



# Glad Tidings



Vol. 33, Iss. 7

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

September 2014

## Come & Worship

Our Fall Worship Schedule resumes on the weekend of September 6 & 7! Join us for:



Saturday Worship @ 5 pm  
Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 am  
Sunday School @ 9:45 am

## Sunday School

### Youth

Rally Day kicks off our new season of Sunday School on **September 7th at 9:45 am**. Preschool through elementary age kids and their families will meet in the sanctuary for Opening as they register for Sunday school. Older students will bypass the sanctuary and start right off in their classrooms in the Besecker Youth Center (BYC). Sunday school meets weekly from 9:45-10:45 am. See page 5 for more details about Preschool - Elementary School, Middle School, and High School classes.



### Adult

Adults will have a variety of short classes throughout the year on various topics of faith and life. See page 6 for more details about the first class starting **Sept. 7 & 14 during adult education hour (9:45-10:45am)**.

### September is Hunger Action Month.

TAKE ACTION and help us to raise funds for our neighbors in need! See pages 6 & 7 for more information about how to help.

## Fall is Here!

In nature, Fall is the beginning of a time of sleep and rest. At Prince of Peace, Fall is the beginning of a new, busy year. Some groups are starting back after a summer break. Other groups are starting new and, possibly, heartier topics.

Continue reading through Glad Tidings to find out exactly what each group is doing. First, read about Pastor Christine's thoughts on social media and the church. Then, check out the Upcoming Events, Recent News, and Thank You's. Keep reading to check out what our groups are planning for the Fall. Finally, note the dates in Coming Up... and keep your eyes open for more events and fun to come!

## September 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 Monday

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters  
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

### Every Wednesday

5:00 pm Youth Handbell Ensemble  
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 Christine...

([pastorchristine@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)

### What would Jesus tweet?

The question of social media, its impact on society, and its varied qualities - both good and bad - is not a new one. Ever since the onset of email, the pace of social media has just gotten quicker and slipperier. At this juncture in time, the question is no longer whether or not to be on social media. The question is how to best use it and how it impacts our relationships and communities.

Social media and social networking aren't going away. Check out this video - it will most likely shock you about the prevalence of social media (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zxp4dNVd3c>).

There isn't a person among us that hasn't lamented over their spouse, child, or friend who never puts their cell phone down because they are tweeting or posting. I have been guilty of this, too. In today's day and age, the push to get information out there is constant - whether it's familial or business, we have become accustomed to 'sharing'. Because of this, many have pointed at technology and said it's the beginning of the denigration of society.

The argument is:  
We interact less like humans and more like robots. We don't have to be face-to-face and learn interpersonal skills. Our phones are practically attached to us twenty-four hours a day. For many of us, we feel naked if we leave our phone at home or it runs out of battery. Something doesn't feel quite right to us...

I know that some of you reading this right now are shaking your heads and thinking this is exactly what is wrong with society.

But what if this is actually a good sign?

I know. I know. But stick with me for just a few minutes. What if what social media is actually doing is highlighting our very human desire for connection? What if this is actually a turning

point that could lead to deeper, more honest and authentic relationships?

I can, in today's day and age, be at the grocery store texting with my mother, buying food, and talking to my kids. I can be connected to my mom, who lives far away, relay information about my mom to my kids, and I can talk with my kids while I'm at it. It is possible to maintain more relationships and share more information than I ever could before.

I have the ability to be more fully human because I can be more in touch with those around me.

However.... there is a catch.

Technology is not what's disembodying us. Presence of heart and mind is. The problem is more one of dissipation. We can become so fully poured out that we are no longer 'alive'.

This isn't a new problem. The question of whether or not we are actually present and listening has been around for ages. The question of whether we are sharing or promoting is what makes people skeptical of marketers, businesses, and the church.

We can be more fully human in today's day and age because of social media if we are present on it when we are on it and present at the dinner table when we are having dinner and present at the conference call when we are skyping...

As a church, as people who believe in connection, we should be asking ourselves how we, individually and collectively, are using social media to further the kingdom of God. We should be thinking about social media from a theological standpoint. Yes, please read that again. We should be wondering WWJD with social media.

Would he be on Facebook? Twitter? Have an Instagram account or blog?

