



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 33, Iss. 5

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

June 2014

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held July 21st - 25th from 9 until noon. Join us for Weird Animals where "God's Love Is One-of-a-Kind". More information can be found on the PoP website (http://poplutheran.org/childrenyouth/vbs_2014.html). VBS is for all children ages 3 (potty trained, please) through entering 5th grade.

Registration forms can be found on the PoP website (http://poplutheran.org/childrenyouth/forms/VBS_Registration_form_2014.pdf) and also in the narthex.

Registration fee is \$50.00 per participant with a max payment of \$150 per family. Each family will receive a CD of the VBS music and a T-shirt for each child. Need based scholarships are available. We usually fill very quickly so get your registration form in early. For more information contact Judy Bruening (Judy.bruening53@gmail.com).

Pentecost

For Pentecost, June 7/8, we will read the Pentecost story in a variety of languages to celebrate the wide reach of the Spirit's power. If you speak another language, please sign up in the narthex to read the gospel in that language at one or more services.



a new resident at PoP

Habitat for Humanity

Join us as we serve our neighbors at the [Habitat for Humanity Maple Hill](#) project in Gaithersburg! Our next workday will be Saturday, June 21. Skilled labor is not required, but you need to be 18 years old to volunteer. Sign up online (<https://habitatmm.volunteerconnect.com/PrinceofPeace/full>) to volunteer. Questions? Email Steve Sullivan (stevesullivan@comcast.net).



Houses worked on during the May 17 workday.



SMILE! The workers at the May 17 workday gathers for a group picture.

June Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Worship with piano and guitar
10:00 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 (every other week)
6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

7:45 am Men's Group
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



From Pastor Christine...

(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

Every time I sit down to write a newsletter article I struggle. Not because I have nothing to say, but because the newsletter is often read like a magazine... when you have a few spare minutes that's when we will sit down to read it. So, a newsletter article should be relevant, but not necessarily 'timely' (in that it can't be information that is needed to know tomorrow). It should also have some merit and use (otherwise why waste your time reading it?). And capture your attention, since I'm not holding you 'hostage' during a sermon (mild attempt at humor...). So given all those things, I was thinking about what might be helpful to each of YOU? What might you be able to use?

I'm assuming that you are reading this article someplace *other* than church, so I thought I'd give you something to carry church, worship, God into wherever you happen to be (work, home, riding in the car - as long as you aren't the one driving, sitting at a ball game, resting in bed): a few prayer practices.

Some of you may have prayer practices that work for you - these may give you other alternatives. Some of you may struggle with prayer in general - these may give you a starting point. Some of you may be bored with your prayer life - these may spice it up. Some of you may be searching for a deeper connection with God - these may enhance that relationship. There are many different ways to pray, so these are just a few suggestions as we head into summer and our lives become a different kind of hectic (running to and fro visiting family, friends, and vacationing).

-Lectio Divina

One of the most ancient prayer practices is lectio divina. To practice lectio divina, choose a few verses of the Bible. Read them unhurriedly (preferably out loud, but not mandatory) - typically read the verses 2-3 times. As you read listen to the message God is speaking to you. Stay alert.

Questions to ask:

"What are you saying to me today, Lord?"

"What am I to hear in this story, parable, or prophesy?"

After listening to the words try talking to God about what you heard, thought, felt. Let God's presence wash over you, bringing you peace.

The basic form of this prayer practice is: read, reflect, respond, and rest.

