



Glad Tidings



Vol. 36, Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2017

Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 5th.

Before rooting for your favorite team in front of the television, be sure to root for your team at PoP by donating cans of stew or soup



in our Souper Bowl of Caring. Team boxes are located in the Narthex. The donations will go to Gaithersburg HELP. The count will be made to see who PoP attendees think will win. Let's make sure that the winner is Gaithersburg HELP!

PoP Coffeehouse - Back By Popular Demand

Come enjoy a fun, relaxing evening of eclectic Irish music at our fourth PoP Coffeehouse on **Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 pm!**
(Continued on page 4.)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

All are welcome to Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on **Tuesday, February 28th 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. Gluten-free/allergen-free pancakes are also on the menu. After

dinner, Pastor Steve will lead us in one of his favorite rituals - burning palms for our Ash Wednesday service. A free-will donation will be taken during the dinner, which will support our many wonderful Youth Activities.



Come join us as we begin our Lenten journey at our **Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 pm**

Updated Photo Directory Under Construction—Your Input Needed!

A draft has been posted in the narthex. Please review your entry, correcting any contact info that has changed. Place a check mark if the info is up-to-date. **Is your photo out-of-date or missing?** Then gather your family and come to a Photo Session. Gordon will be taking photos in the Music Room on **Feb 5 & 12 (between services and after the late service).**



Reminder:

Glad Tidings Has Gone Electronic

We will only mail paper copies upon request! Glad Tidings is posted on PoP's website and an email with the link is sent to everyone on the general email list. **If you would like a mailed paper copy, please contact the Office.** Paper copies will continue to be available in the narthex.

Recycling Toner/Ink Cartridges

We need your used toner and ink cartridges! Bring them to PoP for recycling and we can get a credit toward purchasing office supplies.



Please leave them in the designated box on the table in the foyer. We can save hundreds of dollars each year through this program. We appreciate those who have already been participating!



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



From Pastor Steve...

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

At our Annual Meeting at the end of January, I spoke again about the changing and challenging context in which we and all churches do ministry. The changes we face continue to be faster and more profound than any of us anticipated just a few years ago, and these changes have led to significant declines in participation, volunteer leadership and giving.

Faced with this changing and challenging landscape, the temptation for many congregations is either to long for the “glory days” and try to figure out how to get back to the past, or to simply “tweak” what they’re doing now, hoping that a few changes to the budget or programming will be enough to get back to business as usual.

Neither of those options will work. In fact, we need to do something really different. For as difficult as things seem right now, I continue to believe that the church is not primarily an institution, a building or a corporation, but really is (as the Augsburg Confession states), “the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.” (Article 7) And further, that this assembly of all believers doesn’t depend upon our constitutions and structures, or even on ourselves, but upon the Holy Spirit, who “calls, gathers and enlightens us” (as Luther says in the Small Catechism). That is to say, Jesus has called us together, and Jesus will sustain a community of believers until the end of time.

While it’s easy to say, “the church is the people” called together by God, what we haven’t had to do over the past 1500 years (at least in the West) is to ask “Why?” Why has God called us together? Why is it important for there to be an “assembly of all believers”? Why should we bother to have a church?

It seems to me that the first step in moving into a new age of being Christian community is to focus on why we’re here and why God has called us together. Why are we here? Why does God want

us to be together? Why should someone be part of Jesus’ community of faith? Over the next few months, I’m going to try to lead us in considering the question of “why?” My hope is that we’ll have a broad and deep discussion around questions like:

- Why is being part of Christian community important to me?
- Why would anybody want to join me in being part of a Christian community?
- Why do I need Christian community (that is, what does the church offer that I can’t find or experience anyplace else)?

My hope is that this will empower us to better center ourselves in who we are and why we’re here. I think we need to re-capture a sense of centering ourselves in a living experience of God; of nurturing and sharing that experience, especially with our children; and of finding ways to encourage one another to live out that experience of God in our daily lives. But we have to answer the “why” question first.

So, I invite you now to begin thinking about “why”; to be willing to talk and pray about that question with others; and to see where Jesus leads us in this conversation!

Yours in Christ,

February 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

Every Wednesday

7:30 pm Adult Choir

Every Thursday

6:30 pm Youth Hand Bell Choir

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

8:00 am Men’s Group

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

COMING UP...