As weird as it sounds, and as crazy as it makes me that there are actually 'jesus' and 'god' Facebook pages and Twitter feeds - the truth of the matter is He would post, tweet, selfie, and hashtag.

Let's take a cue from St. Paul who began 'virtually' working for the church of Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago. Yes, St. Paul used social

networking, at least the social networking which was available to him at the time.

He used letters to get the word out and to stay connected. With St. Paul we see a shift in the Bible from an oral culture to a written culture....with one goal in mind: Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

And once he got the word to the people, they'd share it, too. Peter, Silas, Timothy, Prisca, and Aquila are all examples of social media and social networking.

We are living in a shift; a time where we should be asking how are we best using social media and social networking as they exist today.

These are not all encompassing suggestions, but they are a start and we (Prince of Peace) need your help in sharing the good news of love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace with the world.

1.) If you have Facebook, ACTIVELY share Prince of Peace's page and status updates (pages don't show up in newsfeeds as often - Facebook relies on people, not businesses to promote).

2.) If you have Twitter, please hashtag us (#PoPGaithersburg) and direct message us (@PoPGaithersburg).

3.) 'Check in' when you come to events via Facebook or Foursquare.

4.) Take pictures and post to Instagram and Facebook - tagging people AND Prince of Peace (please ask permission to tag people).

5.) Share events like Yard Sale, VBS, Rally Day, concerts, and special services on Twitter and Facebook.

I know that some of the above may sound like a foreign language to some of you. If that's the case and you are interested in learning more, please plan on attending a social media 'workshop' on **September 7 (Rally Day) and September 14 during our adult education time (9:45-:10:45)**. Bring a laptop or tablet with you, if you have one. If you don't, no problem. We will be projecting information and you will be able to follow along. You do not need to have Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts to

attend. If you'd like an account, we can help you set one up! If you have specific requests about what is covered, please let [Pastor Christine \(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) know.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Blessing of Animals



Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take place at our **5 pm Saturday service October 4!** Come and bring your pets!



### HOLY SMOKE - It's a Hoe Down!

**SAVE the DATE - Saturday, November 8, following the 5pm worship service.** Learn to square dance as a professional 'caller' teaches us the moves, BBQ and pie eating contests, and fantastic door prizes. Fun for the whole family. You won't want to miss it!



## RECENT NEWS

### Building Update

At its July meeting, our Council authorized Kerns Group Architects to proceed with revising the schematic design for our building plans, taking a fresh approach that addresses our most important needs and fits within our revised budget. Kerns Group expects to begin working on our project by the end of August, and hopes to have a preliminary design to show to the Council and Building Committee by early October. Although the new design will be different than what we had proposed, it will address our ministry vision and needs for many years to come.

The Council and Building Committee are excited that the project is moving forward! 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://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).

## Coming Soon . . . VolunteerSpot!

Be on the lookout for a new way to sign up for volunteer opportunities at Prince of Peace, called VolunteerSpot. We realize that everyone is busy and that it's hard to commit to ongoing jobs. At the same time, we want to help out when we can. VolunteerSpot allows you to easily sign up for one-time or ongoing volunteer opportunities. How does it work? You will get periodic emails that say, for example, "we still need one person to bring snacks for VBS" or "we need folks to help at the Habitat Build Day." If you want to volunteer, simply click the link and sign up. If you don't, simply ignore it. It's that easy! (VolunteerSpot will not distribute your email to anyone for any purpose, but you may opt out of getting the PoP emails by contacting [Tracy Barr](mailto:Tracy Barr) ([volunteers@poplutheran.org](mailto:volunteers@poplutheran.org))). We will also have a button on [poplutheran.org](http://poplutheran.org) and a link on our Facebook page for sign ups. Thanks for volunteering!!

## Ministry with Brightview Assisted Living

Pastor Steve and Pastor Christine are now working with Brightview Assisted Living in Rockville (and our member Greta Kunkle who lives there) to offer communion services once a month for residents. Pastor Steve led the first of these services on August 8. If you're interested in learning more about this, or coming along for a service, please let [Pr. Steve](mailto:Pr. Steve) ([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org)) or [Pr. Christine](mailto:Pr. Christine) ([pastorchristine@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org)) know!