-Praying the Psalms

The book of Psalms has been called the prayer book of the Bible. It is a collection of sung prayers that have been used in worship from the time of ancient Israel up to the present. Because the psalms range so widely in emotional expression, they teach us to hide nothing from God. No matter what we are feeling -- distress, trust, anger or delight, we find the words of the psalms accompany us into God's presence. ... In the psalms we find words to express every conceivable human condition and feeling. These prayers give us words to glorify, confess, hope, ask, and even curse. In so doing, they give us permission to share our whole being with God. The following are a few choices to read as prayers to God when you are at a loss for words: **ANXIOUS/AFRAID** (Psalm 70), **ENVIUS** (Psalm 73), **DESPAIRING** (Psalm 77), **SICK AND TIRED** (Psalm 6), **GRATEFUL** (Psalm 9), **CONTENT OR MOURNING** (Psalm 23), **BETRAYED** (Psalm 17), **AWED BY GOD** (Psalm 29)

-Praying with your eyes open

Most of us have been taught to pray with our eyes closed, however keeping our eyes open but focused can be a different way to pray. There are variations on this (you can adjust it to your needs), but a good way to start:

Choose a place to sit and light a candle. The flame can be a metaphor for inviting the Holy Spirit to be present there with you. Pick an icon, symbol, picture (something that speaks of God to you) and place it in your space. Sit, relax your shoulders, rest your hands open on your lap. You may feel pressured as you try to sit... try not to be in a hurry. As you look at your chosen symbol breathe in life and the peace of God. As you exhale breathe out gratitude and your appeals for help in life. This type of posture invites simple prayer words: Thank you for _____. Help me with _____. I'm struggling with _____. I'm so happy about _____.

And don't forget to breathe in; breathe out.

-Jesus Prayer

Continuously repeating the words: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner,' in a methodic rhythm can be freeing and calming. Repeating the words, "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy," can also be used. Often this is 'effective' while jogging or walking as the words can sync with your body's cadence. What is lovely about these words is they remind us that there is nothing standing between us and God. God invited us to speak directly with Him and desires relationship with us.

-Journaling

Writing letters, prayers or thoughts to God can feel different than just our typical form of journaling. Try writing a letter to God... You may be surprised how connecting it feels.

-ACTS prayer

If praying in a traditional format works for you, try this format:

Adoration (praise God for who He is)

Confession (express our fault, shortcomings, and sins)

Thanksgiving (give thanks to God for all He's done; the ways you've seen God work in your life)

Supplication (ask God for what you need)

-Labyrinth

The labyrinth is a metaphor for life. In the labyrinth we don't know what twists and turns we will go on, but as we draw closer to the center (symbolic of God), others who may be in the labyrinth are also closer to us (symbolizing our connectivity to others).

Ways to use the labyrinth:

-As you enter the labyrinth ask God what he wants to tell you and listen for an answer as you walk.

-Pray for yourself on the way in and others on the way out.

-Recite the Lord's Prayer continuously.

-As you move toward the center of the labyrinth, focus on letting go of distractions or worries. In the center, spend time reflecting on your relationship with God. Be aware of God's presence. Then, you will sense the need to move out into the world again. As you leave, carry Jesus back to the ordinary places of life.

This is a GREAT something to try during the summer months. There are labyrinths around the DC area (look here:

<http://labyrinthlocator.com/home>)

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA (8531 Riverside Road Alexandria VA 22308)

National Cathedral - on the last Tuesday of each month (3101 Wisconsin Avenue Washington, DC)

St. Thomas Parish (1772 Church Street NW Washington DC 20036)

Barton Park (2401 10th St N Arlington, VA 22201) Advent Lutheran Church (2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd. Arlington, Virginia 22202)

Maryland Hall for Creative Arts (801 Chase Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401)

Northeast Interfaith Peace Garden (4414 Frankford Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21206)

St. Luke's Episcopal (6030 Grosvenor Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20814)

Faith United Methodist (6810 Montrose Road Rockville, Maryland 20852)

There are a great many other prayer practices, but these are a few that hopefully will give you some ideas to help enhance and deepen your relationship and connectivity to God.

Grace upon grace,
Pastor Christine

SPECIAL PRAYERS

. . . My need was met because someone came and communicated . . . in words I could not express. . . .
Pastor John B. McGarvey

Sympathy

Family of Susan Younkens (sister-in-law of Jaye Younkens)

Family of Lois Haddad (friend of Richard Farrar)

Family of Larry Speicher

Thanksgiving

Our Sunday School Volunteers

Birth of Zachary Theodore Jodts (son of Kristin & Eric Jodts)

Wedding of Joan Kowalik and Susan Victor

Wedding of Stephanie Goodwin and Michael Greenberg

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pre-VBS Help Needed!

