup is a great way for families and their babies/toddlers/preschoolers to connect with each other. Please contact Jamie (jlpflast@hotmail.com) or Lauren (laurenkategibson@gmail.com) for more info!

On Saturday, February 22 PoP Playgroup met at Meadowside Nature Center. Take a look at the fun they had!



West Virginia Water Crisis Response

There are a lot of people who make below a living wage being hit extremely hard by the chemical spill/water disaster in southern WV. For them, the disaster may go on for months after the water is flowing again. An example of people in this group is the workers at restaurants. They usually don't make minimum wage and depend on tips to make up the difference. One of the items people are running out of and can't afford to purchase are baby diapers. In support of Community Lutheran Partners (CLP), we will be holding a Diaper Drive in **early March**. Please place your financial contributions (clearly marked "Diaper Drive") in the offering plate. Alternatively you can donate through their website (www.clp-online.org) or mail donations to PO Box 3054, Wheeling WV 26003. The diapers will be distributed to food pantries in the affected areas. These pantries will be serving those hit hardest by this disaster.

Philadelphia Flower Show

Do you like flowers? Are you interested in going to a flower show? The Philadelphia Flower Show is on **Thursday and Friday, March 6 & 7**. The cost, \$82.00, includes round trip travel and admission to the show. Eyre Bus Tour will pick up anyone interested at the Georgia Avenue Park & Ride at **9:00 am**. Arrive at the flower show by **12:30 pm**, leave at **5:00 pm**, and arrive home at **8:00 pm**. If you are interested, contact [June Herron](mailto:june.herron@verizon.net) (june.herron@verizon.net).

NCC To Hold Benefit **Concert For Gaithersburg** **HELP**



A benefit concert by the National Christian Choir is being held on **Saturday, March 8th, 2014** from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the First Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, Md. All proceeds will go to Gaithersburg Help to assist local families in need with food, infant needs, transportation, and prescription assistance. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased online at www.GaithersburgHELP.org, the PoP church office (cash or check only), or by contacting [Paul Marmillion](mailto:pmarmillion@comcast.net) (pmarmillion@comcast.net). The National Christian Choir is an interdenominational choir, based in the Washington DC metropolitan area which ministers through [concerts](#), [recordings](#), [tours](#), and [radio](#). Each participant signs a statement of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord and belief that the Bible is God's inspired Word to us. The Choir was founded in 1984 by Harry Causey and continues now under the leadership of Kathy Bowman. Don't miss the opportunity to witness this spectacular performance and also benefit the needy in our Gaithersburg community.

News from the ELCA

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes a monthly column for *The Lutheran* magazine, and beginning this month, the Metro DC Synod will post it to their "Forum" blog. The first column is titled: "[Learning to speak a hard truth: Needle barely moved on ELCA becoming a diverse church.](http://metrodcelca.org/2014/02/learning-to-speak-a-hard-truth-needle-barely-moved-on-elca-becoming-a-diverse-church/)" (<http://metrodcelca.org/2014/02/learning-to-speak-a-hard-truth-needle-barely-moved-on-elca-becoming-a-diverse-church/>) Get the occasional blog posts delivered to your email inbox by signing up from the bottom right of the Synod home page at www.metrodcelca.org

COMING UP...

March

- 4 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 7 & 8 - 30 Hour Famine
- 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 15 & 16 - Youth Sunday
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 18 - California Tortilla Fundraiser
- 19 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 20 - Faith-Full Families
- 20 - Spring Begins
- 22 - Playgroup Trip to Imagination Stage
- 23 - First Communion Classes start
- 26 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 29 - Big Church Clean

April

- 2 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 9 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 13 - Palm Sunday
- 17 - Maundy Thursday Service
- 18 - Good Friday Service
- 19 - Easter Vigil
- 20 - Easter Services/Easter Egg Hunt
- 24 - Faith-Full Families

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Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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