## RECENT EVENTS



Three visitors one Sunday in July. Did we give them comp tickets to VBS?

## Vacation Bible School

PoP was invaded with song, dance, art, play, and children during the week of July 21 - 25 for VBS. These pictures show a sample of the many faces which help to make VBS so special.



## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way with VBS: volunteering, making decorations, and donating food/supplies. Special thanks to **Judy and Megan Bruening** for coordinating the event. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for pictures of all the fun. We had a wonderful week and it would not have been possible without all of the support from the congregation!

Have you had an event or other situation in your life for which you received a card from POP? That card came from Deborah Kalas, who was the sole administrator of our card ministry for several years. She recently decided it was time to take a break. Judy Logeman graciously accepted the request to fill in as our new administrator in this ministry. **Many thanks to Deborah for the kind words she delivered with each card. You definitely blessed many with your gift! Many thanks to Judy for taking over this ministry which touches the lives of so many! God bless you both!**

**Many Thanks** to everyone who contributed to our collection of backpacks and school supplies for needy children in Montgomery County!

**Thank you** to those who made donations to purchase Bibles for the Habitat for Humanity families!

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **Sunday School**

#### **Preschool - Elementary School**

We'll once again use the Spark Rotation Sunday School curriculum for our preschool through elementary age classes. In workshops such as drama, cooking, and science, we'll explore each Bible story from multiple perspectives and in greater depth with an experiential approach similar to VBS.

Leaders:

Opening - Chris Schaefer and Danielle Drobny  
Preschool-Kindergarten - Jamie Pflasterer and Stephanie Mills

Lower Elementary Shepherd - Tom Panning

Upper Elementary Shepherd - Sanna Sander

Elementary Workshop Leaders - Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, and Anne Witten

### **Middle School**

Sunday school for the middle school grades will be focusing on the Sparkhouse re:form curriculum which involves a little more in-depth thinking on biblical principles. We will discuss things like, "Who wrote the Bible - people or God?" and other thought-provoking questions. Students will use cool and quirky workbooks and short films to spark interest in these fun yet contemplative topics. We look forward to discussing (and practicing!) God's word together this coming year!

Leader - Sherry Kienzle

### **High School**

"Unlikely people called by God to do amazing things." This describes the New Testament ancestors of our faith whom high schoolers will explore using the youth Bible study, Sparkhouse re:form Ancestors. Using more cool and quirky workbooks and short films, we'll discover similarities between ourselves and the many unlikely people chosen by God to do the extraordinary.

Leader - Judy Bruening

### **Contact**

Sunday School Superintendent, [Janet Levine](mailto:Lyle1Janet@msn.com) (Lyle1Janet@msn.com), with any questions or comments. See you on Rally Day!

### **Youth Group**

High School weekly meet-ups are back on a regular schedule this fall! **Please note, though, that we had to change them to every Monday night instead of Tuesdays. We will still meet at the same time 6-7:30pm** for fellowship, pizza, and discussions on life and faith and where they intersect. All high school aged youth are welcome to attend.

In addition to the weekly meet-ups, the high school group will also have one weekend event each month. Coming up on **September 27th & 28th**, we will be camping out overnight up in the Cunningham Falls area, and then follow it up with a day hike. Youth/adult chaperones can come for one or both parts of the event. On **October 11**, the group will head out to the Six Flags Halloween Fright Fest. We will wrap up the month with a Halloween Party here at PoP for ALL AGES on **Friday, October 24**. For more opportunities for youth of all ages to get involved, please check the Children & Youth page on the PoP website for calendars of events.

### **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](mailto:GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com) - thanks!

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

## **Handbell Ensemble**

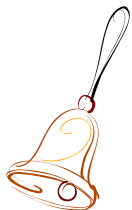
**POP Handbell Ensemble for Children 1st-6th grade Now Forming!** Sign up in the narthex or contact [Danielle Drobny](mailto:DanielleDrobny@gmail.com) (danielledrobny@gmail.com). Rehearsals will be held **Wednesdays, 5-5:45pm beginning September 10**. We need a minimum of 8 participants so please join us!

## **College Students**

Calling all college students who are living away from home. If you read "Glad Tidings" and would like to receive a paper copy, please email ([GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com)) your college address and which months you would like to receive the paper copy to Martha Rogers then wait for your copy to arrive.