We are looking for a few people to help us create decorations for hallways and station areas. Also, people who are interested in helping us create the set used in the sanctuary. Time frame: June and July. You do not need any previous experience ☺ and you will be working with people who have done this before. If you are interested in helping in any of these ways please contact Judy Bruening (judy.bruening53@gmail.com).

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

We will recognize the hard work of our graduates the weekend of June 14-15.

BLOOD DRIVE



Save the Date! Red Cross Blood Drive coming to PoP on Saturday, July 12. Watch for details coming soon. Want to volunteer to help on the day of the Drive? Contact Debra Aplan (debraaplan@comcast.net). Fuel your community - donate blood!

RECENT EVENTS

Women's Shelter Ministry

On April 8, several generous members of the congregation donated food, and Kathy Rossmeisl, Jean Bernstein, Susan Gowing and Deborah Kalas served dinner at the Women's Shelter in Rockville. The women at the shelter were thrilled, and thanked us many times for providing such a delicious dinner.



In this past year, we have hosted Birthday parties and a few dinners for the shelter. This shelter is supported by some Montgomery County funding, but mostly by churches in the area. This center provides, shelter, support, counseling, vocational training and referrals for medical assistance. The

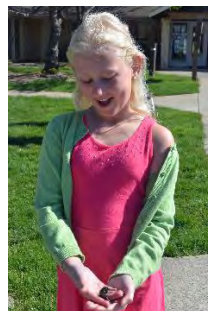
goal is always to place these women back in homes of their own and help them find permanent jobs. If you would like to get involved or get more information, please contact Deborah Kalas (dkalas@empowerit.com).

Woman - last at the cross, and earliest at the grave.

E. S. Barrett

Creation Care

PoP celebrated Creation Care on April 27 during the Sunday School hour.



More worms for the garden



Learning about recycling, clean energy options and new Maryland lawn fertilizer regulations with Charlie Stockman



Supporting the Students Rebuild water challenge by making paper beads with Janet Levine

STEWARDSHIP

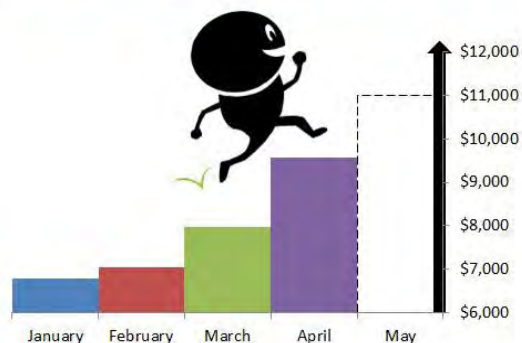
Building Update

Christ is Risen! And the Council wants you to know that our building project is also alive! While it may seem that our building project has laid dormant lately, we've been listening to you over the past several months, and we've heard two things. First, you want to build, as we now have over 100 households involved in pledging and giving more than \$500K! Second, many folks, including many who have already given generously, are concerned about the size of both the project and the projected debt.

The Council, Finance and Stewardship teams, working together, have **reduced the projected budget by nearly 1/3**. Council is continuing to work to revise our project's vision and scope to align with the revised budget. **We also set a meeting with the architects for June 19 to restart the project** and to discuss possibilities for a revised design that is exciting, functional and financially responsible. And the Building Committee called a meeting for June 3 at 7:30pm, where the Committee and the Council will discuss the project. All members of the congregation are invited to this meeting. We also encourage you to join the Building Committee and help in the re-"visioning" of the project.

