



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 37, Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2018



Come join us as we begin our Lenten journey at our Ash Wednesday service on **February 14 at 7:30 pm**. Then during the **Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 21**, we will have a **labyrinth and refreshments 6:30-7:15 pm** and **Evening Prayer from 7:15-7:45 pm**. For more information see page 4.

Link for Lent:

<http://poplutheran.org/worship/lent18.html>

Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 4th.

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



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

All are welcome to come on **Tuesday, February 13th in the Fellowship Hall from 5-7 pm** for 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 youth going to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this July. For more volunteering and contact information, see page 4.



Lenten Sharing Bags are returning!

Keep an eye out for the Lenten Sharing Bag table and stay tuned to Weekly Email, bulletin inserts, and, of course, Glad Tidings for more information.



Congratulations to Our Church Council Members!

Newly elected: Lauren Gibson, Aubrey Merchant-Dest (re-elected), Chris Michel (re-elected), Michaela Staab (youth position).

Continuing: Lisa Adams, Rebecca Claycamp, Ric Kienzle, Sarah Kuykendall, Kwame Mensah & Susan Tritinger.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex.

Many Thanks to Pamela Cook, Melanie Zobel, and the rest of the Fellowship Team for the delicious Pasta lunch provided before the Annual meeting!

Changes in the Office

After 6+ years working in the Office, I am resigning as Administrative Secretary effective March 2. Of course, I will still be around as a member and volunteer. Prince of Peace is a wonderful community and I've enjoyed being able to be more involved in the work of the congregation. Now I'm looking forward to a more flexible schedule for family, friends, volunteering, and traveling. **Over the next month, the Executive committee will be working to recruit a replacement.** If you know people who might be interested, please encourage them to apply.

Peace and Blessings, Donna

Bible Presentation Weekend

Second graders and older children through 5th grade who have not yet received a Bible from Prince of Peace will receive inscribed Bibles during worship **February 3 and 4**.

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)

Years ago, Prince of Peace was working on a long-range plan. It was an attempt to look into the future and figure out where we were going and how we were going to get there.

A lot of people were involved in the process, including Steve Plewes, who was a financial planner. And as we moved along in our long range planning process, Steve was fond of using an expression that he often used with people in financial planning:

“You can’t get there from here. But you can get here from there.”

And what he meant by that was that you can’t figure out a plan for now unless you have an idea of what the future looks like. You can’t figure out what you need to do now unless you know what you want to accomplish. Indeed, you can’t figure out who you have to be now, if you don’t have a vision of who you want to be in the future.

We Can Get Here From There

But where is there? Both the world around us and the church have been changing very rapidly. In the next few years, I believe the whole church is going to be in a very different place from where it is now. While that’s not a deep insight, most people thinking and writing about this haven’t really defined where the church will be. And while nobody can predict the details, it seems to me that the following 4 things will be true of churches that survive (or even thrive):

- Churches will be smaller, with fewer active people, less money and fewer paid staff;
 - As an example already, our average weekend worship attendance has declined 12% in the past 5 years, even though we have about the same number of active participants. People just aren’t here as often, and they often don’t put as much time, money or “bandwidth” into our ministries.

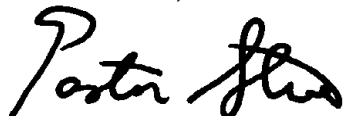
- Churches will need to be more focused on doing what only the church can do: helping people develop and deepen a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This will also need to be done through fewer, and more focused programs and activities.
 - This is why I began leading “Why” discussions this past year. We need to continue to decide together which programs help us and others to deepen our experience of Christ and how we can do those things most effectively and efficiently.
- Churches will need to have much less infrastructure and overhead (which may mean smaller buildings, or even no property; reduced maintenance and utilities; and no long term debt).
 - This is why it’s so important to get rid of our mortgage debt, which we’ve had for nearly 30 years. The really good news is that we have made, and continue to make, huge strides in paying off the mortgage. Without that kind of overhead cost, we’ll have more flexibility to invest money and resources into other things.
- Churches will need to give up any illusion that the Church will be supported or encouraged by our culture or society at large.
 - Both liberal and conservative strains of Christianity have often reacted badly (although in different ways) to the reality that the church just isn’t the center of either public discourse or personal lives anymore. I think it’s more important that local communities of Christians get comfortable with being God’s people in a world that doesn’t encourage us or necessarily care what we have to say. After all, that was how the early church lived, and God did incredible things through people who were willing to live and share their faith with no conception that Christians would ever be more than a tiny, fringe group of people.

All of these things require both technical and adaptive changes. And they need to be pursued with diligence and urgency.

We’re going to need to be creative and flexible. We’re going to need to give up being everything to everybody. And we’re going to need to be

committed to helping and encouraging individuals develop and live their faith in the world around them rather than trying to be an “institution” that changes the world. So as we consider how we’re going to “turn” in Lent, let’s be committed to getting here from there!

