



Glad Tidings



Vol. 34, Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2015

Chili Cook-Off

Come join us for our Chili Cook-Off on **Saturday, November 7 at 6:30 pm** (right after the Saturday service)! If you've got a great recipe to share, enter your Chili, Cornbread & Pies in the competition. And as an added bonus, we'll have dance instructors who'll teach us how to do the Texas Two Step. This event is for everybody, adults, youth and children. Come and have a ton of fun! Signup in the narthex or contact Pamela Cook (cook1082@verizon.net) or Melanie Zobel (mmzobel@aol.com) for details. Youth Volunteers are needed as well!

Help us celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Danielle Drobny's and Claire Cho's service to Prince of Peace!

As the Music Coordinator, Danielle provides inspirational piano and organ music every Sunday, as well as teaches our youth the love and joy of music through Handbell choir and other special performances. Claire provides beautiful and inspiring piano and violin music for Saturday evening services. Claire also serves as the Adult Choir Director, orchestrating monthly choir programs and conducting Christmas Eve Cantatas and Services. Please join us for a short reception **after the 11:00 am service on November 8th** to congratulate and thank Claire and Danielle.

Give Thanks!

Prince of Peace will host the **annual Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 pm**. This is a joint service we hold each year, together with Good Shepherd and Christ the Servant Lutheran Churches. Our choir will sing, Pastor Steve and Pastor Christine will preside and Pastor Leila Ortiz from Good Shepherd will preach. Following the service, we'll have a special dessert reception! Please sign up to bring a dessert or contact Pamela Cook (cook1082@verizon.net). Thanks!

Learn & Serve

November:

Learning: Our next learning event will be held on **Sunday, November 1st at 10:00 am** in the Sanctuary. Gail Hambleton from the Global Peace Foundation will come to speak to the congregation about human trafficking.

Serving: Our next service opportunity as a congregation will be at the **Village at Rockville on Sunday, November 15th** after the late service. Volunteers will help the residents prepare for Christmas by writing, addressing, and stamping Christmas cards or wrapping Christmas presents! For more information, please contact Donna Rose (rosefamily5@comcast.net).

December:

Learning: On **Sunday, December 6th at 10:00 am** in the Sanctuary, someone from JSSA Hospice will come to speak to our congregation between services to educate us on their work and how we can become more involved.

Debt Reduction Update

The good news continues! We made additional principal payments in both September and October, reducing our mortgage balance to \$345,062.

To put things in perspective, our mortgage balance was \$714,578 when we refinanced on January 1, 2011. That loan comes due next year so we will be working with our Mission Investment Fund partners to get a new loan. The goal is to refinance as little as possible, so as we've said before every dollar really makes a difference!

Finally, we also want to thank everyone for their regular budget support of Prince of Peace. Because of the generosity of our members, we have been able to meet our other regular commitments, including making our budgeted benevolence contributions to both the Synod and all the other organizations that we support. Thank you!



From Pastor Christine...

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

As some of you may know, I've recently begun work on my STM (Masters in Sacred Theology). It's going to take me a long time to complete, but I decided to take on this endeavor for a few key reasons:

1. Learning is good for me; I know this about myself. I truly enjoy being immersed and challenged by differing thoughts and ideas, especially in relation to God. I am a better pastor when I am a student as well as a teacher. I think we all should challenge ourselves to learn throughout our lives.
2. For me, the practice of religion and the study of theology are very much related, but they are not synonymous. You may know that what drew me to seminary were questions about God. Out of my questions my call to the church was born, and so study is also essential to deepening my sense of call.

In a strange twist of irony my first class has brought me almost full circle. I was excited to take my first class entitled "The Holy Spirit and spirits" for a few reasons. The professor who is teaching it is without a doubt the professor who helped me feel like I might be able to be a pastor and that I might fit in. I doubted frequently what a tiny woman who cared too much about cute sweaters, marathon running, and often was off in left field could possibly bring to the 'table.' I could see myself in her which gave me some assurance. But mostly, my experience of God has been predominately through Holy Spirit. This understudied aspect of the Trinitarian God compels me and bewilders me. In my opinion, our exploration of Holy Spirit has been minimal and confining.