Thank you to all who have pledged and donated! Continued financial support is essential as we move forward in making this dream a reality. You can learn more about our building effort to date on the [website](http://www.poplutheran.org/building) (www.poplutheran.org/building), or contact [Jim Bostrom](mailto:jimbostrom.md@gmail.com) (Council President, jimbostrom.md@gmail.com), [Tom Kettler](mailto:tek@kettlerforlineshomes.com) (Building Committee Chair, tek@kettlerforlineshomes.com), [Pastor Steve](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org) (pastor@poplutheran.org) or [Pastor Christine](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

Step Up Campaign is Working
Yay! Average weekly giving is increasing!
Thank you to those who have already stepped up.
If you have not yet stepped up, it's not too late.
Can we make it to the next step in May?



Please join with your fellow members who have made this commitment and jump on board! If you have questions, ask any member of council, finance or stewardship, or [Chuck Dixon](mailto:chuckdixon@mac.com) (chuckdixon@mac.com).

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

As this season of Christian Education draws to a close, we offer sincere thanks to our wonderful Sunday school leaders for their commitment to our children, and for the faith and love they share:

Opening - Chris Schaefer and Danielle Drobny
Preschool/Kindergarten - Jamie Pflasterer and Stephanie Mills
Elementary Workshop - Lisa Conary, Anne Witten, Janet Levine
Elementary Shepherds - Sherry Kienzle and Tom Panning
Middle School - Judy Bruening
Sunday School Superintendent - Janet Levine
The leaders appreciate the participation of our learners, and we look forward to seeing you at worship and VBS, and back in class this fall!



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. We will be sharing our experiences when we return. Thanks for supporting our fundraisers!

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!

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

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

PoP Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting every other Tuesday **during the summer months**. We will be reading Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller. This is a new discussion and begins on June 3.

Blue Like Jazz is described as 'nonreligious thoughts on Christian spirituality'. It is funny, sarcastic, and very metaphorical. You will laugh. Each chapter is a self-contained story about faith, God, life, or love. It lends itself to hectic summer schedules since the chapters are self-contained stories about faith, God, life and love. You may come for every discussion session or just the few you can make.

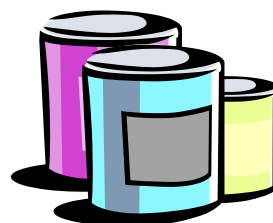
Questions? Contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@popluthern.org).

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

YOU CAN *Gaithersburg* HELP



The Gaithersburg HELP food pantry has an ongoing need for food. Please help by donating generously. Although all items are needed, cereal is especially needed at this time. Consider picking up an extra box the next time you shop. Donations can be left in the basket in the foyer.



UMAN Needs Help

The Upper Montgomery Assistance Network (UMAN) is seeking an administrative volunteer to enter client data 2-4 hours a week in their Gaithersburg office. The day and time are flexible (Mon-Thurs between 9am and 2pm), and training will be provided. UMAN provides emergency financial assistance to families at risk of homelessness or loss of a vital utility service. UMAN serves households in Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, Germantown, and Derwood, often referred to by Gaithersburg HELP. If interested, please contact UMAN (gina_mastro@uman-mc.org, 301-926-4422).

Back Door Ministries

Do you want to help others but aren't sure how? Is time a big problem for you? Help with our Back Door Ministries. Simply bring in the items each Sunday that we collect and drop them in the appropriate basket by the back door. Items we collect include canceled stamps for the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home), cell phones to be recycled, printer ink cartridges (monies go to help pay for Workcamp and ELCA Youth Gathering), Campbell soup labels (UPCs) for the Navajo Lutheran Mission school, and food for Gaithersburg HELP. Save or buy and bring your donation the next time you come to church.

The Auxiliary at the Village at Rockville

We will hold our annual membership drive for the Auxiliary **June 7th-22nd**. Enrich the lives of the residents of the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home) by joining The Auxiliary. The Auxiliary provides the "extras" that make life for the residents an enjoyable experience: birthday parties and gifts, bus trips, Christmas gifts, hearing aid batteries, etc. Join or renew your membership June 7th through June 22nd between services or leave your membership form in the POP Office. Contact Donna Von Wald (dlhsjvw@rcn.com) for more info or to help with this project.