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 Sunday Services

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters
12:30 pm Women’s Bible Study (pg 6)

Every Wednesday

7:30 pm Adult Choir (pg 6)

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

3-4 Bible Presentations (pg 1)
3 Saturday Dinner Out at Chipotle (pg 7)
4 Souper Bowl Sunday (pg 1)
4 Directory Photo Sessions (pg 4)
8 Women’s Book Group (pg 7)
11 Bible Art Journaling (pg 6)
11 Confirmation Theme Event
13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (pp 1, 4)
13 Church Council Meeting
14 Valentine’s Day
14 Ash Wednesday Service (pg 1)
15 Men’s Book Club (pg 7)
21 Labyrinth & Evening Prayer (pp 1, 4)
22 Faith-Full Families (pg 6)
25 Confirmation Theme Event
28 Labyrinth & Evening Prayer (pp 1, 4)

March

3 Saturday Dinner Out at Cava Grill (pg 7)
6 Bible Art Journaling
7 Labyrinth & Evening Prayer (pp 1, 4)
8 Women’s Book Group (pg 7)
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
11 Bible Art Journaling
11 Confirmation Theme Event
13 Bible Museum Trip (pg 4)
13 Council Meeting
14 Labyrinth & Evening Prayer (pp 1, 4)
15 Men’s Book Club
18 Confirmation Theme Event
21 Labyrinth & Evening Prayer (pp 1, 4)
25 Palm Sunday
29 Maundy Thursday Service
30 Good Friday Service
31 No Saturday Service

April

1 Easter Sunday!

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. McFarvey



Pop Members

Lisa Adams, Eardie Baka, Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Steve Crookshank, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, David family, Ellen DePalo, Debbie Forish, Alex Garretson, Steven Hill, Roy Johnson, Pat Juhrs, Mike Langum, Remi Langum, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, David Rogers, James Rogers, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Susan Victor, Laura Wilson.

Sympathy

Family of Joanne Claycamp (mother of Gregg Claycamp)
Family of Keith Cobb (father of Allan Cobb)
Family of Dorine Emerick (aunt of Carolyn Carr)

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Anna Uhrig (daughter of Katie & Volker Uhrig)
Birth of Neilan Gunner Swanson (son of Carl & Sunita Swanson; grandson of Dave & Nancy Swanson)

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

SPOTLIGHT

This month we are looking at events of Lent and Easter.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



The Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner will take place on **Tuesday, February 13**. PoP member volunteers other than confirmation students are also welcome and needed. Please sign up for a slot (or slots) on SignUp.com at this link: <http://signup.com/go/kaWjUSe> or sign up in the narthex (you do not need to do both). **The shifts run from 4pm to 8pm (including setup and clean up)**. You do not need to have an account to sign up for a slot (just an email address so that they can send you a reminder). Contact Jean Bernstein at bernsteinjmb@yahoo.com for event questions or Sally Lewis (Acheson) at felisa.lewis@verizon.net for issues related to SignUp.com.

Confirmation students are also welcome and needed. Please sign up for a slot (or slots) on SignUp.com at this link: <http://signup.com/go/kaWjUSe> or sign up in the narthex (you do not need to do both). **The shifts run from 4pm to 8pm (including setup and clean up)**. You do not need to have an account to sign up for a slot (just an email address so that they can send you a reminder). Contact Jean Bernstein at bernsteinjmb@yahoo.com for event questions or Sally Lewis (Acheson) at felisa.lewis@verizon.net for issues related to SignUp.com.

Labyrinth and Evening Prayer

Seldom do we travel in a straight line. It is rare that our journey follows a singular path. Our lives are filled with twists and turns, some leading us towards God and some leading us away; some turns take us to new and exciting places and some turns are difficult and traumatic.

Lent is a season of conversion and turning. We acknowledge the ways we have turned from God in our lives, and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back towards God.

As is our Lenten practice, we will gather for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15pm. However, this year, instead of soup suppers we will offer two 'stations' to feed your soul and help you refocus on God.

Each Wednesday from 6:30pm - 7:15pm a labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Each week the intention of the labyrinth will be different and you will be provided information upon entering the Fellowship Hall. The labyrinth and its activities will help you focus, give thanks, and turn to God. If you've never walked a labyrinth, please make plans to at least try it once during Lent. If you have walked a labyrinth before, I am confident you will find these activities meaningful in your spiritual journey.

During this same time, refreshments will be available in the narthex and we hope that people will make time in their busy lives to catch up with friends.

You may come anytime between 6:30pm and 7:15pm to do the labyrinth (you may take as much or as little time with it as you like) and to share fellowship.

During Holden Evening Prayer our scripture readings and reflections will focus on different aspects of turning to God and different ways that occurs within individuals.