February

- 4 Saturday Dinner Out (pg 6)
- 5 Souper Bowl Sunday (pg 1)
- 5 Bible Tabs Workshop
- 5 Directory Photo session (pg 1)
- 8 Finance Committee meeting
- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 12 Directory Photo session (pg 1)
- 12 Bible Art Journaling (pg 6)
- 12 Confirmation Theme Event
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Men's Book Club (pg 6)
- 20 President's Day
- 20 Theology on Tap @ Pinky & Pepe's (pg 6)
- 21 Church Council Meeting
- 25 PoP Coffeehouse (pp 1, 4)
- 26 Confirmation Theme Event
- 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (pg 1)

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 2 Faith-Full Families (pg 6)
- 8 Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12 Bible Art Journaling
- 12 Confirmation Theme Event
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 15 Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 16 Men's Book Club
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 22 Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 26 Confirmation Theme Event
- 29 Soup Supper/Evening Prayer

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

PoP Members

Lisa Adams, Eardie Baka, Carol Barotti, Elizabeth Langum Chung, David family, Laura Hampe, Steven Hill, Jessica Jeffery, Roy Johnson, Pat Juhrs, Mike Langum, Remi Langum, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, David Rogers, James Rogers, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Nancy Swanson, Laura Wilson.

Sympathy

Family of Eve Hill's landlord (friend of Sonja Holdsworth)
Family of Pat Masterman (mother of Steve Masterman)
Family of Richard Sherman (cousin of Gordon Gipe)
Family of Dan Weber (father of Tammy Weber)

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Madeline Grace Dunn (daughter of Pastor Christine & Drew Dunn)

The complete Prayer List is available from the credenza in the narthex and in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.

SPOTLIGHT

This column focusses on a groups in or resources provided by PoP. This month we are looking at two groups - **the Fellowship Committee and the Counters.**

Join/Help the Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship committee is involved in many activities at the church...

- supporting potlucks
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- receptions after events like Confirmation, First Communion, & Christmas Pageant
- special events like the upcoming **Coffeehouse**

We often need help with setup and cleanup, including taking down the walls in the Fellowship Hall and putting them back afterward. Could you help with a couple of events a year?

Join our email list and you'll learn about needs as they come up; email Pamela Cook (cook1082@verizon.net).

Fun with Money at Prince of Peace:

We are called Counters

Looking for an easy way to get involved at Prince of Peace? We are looking for a couple more people to help count the offering after the late service on Sundays. You would only be needed two Sundays per quarter if we can add a couple more people to our rotation. **No experience necessary**, we work in teams of two and you can be trained right after the late service and meet other wonderful members of Prince of Peace.

Job description: Enter the offering into our easy Church Windows program by giver and then make a night deposit to the local bank on your way home. To get involved or questions contact our Financial Secretary, Helen Griffith (hgriffith22@verizon.net).

UPCOMING EVENTS

PoP Coffeehouse

(continued from page 1)

Come on **Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 pm** to hear Regina Harrington's band, *The Eclectiks* provide their unique brand of traditional Celtic tunes with a distinct classic rock twist. Get a sitter, bring a favorite bottle of wine to share and join us for a special night of music, fellowship and fun! Monetary donations will be accepted for the benefit of Gaithersburg HELP. Coffee, soft drinks, appetizers, cheese & crackers and desserts will be served. Food donations will be greatly appreciated and sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Regina Harrington (ReginaHHarrington@aol.com) or Pamela Cook (cook1082@verizon.net).

Mark Your Calendar

Easter Sunday events will be on April 16:

- Resurrection Run at 5:45 am
- Worship at 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 am
- Easter egg hunt at 9:45 am

Watch for the Women's Retreat date in the Weekly Email and bulletin insert.

The Yard Sale (The Big One!) will be on June 3.

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 17 -21.

Montgomery County Interfaith 5K will be on September 4.

STEWARDSHIP

All PoP Donation Statements for 2016 have been mailed or emailed. If you did not receive one, please contact Helen Griffith at finsec@poplutheran.org.

It's not too late to turn in your 2017 **Commitment card**. Your Time, Talent, and Treasure pledge cards can be turned in at the church (extra pledge cards are available in the narthex). Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment for the new year!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

These photos from just one Sunday show some of the fun and worthwhile activities our learners have been enjoying! The day's lesson was Jesus feeds the 5,000.

Upper Elementary made fish out of bread dough -



here the egg is cracked for the egg wash.

The Preschool/Kindergarten class ate a gummy fish and breadstick snack while enjoying conversation with their leader.



Just like the boy who shared his bread and fish with the crowd, our learners care about others.

Our Preschool/Kindergarten class sorted travel-size toiletries donated by members throughout the year, which were then given to Interfaith Works. The

following day, volunteers from throughout Montgomery County converged on the



Bethesda North Marriott, and one of their projects was to use these donations to create care packages for people in need. Please drop off your toiletries donations in the basket near the church entrance.