The Village at Rockville is also a great place to volunteer. It is conveniently located near Darnestown Rd and Glen Mill Rd. There are many opportunities to volunteer such as reading to or visiting residents, wheelchair escorts, administrative duties, leading activities, and sharing your talents. Pick up a Volunteer brochure at POP or contact Volunteer Services ([301-354-8447](tel:301-354-8447), volunteers@thevillageatrockville.org). There are also opportunities for students to earn SSL hours.

Looking for an easy opportunity to get involved at Prince of Peace? Consider becoming our Keyperson for the Auxiliary at The Village at Rockville. The responsibilities include advertising their Events at POP and conducting one Auxiliary Membership Drive at POP each year. If you would like more info, please contact Donna Von Wald (dlhsjvw@rcn.com). You can get a feel for it by helping with the Membership Drive in June.

Thrivent Builds Repair

You can make an impact in your community in just one day by volunteering with Thrivent Builds Repairs with Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers will work outside on a house in Burtonsville 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on **Saturday, June 7, 2014**.

Tasks include painting, repairing, planting, trimming and clean-up. To volunteer contact Walt Petzold at [301-871-7413](tel:301-871-7413) or carolpetzold@boo.net.

Lunch will be provided. Tools will be provided, but bring gloves and wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Suntan lotion and bug spray are advised. If a parent or guardian is present, 16 and 17 year olds may participate. Service Learning

credit is available for students bringing forms from their school. This worthy project to help disadvantaged families is financed by Thrivent Financial.

FELLOWSHIP

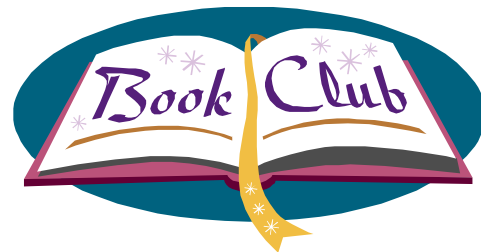
Women's Book Group

Our next meeting is **Friday, June 13 (lucky day!!)**, at 7:30 pm, hosted by Susan Victor and Joan Kowalik. This is the summer pool party/dive-in. We will discuss The Scapegoat by Daphne du Maurier; the movie will also be shown. Bring your suits and a towel and enjoy the fun.

The Women's Book Group meets monthly, usually on the second Thursday of the month. 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:

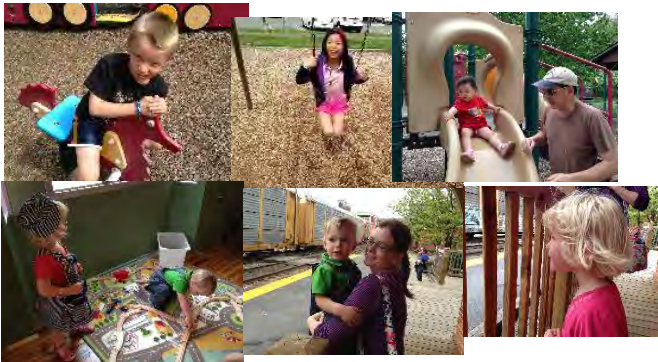
- July 10 - Me Before You: A Novel by Jojo Moyes, hosted by Pam Cook
- August 14 - The Orphan Train: A Novel by Christina Baker Kline, hosted by Lesa Sullivan
- September 11 - Moloka'i by Alan Brennert, hosted by Judy Bruening
- October 9 - Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, hosted by Jennifer Maloney
- November 13 - Sara's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay, hosted by Sharon Wahl
- December 11 - Tolstoy and the Purple Chair, My Year of Magical Reading by Nina Sankovitch, host TBD
- January 8 - Want Not by Jonathan Miles, hosted by Jamie Pflasterer in the Fellowship Hall



PoP Playgroup

Join the PoP Playgroup on Saturday, June 14 at 11:00 am as we head out to [Homestead Farms](#) near Poolesville to go strawberry picking.