If you have questions, please see Pastor Christine.

Lenten Creation Care Calendar

<http://ipldmv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2018-MD-Carbon-Fast-Calendar-FINAL.pdf>

Mark Your Calendar

Easter Sunday events will be on April 1:

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

OTHER EVENTS

Photo and Directory

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 4 (between services and after the late service)**.

Bible Museum Visit

Women's Bible Study will be visiting the new Bible Museum on **March 13**. All are invited to join us. More information will be forthcoming in the Weekly Email, bulletin inserts, and the March issue of Glad Tidings.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat will be on April 14, 9:30am-2:30pm. The theme is "Feasting on God!" More information to come on location, cost, and description of the theme. In the meantime, mark your calendars and invite your friends.

Yard Sale

The Yard Sale (The Big One!) will be on June 2.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars and tell your friends, Prince of Peace Vacation Bible School 2018 is scheduled for **July 23-27 (9am-12pm)**. This year's theme is "Shipwrecked-Rescued By Jesus". VBS is for children ages 3 (potty trained) through entering 5th grade. Registration forms will be available on the Prince of Peace website as well as at the church starting in May. Registration fee is \$50 per participant with a max 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.

Join us for a venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive while learning there is someone bigger than their struggles and stronger than their weaknesses.

If you have any questions please contact Lori Kohne at lorikohne@hotmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP

Donation Statements

All PoP Donation Statements for 2017 have been mailed or emailed. If you did not receive one or have any questions about your Statement, contact Helen Griffith at finsec@poplutheran.org.

Offering Envelopes

2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the narthex. If you do not wish to use envelopes, please leave a note or email the Office. If you do not see a box with your name and want to use Offering Envelopes, please contact [Bob Butler](#).

Online Giving

Are you trying to simplify your life? Consider giving to Prince of Peace online. It's so easy to do! Just go to the church webpage (poplutheran.org) and click the green [Donate Online](#) button. There you can create a profile and set up your donations to be direct deducted from a bank account or charged to a credit card in any time increments you'd like. You can also use the website for one-time donations. The benefits to you are that it provides reliable tax records, it allows for easy management of

donations, and you don't have to worry when you leave your checkbook sitting on the kitchen counter! We all have very busy lives, and can't always get to church, so giving online can help all of us provide consistent support for the church. And because of this consistency, the church can then properly budget for the year. Online giving is a win for the church and for the congregation. Please contact Chris Michel (michel_christian@yahoo.com) or Kwame Mensah (mensahkn@gmail.com) with any questions.

Electronic Giving

To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to www.poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



AmazonSmile

You can support Prince of Peace with each Amazon purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives .5% of your purchases. Use AmazonSmile every time you shop! AmazonSmile is completely integrated with Amazon.com; you use the same account and have the same shopping cart, Wish List, Registry, and account info. It's easy to set up and use. First click on the following link to tell Amazon that you want donations to be made to Prince of Peace: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>; then whenever you want to make a purchase at Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com. (AmazonSmile will remember the nonprofit previously selected.) It's easy!

YOUTH MINISTRY

On December 18, 2017, 12 Confirmation students took an evening to sort food for the Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg for their fall service project. Because it is right before Christmas, there was a lot to sort - especially cans! But the students put a dent in it (pun intended)! Thank you to those who were able to participate. For their winter/spring service project, the Confirmation students will be helping out at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on February 13.

Sunday School Offering

For Souper Bowl, Sunday School is teaming up with the rest of the congregation to help our neighbors in need! Please bring in stew, hearty soup, and cash for offering to support [Gaithersburg HELP](#).

Faith-Full Families

Faith-Full Families' Lent event will be held **Thursday, February 22nd 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](#) (Judy.bruening53@gmail.com)



ADULT EDUCATION

Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session. 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 leads one of these events each month. Check Weekly Email and the bulletin inserts for the next date, location, and topic. Come join us! You

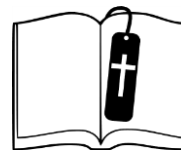
don't need to sign up, but if you know you're coming, please let Pastor Steve know!

Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering will be **February 11 from 6pm-8pm**. Carmen Hill, a member at Prince of Peace, uses her artistic skills to guide us in our creativity based on a brief scripture lesson led by Pastor Christine. No advance preparation or materials are necessary. This is a fun and creative way to get into God's Word and to enjoy one another's company. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Christine.

PoP Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets **every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm**. We discuss a myriad of topics via different means (i.e. Bible, books, podcasts). We will continue our study of the book of Revelation. Please join us and feel free to bring a bagged lunch. Questions? See [Pastor Christine](#) (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).



MUSIC

Our Choir Director, Lindsey Paradise, is looking for a used piano. If you have a piano that needs a new home, please contact [Lindsey](#). Thanks!