The Preschool/Kindergarten and Elementary classes all decorated bags to remind the congregation to donate hearty soup and stew for Souper Bowl Sunday. Every year, the learners help advertise the annual collection which benefits clients of Gaithersburg Help. Sunday School offering also benefits Souper Bowl Sunday. **Bring your stew and soup on**



February 4th and 5th!

Join Us!

Sunday School meets during the school year **from 9:45 to 10:45 am**. Preschool through elementary age learners meet for fellowship in the sanctuary **from 9:45-10 am**, and then head off to their classrooms. Middle school and high school classes meet in the Besecker Youth Center **at 9:45 am**.



Everyone is welcome any week they are able to attend!

Blankets for Project Linus

Our middle school class worked together to make two no-sew blankets to donate to Project Linus this past November. Partnering with local hospitals, shelters, and other agencies, Project Linus collects donated homemade blankets and provides them to children in need. We discussed their slogan, "Providing security through blankets" and how a blanket can be a source of comfort. We considered the types of situations that children who receive these blankets may be facing all over the US and talked about how something as simple as a blanket could make a difference in their lives. They enjoyed cutting and tying fringe along the edges of the blankets and even snuggled up with them a bit before

sending them off to be donated to a child in need. The blankets were donated at the Howard County Fire Station 7, one of the local drop off centers for Project Linus.

For more information about Project Linus, you can visit www.projectlinus.org.



Confirmation Service Event

The Confirmation students performed a service event in December through "Food and Friends" delivering meals to home-bound individuals and families in the DC area. This was a great way to not only serve the community in need, but it made us all realize everything that God has provided us and what WE should be thankful for in our own lives. Many thanks to Sally Acheson for her excellence in coordinating this event, as well as the students and adults who devoted their time to help deliver the meals!



Faith-Full Families

Faith-Full Families' Lent event will be held Thursday, March 2 from 6-7:30 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.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session on Monday, February 20 at 7:30 pm at [Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape](http://www.pinkyandpepes.com/) (223 Kentlands Blvd, near Giant Food, <http://www.pinkyandpepes.com/>). Many of you may have heard of these kinds of events, where folks gather (often at a restaurant or pub) to talk about issues of faith. Pastor Steve will lead one of these events each month. This month, Pastor Steve will lead a discussion on Lent and the history of some traditional Lenten practices. Come join us! You don't need to sign up, but if you know you're coming, please let Pastor Steve know!

Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling meets on Sunday, February 12 from 6-7:30pm! All are welcome to this devotional class which encourages you to engage actively with the word of God through doodling, illustration, and note-taking in your Bible. We meet once a month, but you do not need to attend every session. Please bring a 'journaling Bible' with you to class. Questions? See Pastor Christine.

Pop Women's Bible Study

We are continuing our study of the Lesser Prophets Amos and Obadiah. Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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).

MUSIC

Hand Bell Choir

Kids! Want to praise the Lord in song and have fun learning some great music? Then join the PoP Hand Bell Choir! The Hand Bell Choir is for children age 7 and older; and we are looking for new members!! Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30-7:15pm. Signup in the narthex or contact Danielle Drobny (danielledrobny@gmail.com) for more info.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

YOU CAN :Gaithersburg HELP



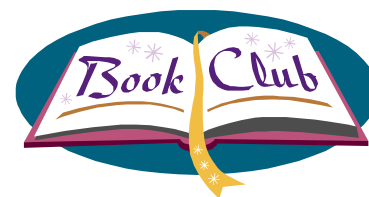
Support the Gaithersburg HELP Food Pantry. Currently there is a great need for Cereal! Please leave any non-perishable foods donations in the designated bucket in the foyer. Many thanks for all the ongoing donations!

Saturday Dinner Out

Join us for our next Saturday Dinner Out on Saturday, February 4, around 6:15 pm following the Saturday service. This month we will be meeting at **Gemelli's Italian Market (12169 Darnestown Rd, about 1 half mile from the church, <http://gemellisitalianmarket.com/>).** Saturday Dinner Out is a great time to come together and get to know (and eat with!) other families at Prince of Peace in a casual environment. All are welcome!

Men's Book Club

The January Men's Book Club meeting was postponed; we will meet on **Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Chet Wolejsza. We will discuss our January selection The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth by Tim Flannery. All men of POP and their male friends are invited for beer, munchies, and good fellowship. Please RSVP to Chet (cwolejsza@aol.com).