There are many aspects of the class I could recall to you, but mostly I'd like to explain my full circle and hope my frail words will do it justice.

Ten years ago I first set foot on the ground at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Every word that was spoken, every class I took, and every new angle on God felt like breath to me. I longed for something, but I didn't know what. And at seminary I found 'something' which grounded me in a way I had never been before.

There are a multitude of reasons why seminary was good for me then, which aren't entirely pertinent to this brief note, but you'll have to trust me on this... Seminary was (and is) a process of sanctification for me.

During my first semester of my first year I first learned of the various translations for the word 'spirit.' Spirit could mean wind, spirit, or breath and each of those words were unguarded with the understanding of 'life force.' I clung to these words; I'm not sure why (at least I wasn't sure why then).

One cool October morning, as I drove up to class, I passed through the battlefields as the sun crested the horizon and the dew clung to the grass and a light fog hovered over the grounds, and I remember feeling as if I could no longer drive, that I had to stop. There before me I saw Holy Spirit. See, in that moment all I could think of was the spirit of God hovering over the universe (as told to us in Genesis), and with my new understanding of the word 'spirit' I saw the breath of God, the wind of God, the life of God on grounds where battles had been waged and blood had been spilled and now God was studied and it was all just too much for me.

I say all of this because it also transformed my thinking of Holy Spirit from something ethereal to a being of tangibility.

So, to my full circle part:

I took a run the other evening in Gettysburg on a cool October evening through the battle fields. I took my time. I breathed it in. I reminded myself of the holiness of the ground. I looked for the sunset and even stopped and took a picture. After taking the 'mandatory' sunset picture I started up running again and this time looked to my right side and there hanging low on the sky, over fields of corn was the large heavenly moon. The wind felt cool and wet because night was setting and I could hear Her whisper, "Welcome home."

Now you may think that 'home' here means 'Gettysburg,' but I heard it as a welcoming into the arms of Holy Spirit again - a spot that feels like God to me.

Where's your 'home' spot; your God spot? If you know where it is, take some time and rest in that place for a bit. It will be good for yourself, your

relationship with your family, your productivity and enjoyment of work, and good for your relationship with God. If you don't know where that spot is, consider where it might be, be intentional about it.

A final note of theological consideration: You may note that I do not use the 'determiner' *the* when speaking of Holy Spirit (i.e. the Holy Spirit vs. Holy Spirit). I do this because if we understand Holy Spirit to be the name of the third person of the Trinity then the 'determiner' is not necessary. We would not say the Jesus or the God, just as I would not refer to myself as the Christine. Just something to think about.

May you find a grace place to settle this autumn and may you know the intimacy and closeness of the Triune God.



November Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Worship with piano and guitar
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship with organ and piano*
1:00 pm Youth Handbells

A Supervised nursery is available during all Services

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

COMING UP...

November

- 1 All Saints Day
- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 1 Human Trafficking Presentation (pg1)
- 7 Chili Cook-off (pg 1)
- 8 Celebrate Danielle & Claire (pg 1)
- 10 Church Council meeting
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
- 14 PoP Playgroup (pg 6)
- 15 New Member Dinner
- 19 Faith-full Families (pg 5)
- 19 Books and Beer (Men's Book Club) (pg 6)
- 22 New Member Reception
- 22 Photo Session for Directory (pg 9)
- 22 Bible Art Journaling Class
- 25 Thanksgiving Service at PoP (pg 1)
- 26 Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed
- 27 Church Office Closed

December

- 2 Advent Vespers
- 3 Faith-Full Families (pg 5)
- 6 JSSA Hospice Speaker (pg 1)
- 6 Christmas Pageant (pg 4)
- 8 Church Council meeting
- 9 Advent Vespers
- 10 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
- 12 PoP Playgroup (pg 6)
- 13 Christmas Cantata
- 16 Advent Vespers
- 17 Books and Beer (Men's Book Club)
- 20 Caroling at Brightview Senior Living
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
- 25 Christmas Day Service