## **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 **Mondays from 6:00-7:30 pm**. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Drissel ([Drissels@comcast.net](mailto:Drissels@comcast.net)).



## **ADULT EDUCATION**

### **Adult Sunday School**

The first adult class is:

Social Media and the Church - Does the world of social media confuse you? Would you like to be able to use it better? Are you unsure about its impact on society and how the Church is using it? Come talk and learn on **Sept. 7 & 14 during adult education hour (9:45-10:45am)**. Bring a laptop or tablet with you, if you have one. If you don't, no problem. We will be projecting information and you will be able to follow along. You do not need to have Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts to attend. If you have specific requests about what is covered, please let [Pastor Christine](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) ([pastorchristine@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org)) know.

## **Pop Women's Bible Study**

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will resume weekly meetings beginning **September 9 at 12:30 pm**. We will be exploring the Gospel of John through selected chapters and verses. (9/9: John 1: 1-16 & John 2: 1-10; 9/16: John 3: 1-17 & John 4: 1-30). It is not necessary that you attend every week. This is an open and fluid group. We base our meetings around the joy of coming together over the word of God. Bring your lunch or a snack, if you would like. If you have questions or want to be included on our email distribution list, please contact [Pastor Christine](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) ([pastorchristine@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org)).

## **Adult Choir**

Please join the PoP Adult Choir for the **Fall 2014 season!** The PoP Adult Choir is for people who want to praise God with great music. We rehearse **Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm starting Wednesday, September 3**. We are preparing a Christmas Cantata again this year, please join and be part of this big celebration with us. For more info, please contact the Choir Director [Claire Cho](mailto:claire.cho@gmail.com) ([claire.cho@gmail.com](mailto:claire.cho@gmail.com)).

## **SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**YOU CAN** *Gaithersburg* **HELP**



On September 20th, Gaithersburg HELP will be hosting the *3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fun Run & Walk* at Bohrer Park. We will be raising funds to support HELP's food pantry and other programs benefiting local residents.

In addition to the Run & Walk, we'll have exciting activities and games - with prizes!!! So invite your friends to join your TEAM, make a pledge and raise funds for this great cause. REGISTER TODAY at [www.gaithersburghelp.org](http://www.gaithersburghelp.org)!

Registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (12 & Under).

Your food donations are critical, but also please consider volunteering - opportunities exist for a few hours per month or more. For more info about Gaithersburg HELP, please visit their website at [www.gaithersburghelp.org](http://www.gaithersburghelp.org)

## PB&J for the Hungry



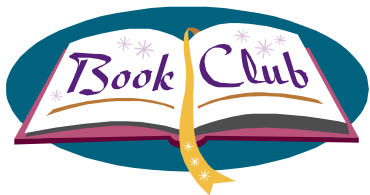
Gaithersburg HELP, our local food pantry, is very low after an overwhelming summer. To celebrate Back-to-School we are collecting peanut butter and jelly to help restock the pantry. Leave donations in the foyer - we always have a collection basket there - please consider picking up something to donate each time you shop. The Sunday School will also be participating in this collection. If you have children, please encourage them to bring some to Sunday School.



## FELLOWSHIP

### Men's Book Club

Aloha! The Prince of Peace Men's Book Club will discuss Alan Brennert's Moloka'i, a novel focusing on life in Honolulu in the early 1900s and the leper colony at Kalaupapa in Hawaii, made famous by Father Damien, Mother Marianne Cope and Lawrence M. Judd. The group will meet **Thursday, September 18, at 7:30 pm** at the home of Charles Sullivan. The group will also select upcoming books for 2014-15. All men of PoP and their male friends are cordially invited. Please RSVP to [Charles \(Charles@HomesFlash.com\)](mailto:Charles@HomesFlash.com).



### Women's Book Group

Book Group will start the fall by discussing Moloka'i by Alan Brennert. The publisher describes the book on Amazon.com, "This richly imagined novel, set in Hawai'i more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place---and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end---but

instead she discovers it is only just beginning. With a vibrant cast of vividly realized characters, Moloka'i is the true-to-life chronicle of a people who embraced life in the face of death." Judy Bruening hosts the gathering on **Thursday, September 11th, at 7:30 pm**. RSVP to [Judy \(judy.bruening53@gmail.com\)](mailto:judy.bruening53@gmail.com).