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



In Memory of Larry Speicher



From Marybeth Stockman:

I first met Larry when we joined the congregation in 1992 and it didn't take me long to figure out that we had quite a bit in common. Larry, always the kidder, would tease me as he would pass me pulling weeds or watering among the azaleas near the back exit of the church. Back then we struggled, as we do to a lesser extent now, to maintain the church's large property with a willing, yet small and somewhat disorganized, band of volunteers. Larry was instrumental in organizing some of the first work days on the grounds of the church. He made sure that we all had fun and that there were plenty of donuts and

hot dogs. We didn't have much money to spend in those days so donated labor and materials were always key. Larry was great at schmoozing those out of people.

In the early 2000's he, I and others began to dream of developing a garden on the church grounds that members could use not only to grow their own food but also food for donation to local charities. We all didn't necessarily agree on where the garden should be placed, but ultimately the project was approved and Larry set to work, felling trees, clearing brush, and wheeling-and-dealing for donations of lumber and fencing materials. The first garden located directly behind the Besecker Youth Center was quickly followed by Gardens 2 and 3. In spite of, or maybe because of, his diagnosis Larry spent countless hours working tirelessly on the gardens. Even during this last go-round of treatment, when he was clearly very sick, Larry was emailing me worried about early spring planning and sign-ups for the garden.

Larry, a staunch liberal, was active in organizing the men's group, and never shied away from, and likely instigated, the spirited discussions that would undoubtedly occur at those Saturday morning meetings. The donuts somehow managed to smooth out any bad feelings and allowed everyone to remain good friends in spite of their political differences. When Pastor Steve told me that when asked by the hospice social worker if he had any remaining worries, Larry replied, "That the Republicans take the Senate in November," I smiled, thinking that even in such dire straits he could muster his quick wit, and that he truly was comfortable in life and death.

I hope that the gardens can continue to be a place to remember Larry. Maybe that could be in the form of a memorial bench, a plaque, water feature, picnic table, or even a name change for the garden itself. But Larry might think that two things named in his honor would be excessive. He would probably say he's satisfied with Prince of Peace's very own creek dubbed "Speicher's Run" and to just keep the name "Fruitful Fields" for the gardens. Larry was always dreaming of how to make the gardens truly "fruitful," not just a place to grow food, but how to make them a gathering spot for fellowship and for reflecting on all our blessings.

(read at the blessing of the Gardens the weekend that Larry died)

From Neil Howard:

Dear Larry,

I met you in 1981 when we moved to Gaithersburg. You were a part of a group called the Service Committee which started Prince of Peace even before the first service was held. So you are a PoP patriarch. You helped plan the first service. In the early days of PoP, you took on the "hard" ministries that nobody else wanted to do - things like "Stewardship" and "Witness" - things that Lutherans aren't very good at. But you were.

I remember your leadership in Witness. When you were the chairman, you started an effort to visit all inactive members to show them that we had not forgotten them. We did this together, because neither of us was inclined to do it alone. It is much easier to step out of the boat when you have a crazy friend along. Thanks for being a crazy friend.

You are an unusual character. (Sorry, I still have trouble speaking of you in the past tense). God made our work together holy, but you made it fun. Your life is one that made a difference.

COLOR ME!



COMING UP...

June

- 7 - Thrivent Builds Repair
- 8 - Pentecost
- 8 - New Members Dinner
- 12 - Women's Book Group
- 14 - Flag Day
- 14 - POP Playgroup
- 15 - Father's Day
- 15 - Recognition of Graduates
- 21 - Summer Begins
- 21 - Habitat for Humanity Work Day
- 21 - Synod Assembly

July

- 4 - Independence Day
- 5-12 - Workcamp
- 10 - Women's Book Group
- 12 - Blood Drive
- 21-25 - Vacation Bible School

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Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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