For a current calendar, see:

http://poplutheran.org/Media/calendars/pop_calendar.pdf



SPECIAL PRAYERS

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

Pastor John B. McGarvey



Sympathy

Mary Chamblin (grandmother of Cassidy Solomon)
Family of Andrew Johnson (son of Roy Johnson)
Family and friends of Leslie Gilbert (friend of Mark Ludder)

Thanksgiving

Birth of Shea Baldwin (daughter of Becca & Jeremy Baldwin)
Baptism of Anika Uhrig (daughter of Katie & Volker Uhrig)
Wedding of Carolyn Engels & David Carr

SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT is a new column which focusses on a group in or resource provided by PoP. This month we are looking at having all members wear the PoP Property Hat.

Are You Able to Wear the PoP Property Hat?



All members need to be prepared to do this since we do not employ full-time custodial, property management or security staff.

Please review the following examples of times when you should put on this hat:

-You're the last one out of a building. Ensure the following are done: all lights off, windows closed and doors locked.

-Full trash cans (or other cleaning need). Trash removal and cleaning is only done on Saturday mornings by our once-a-week janitorial crew. If your event has filled some cans, please take the initiative to empty them (especially if it includes food), and help restore the area. Trash bags are stored under the kitchen sink.

-You detect a problem with the building or grounds. It could be a bulb out, water that won't turn off, or something safety related. You can call in a report to the Property Hotline: 240-242-5177.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Camp

We are excited to be leading a work camp trip again this year. We will be traveling to **Braxton County, West Virginia from June 25 - July 1.** This trip is open to rising 9th graders (in 2016) through graduating 12th graders (in 2016). Much of our service and work will be centered on roofing, painting, drywall, and light construction. Please see Pastor Christine for additional information!

Holy Land Trip

[Pastor Steve will be leading a trip to the Holy Land](#) in September of 2016! Brochures are available [online](#) (poplutheran.org/learnask/Prince%20of%20Peace%20Holy%20Land%20Trip.pdf) and in the narthex. Contact Pastor Steve (pastor@poplutheran.org) for more info.



'Twas the LIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

A fun "instant" Christmas play will be hosted at Prince of Peace on Sunday, December 6. This three-and-one-half-hour, rehearsal-to-cast-party adventure provides a Christmas celebration for kids and adults as they rehearse a simple song, create a keepsake prop, and experience that Jesus is the true light of the world. Non-acting-guests (arriving at 3:00 pm) will enjoy delightful music, a hilarious, engaging play, a Christmas carol sing-a-long, and the after play cast party – all while celebrating Jesus' birth in a new and refreshing way.

'Twas the Light Before Christmas takes place from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm on **Sunday, December 6.** For more information, email LConary@prodigy.net. To sign up to be a part of the cast, please email or use the signup sheets outside of the office.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Faith-Full Families

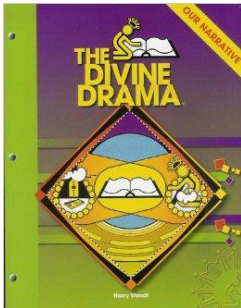
Faith-Full Families' Thanksgiving event will be held Thursday, November 19th, 6-7:30pm in the Fellowship hall. Families with pre-school - elementary age children, and their siblings, are invited for dinner, crafts, a Bible story and fellowship. Sign up in the narthex, email Judy Bruening, or just come! 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 me know. If you just have younger children you are welcome to join us for fellowship, too.

Our Advent event will be held Thursday, December 3rd.

Questions? Contact Judy Bruening (Judy.bruening53@gmail.com)

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Class



During the education hour, we are continuing the adult study entitled, "The Divine Drama." It is a 30 session program, which means it will be a year long program, although you do not need to attend every week. Come when you can. The first half of the program will take us

through the Bible's 'big story'/narrative from Genesis through Revelation emphasizing the major themes of Scripture. The second half of the program encourages us to look at those key themes and teachings, such as the Trinity, Sin and Grace, Baptism, and Eschatology (or 'last things') and reflect on what they mean to us today.