Women's Book Group

Anne Morrow Lindbergh was a very private person. "Few know her entire story, including her major accomplishments as an aviator in her own right, her grit and determination, her inner strength. Always she seems willing to stand in the tall shadow of her husband, Charles Lindbergh. And it was her marriage that fascinated and obsessed me; this marriage between two extraordinary and very different individuals under the relentless glare of the spotlight. This operatic life they led, through dizzying heights of accomplishment and celebrity to the devastating lows of what Anne always saw as the price they paid for flying too close to the sun," explained Melanie Benjamin, author of The Aviator's Wife, about her motivation for writing this fictional tale of the marriage of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh. The Women's Book Group will discuss the story on **Thursday, February 9th, at 7:30 pm** at Cherie DeGeorge's home. POP Women are invited to join the conversation; RSVP to Cherie at cdegeorge@aol.com.

Future Book Group Dates and Selections

March 9 - Last Night at Twisted River
by John Irving,
hosted by Jennifer Maloney

April 20 - The Widow
by Fiona Barton,
hosted by Susan Victor

RECENT EVENTS

Christmas Pageant

On December 11, 2016, the PoP Players presented "Everyone's Christmas Story" by Kara Wilkins. A huge thank you to all of the people that worked together to make this happen. There were actors and actresses and coaches and sound and music and even a bike minder.

A special thank you to the audience, without which it would not have been as much fun. Thank you!

Thank you to Gordon Gipe for the pictures. Many enduring thanks to Jon and Lisa Conary for all their hard work and commitment to giving us a wonderful Christmas pageant every year!





THANK YOU!

Gifts of Hope

Thanks to those who purchased Gifts of Hope and special thanks to Joan Kowalik for organizing the project. It was a record year with \$3,400 in purchases! Gifts of Hope are available year-round at: www.GiftsofHopeDC.org.

Giving Tree

We adopted nine needy families from Rachel Carson Elementary school, providing 26 children with 104 gifts including a stroller for a mom that had triplets! Many thanks to all those who donated gifts for our Giving Tree. Special thanks to Bertha Carreras for coordinating the Giving Tree project!

Poinsettias

Many thanks to the secret elf who watered the poinsettias each week! With such good care, we were able to enjoy them through much of January. Thanks also to all who donated them to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas!



POP OFFICE

The Serving in Worship schedule for February and March has been posted on our [website](http://www.poplutheran.org) and the bulletin board in the narthex. Please review it and make arrangements for any conflicts. Thanks!

The Flower Chart for 2017 has been posted! Flowers can be given in memory or honor of a person or special occasion. A donation of \$30 covers the flowers for a week, and they are yours to take home after the late service. Sign up on the Chart posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and place your donation (marked "Altar Flowers") in the Offering. Thanks for adding to our worship experience!

ST. OLAF CHOIR



The world-renowned St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Dr. Anton Armstrong, is coming to North Bethesda, Maryland! [Tickets](#) are \$30-\$60 for adults and \$10 for students. Groups of 10 or more will receive a 10% discount.

The Music Center at Strathmore
Sunday, February 5 at 3 pm
5301 Tuckerman Lane
North Bethesda, Maryland

Repertoire will feature J.S. Bach's Singet dem Herrn with chamber orchestra, as well as other choral works by Ēriks Ešenvalds, György Ligeti, and St. Olaf College composers Robert Scholz and F. Melius Christiansen. They will close the concert with a set of traditional American folksongs, including a work by Moses Hogan.

A flier has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

IT'S SUMMER CAMP!

It's time to register for Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp in nearby Jefferson, MD. Are you ready for the best week of your summer? We have camps for any interest: Horseback, Hammock, Night Owls, Sports, Wild & Crazy, Arts, Cooking, Makers, and so much more! Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp offers Day and Residential camp opportunities for ages 6-17, plus Family Camp and Grand Adventure. Register before **February 18** to take advantage of our Early Bird Discount! Join us at an Open House; it's a great way to see the camp and meet our staff! **March 26, April 30, & May 21 from 2-4:30pm.** Visit our website (<http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/>) to view the brochure and choose your camp today!



THINK ABOUT IT

No one loves the man whom he fears.

--Aristotle

During World War II when housing was in short supply, a lady in our church told a five-year-old girl, "It's too bad you don't have a home."

The child quickly replied, "We have a home. We just don't have a house to put it in!"

--Margaret T. Hiscox

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.

--G. K. Chesterton

If you're going to care about the fall of the sparrow you can't pick and choose who's going to be the sparrow.

--Madeleine L'Engle

People need love, especially when they don't deserve it.

--Unknown

People do not value sunsets because they cannot pay for them.

--Oscar Wilde

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210
E-mail: office@poplutheran.org
Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler
Associate Pastor..... Christine Dunn
Council President Ric Kienzle
Glad Tidings Editor..... Martha Rogers
Production Martha Rogers
Photography Gordon Gipe

Articles for the March issue of **Glad Tidings** are due **February 12**. 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.

© 2017 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church