Adult Choir

The POP Adult Choir is looking for singers! We are a group that loves to sing, and we warmly encourage all levels of experience to sing with us. We rehearse every **Wednesday 7:30-9:00 pm**, and we sing at the late service one Sunday a month. Please join us. If you have any questions, please contact our Choir Director, Lindsey Paradise (Lindsey_paradise@yahoo.com).

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP



Our food collection baskets are always in the foyer, so consider donating non-perishable food, diapers, and formula regularly.

FELLOWSHIP

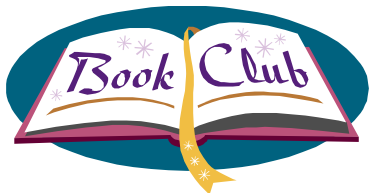
Saturday Dinner Out

We invite you to PoP Saturday Dinner Out immediately following the Saturday evening service! This is a casual way to gather with others, break bread, and enjoy some fellowship. On **Saturday, February 3 we will be going to Chipotle in Kentlands** (96 Main Street) and invite you to join us **around 6:15 pm**. We keep it low-key and just pull tables together to enjoy each other's' company. All are welcome! Any questions please contact Ric Kienzle (r.kienzle@yahoo.com).

Mark your calendar for **March 3, we will meet up at Cava Grill** in [Kentlands \(213 Kentlands Blvd\)](#).

Men's Book Club

The Prince of Peace Men's Book Club is currently reading *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. "Ove . . . is the kind of cantankerous and nosy old man who hisses at cats, reorganizes his neighbors' recycling, and breaks off friendships just because the other person drives a Volvo." All men of POP and their male friends are invited to join us for suds and snacks at the home of Sean Dillon at **7:30pm, Thursday, February 15**. Please RSVP directly to Sean at sdillon_5@gmail.com



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group has selected *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi for discussion on **Thursday, February 8, 7:30 pm**, at the home of Lisa Woodard. (This is the new location.)

Homegoing traces three hundred years in Ghana and describes the forces that shape families and nations. It is the story of two half-sisters who are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana, Effia enjoying a life of privilege while Esi is sold into the slave trade and shipped to America. One thread follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, while the other thread follows Esi and her children to

America, from the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day. *Homegoing* captures how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

March 8 - *The Keeper of Lost Things*
by Ruth Hogan
host Kathy Mellott

April 12 - *The Paris Architect*
by Charles Belfoure
host Alice Benson

May 10 - *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*
by Trevor Noah
host Cherie DeGeorge

June 14 - *A Gentleman in Moscow*
by Amor Towles,
host Nancy Wolejsza

RECENT EVENTS

On December 10, 2017, the PoP Players presented "The Very Important Christmas Pageant" by Dennis Hartin. A huge thank you to all of the people that worked together to make this happen. There were actors and actresses and coaches and choreographers and sound and music and even a Trumpeter and a Junk Band!

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 wonderful pictures and the special DVD he made. He would be happy to make you a copy. If you wish to make a donation for the DVD, please designate it for the sound system.





Sunday School

The Middle School Sunday School class made two no-sew blankets to donate to Project Linus in early January! Project Linus partners with hospitals, shelters, and other agencies in the US to get blankets to children who are in crisis. As a class we talked about the comfort and security a blanket can offer in a time of need.



THANK YOU!

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden was created to serve the congregation and the broader community as a place of quiet beauty and graceful remembrance of loved ones. A small but loyal group has been tending the garden. Many thanks to Jennifer Maloney, Judy Bruening, Steve Fischer, Joan Kowalik, Gordon Gipe, Gerry Pfaff, and the Wimmers for making the garden more beautiful than ever. In 2016, the garden was rejuvenated with new plants; last summer new benches were donated and installed by the Wimmers. Tall urns with grasses were added as well as a new

Japanese maple tree in the center of the garden. Much care and thought has gone into the design of the garden, so any changes or additions need to go through the committee. If anyone has ideas for the garden or would like to help with maintenance, please contact Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com.



Giving Tree

During Christmas we supported area children through our 'Giving Tree.' Thank you to Bertha Carreras for setting everything up and delivering the gifts.

Gifts of Hope

Thank you to Joan Kowalik for organizing the 'Gifts of Hope' program this past Christmas. Also, thank you to our many members who utilized this alternative giving program raising \$2,888.

PoP Women's Bible Study Christmas Party

Many thanks to Judy Bruening and June Herron for their hard work and creativity for a fun and special Christmas party.

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: Space, Adventure, Horseback, 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. 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 18 & May 20 from 2-4:30pm**. Visit our website (<http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/>) to view the brochure or pickup one from the narthex Bulletin Board - choose your camp today!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR is still there to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage](#) to donate or learn more about how you can help. [\[http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response\]](http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response)

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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

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Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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