This in-depth class (although it's not necessary to attend each week) makes use of workbooks, discussion, video, and visual aids. It is a great opportunity to grow deeper in knowledge, understanding, and application of God's word. It's a great refresher of some of those things you may have forgotten from confirmation, an opportunity to ask hard questions, and to put the story of the Bible in perspective.

This class meets Sundays at 9:45 am in BYC (conference room). If you have questions, please contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

Pop Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is reading and discussing the Gospel of Mark this Fall. Our gatherings are Tuesdays at 12:30 pm. Our plan is to read one chapter a week. Discussion includes historical and sociological background to the book. This is an open, fluid group of women. All are welcome to join us. Feel free to bring a bagged lunch. If you have questions or want to be included on our email distribution list, please contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Auxiliary at the Village at Rockville

The Fall Festival at the Village at Rockville is coming up: Saturday, November 14, 9:30am-2pm. Come enjoy shopping for wonderful treasures, handmade crafts, baked goods and fudge, and much more. Enjoy a delicious lunch 11am-1:30pm. Enjoy a Village Chorus & Chimes Concert at 2:00pm in the Chapel. Independent Living Cottage tours at 11am, 12pm, & 1pm. Donations of baked goods and used household items, books, and jewelry are needed. Call [301-354-8460](tel:301-354-8460) if you want to make a donation. All proceeds benefit the residents of The Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home) which is located at 9701 Veirs Drive, near Wootton Parkway in Rockville. For more details, pick up a flier from the Social Ministry table in the foyer.

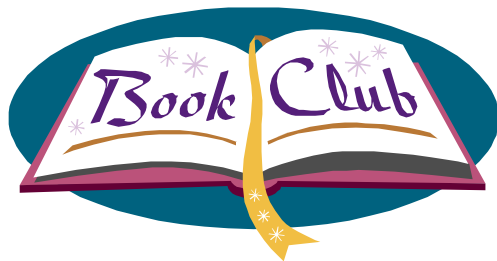
FELLOWSHIP

Men's Group

Tired of sleeping late on Saturday morning? Do you want to get together with a group of 'somewhat' spirited spiritualists? Do you want to dig a little deeper into the weekly scripture? Do you like coffee and donuts? All this can be yours for the very low price of absolutely free. **Just show up around 8am for the Men's Group on Saturday mornings.** Bibles, thoughts, discussions, etc. will be provided at no additional cost.

Books and Beer (Men's Book Club)

Books and Beer, the men's book club at PoP, will discuss Garth Stein's The Art of Racing in the Rain, a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope. . . [A] beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it." Next meeting is **Thursday, November 19, 7:30pm** at Garry Linton's home. All men from PoP are welcome. Please RSVP to Garry (cglinton@verizon.net).



Women's Book Group

Join the Women's Book Group for fellowship and a lively discussion of The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. Cherise Bailey of The Bookstore Plus (Lake Placid, NY) commented that ". . . The Nightingale is a beautiful story of the French Resistance during WWII. This is a book that you can climb inside and breathe. It demands to be devoured, felt and lovingly shared from the very first pages. As with all of the characters in The Nightingale, Viann and Isabelle are as real and special to me as any other characters that I have ever encountered. The relationship between these sisters is honest and heart-breaking. . . . Hannah offers an awesome (yet devastating) perspective that will haunt me - possibly forever." Donna Rose hosts the gathering at her home, on **Thursday, November 12th, at 7:30 p.m.** RSVP Donna (rosefamily5@comcast.net).

The next meeting is **Thursday, December 10th**. The book is The Invention of Wings: A Novel by Sue Monk Kidd, and the event is hosted by Pamela Cook.

PoP Playgroup

The playgroup will visit the Gaithersburg Library discovery room (located at 18330 Montgomery Village Ave) on **Saturday, November 14 at 11am**. The playroom is stocked with toys and games, a puppet theater, climbing fort, and a play grocery store to enjoy. In the main children's area, there are lots of cozy places to read and great books for all ages.