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 \(Maloney.jenn@gmail.com\)](mailto:Jennifer.Maloney@gmail.com).

Future Dates, Book Selections, and Hosts:

- 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, hosted by Deborah Dixon
- January 8 - Want Not by Jonathan Miles, host TBD

### Empty Nesters

Empty Nesters have planned two exciting events for September. Read on for event and contact information.

#### Saturday Sep. 20, 2014

Event - Maryland Wine Festival at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster Maryland. **The festival is open from 10am to 6pm.** We have attended this event for the last 2 years and it gets a very good review. Anyone wishing to car pool we will leave from the church parking lot at 10:30am. More details to follow. Also see the link at <http://www.marylandwinefestival.org/>

#### Saturday Sep. 27, 2014 -

Event - Autumn Harvest Festival and West Virginia Roadkill Cook-off, Marlinton, WV  
[www.Pccocwv.com/roadkill](http://www.Pccocwv.com/roadkill)

The West Virginia RoadKill Cook-off is one of the region's most fun and exciting annual events. In years past, the Food Network, the Travel Channel and the Discovery Channel have all covered this wild and offbeat festival! If you've ever wanted to taste exotic dishes like squirrel gravy over biscuits, teriyaki-marinated bear or deer sausage, this is the place to be! Details will follow including an information packet for those who wish to stay overnight since the drive is 4.5 hours.

At PoP, you're an Empty Nester if your children (if you have any) are all over 18. It doesn't matter whether you have children, where your children live, what your marital status is, or what your retirement status is. If you want to socialize with this diverse and interesting group, join us! RSVP to [Nancy \(nawolejsza@aol.com\)](mailto:nawolejsza@aol.com) or sign up in the narthex.

**Tables for All**

Tables for All is a fun adult fellowship program in which potluck meals are shared with other members of Prince of Peace. The meals are hosted at the homes of members; guests provide some of the food. **The 2014-15 series will consist of three rounds: Oct-Nov, Jan-Feb, and Apr-May.** The exact dates and times are determined by mutual agreement of the host and guests. The usual host and guest list includes eight people. Sorry, but this program is just for adults, but we can help identify potential babysitters.

After you sign up, you'll be provided with a schedule letting you know when you are hosting or attending. The food assignment is also specified: main dish (host), side dish, salad and bread, or dessert.

Tables for All is a wonderful way to meet others at Prince of Peace and to reconnect with old friends.

Sign up in the narthex or e-mail [Lisa Woodard \(woodard4@comcast.net\)](mailto:woodard4@comcast.net).

**PoP Playgroup**

Kick off your fall by making new friends at PoP Playgroup! We'll meet on **Saturday, 9/27 at 11am** at the church nursery. We'll have a story, some games, a snack, and lots of free play time to get acquainted!

On **Saturday, 10/18 at 11am**, the playgroup will pick pumpkins and apples at Homestead Farms located at 15604 Sugarland Rd, Poolesville, MD. We'll meet at the chicken pen (just across from the general store) and then leave for the pumpkin patch at 11:15am once everyone has gathered.

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



**COMING UP...**

**September**

- 1 - Labor Day
- 7 - Rally Sunday
- 7 - Grandparents Day
- 11 - Women's Book Group
- 18 - Men's Book Club
- 20 - Empty Nesters Maryland Wine Festival
- 20 - Gaithersburg HELP Run/Walk
- 23 - First Day of Autumn
- 27 - Empty Nesters Autumn Harvest Festival
- 27 - PoP Playgroup
- 27 & 28 - HS Youth Trip to Cunningham Falls

**October**

- 5 - Blessing of Animals
- 9 - Women's Book Group
- 11 - HS Youth Trip to Six Flags
- 18 - PoP Playgroup Trip to Homestead Farms
- 24 - Halloween Party
- 26 - Confirmation & Reformation
- 31 - Halloween

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Articles for the October issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **September 14**. Please e-mail articles to Martha Rogers at [GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com). Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

*Glad Tidings* is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org).

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