Calling all early birds in December! The playgroup will meet for breakfast on **Saturday, December 12 at 9am** at the Derwood McDonalds, located at 15801 Frederick Rd. Children can enjoy the playspace and a bite to eat, while parents and caregivers enjoy chat and coffee.



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 (laurenkatgibson@gmail.com) for more info!

RECENT EVENTS

PoP Learned about and Served Interfaith Works!

Learning: Monica Barberis-Young, a representative from Interfaith Works, came to speak to the congregation on Sunday, Oct 4th to educate us on what Interfaith Works is doing and how we can become more involved, both individually and as a congregation. There was a great turn out with a lot of positive feedback.



Serving: A service opportunity was coordinated the following Saturday, to volunteer at their Clothing Donation Center in Rockville. Clothing and home goods were sorted to prepare for the sales floor, which is a much needed service with so many donations to sort. A very grateful thank you to Lisa Woodard for coordinating both the speaker and service events! For more information about Interfaith Works and the serving opportunities, please contact Monica Barberis-Young at mbarberis-young@iworksmc.org or visit their website: www.iworksmc.org



Blessing of the Animals

Many people showed up with their pets and pet pictures to receive blessings. It was an interesting, fun, and spirited service!





Now - this is what we call a clean carpet!

Confirmation Class of 2015

Congratulations to our most recent Confirmands: Annie Coulson, Sydney Kienzle, Ella Malmgren and Michaela Staab who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25, capping more than two years of study, preparation and reflection. Thank you Sherry Kienzle, their small group leader, who gave so generously of her time over the last two years to provide guidance, wisdom and support. Additional thanks to the many adults who joined with Pastor Steve to plan

and present the theme events during the Confirmands' two years of study: Susan Hawley, Eric Holdsworth, Laura Hurst, David Malmgren, Pam Malmgren, Aubrey Merchant-Dest, Chris Michel, Susan Muma, and Lesly Robinson. Susan Gowing gave her time and expertise to help the Confirmands create the beautiful banners that were an integral part of the celebration.



THANK YOU

PB&J Drive for Gaithersburg Help

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our fall PB&J drive! We were able to collect 91 jars of peanut butter and 42 jars of jelly to give to Gaithersburg HELP. Your contributions will play an important role in addressing hunger in our community this fall. Although we are wrapping up our annual PB&J drive, Gaithersburg HELP always has a pressing need for donations. Please continue to bring food items to church and drop them off in the foyer. Thank you again!

Next Month

Do you have a thank you for someone in the church? We will have a special thank you section next month for everyone who works in front of and behind the scenes. If you have a thank you to share, send it to Martha (GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com).

ADVENT FAMILY FUN AT MAR-LU-RIDGE!

On Sunday, December 6, 1-4 pm, everyone is welcome for an old-fashioned day on the mountain. Campfires, Advent crafts, nature walks, hot chocolate and wreath making are just part of the fun. Invite your family and friends - \$7/adult and \$3/youth includes a delicious meal. Start a new tradition and join us on December 6! Questions? Contact the office (mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org, 800-238-9974) or see website: <http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/>. **RSVP by December 1.** Please bring your own wire and wire wreath frames all other supplies are provided.

POP OFFICE

Last Chance to get an Updated Photo in our Directory: **Sunday, November 22!** Gordon will be taking photos in the Music Room after both services and between services. Please review the Draft Directory that is posted in the narthex and note any changes or indicate if it is correct. Thanks!

We are experiencing phone problems in the Office and voicemail is not working. If possible, please send an email (office@poplutheran.org) instead of calling.

THINK ABOUT IT

The Masai tribe in West Africa has an unusual way of saying thank-you. Translators tell us that when the Masai express thanks, they bow, put their foreheads on the ground, and say, "My head is in the dirt."

When members of another African tribe want to express gratitude, they sit for a long time in front of the hut of the person who did the favor and literally say, "I sit on the ground before you."

These Africans understand well what thanksgiving is and why it's difficult for us: At its core, thanksgiving is an act of humility.

--Joel Gregory

COLOR ME!



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Articles for the December/January issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **November 8**. Please e-mail articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!
Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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