



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 38, Iss. 10

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD Dec 2019 / Jan 2020

Advent Vespers

Join us each **Wednesday** in Advent (**Dec 4, 11 and 18**) for Holden Evening Prayer, a 15 minute hopeful, gentle service of song and prayer **starting at 7:15 pm**. Take a short break from your busy holiday schedule to slow down and enjoy this brief but meaningful service. Invite a friend!

Intergenerational Advent Event

Join us for an Intergenerational Advent Faithful Families Event on **December 4th**. This is for **ANYONE** in the congregation. We will make Advent wreaths, decorate sugar cookies, and have a pizza dinner. We **begin at 6 pm** and those who wish may head to Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15pm. Questions? Contact [Judy Bruening](#).



Christmas Pageant



Christmas Pageant

Interested in being a part of the Christmas Pageant this year?

We need actors, coaches, photographer, lighting controller, sound person, microphone manager, etc. If you are interested, we can find a job for you!

Dates and Times:

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Rehearsal in costume with pictures

Saturday, Dec. 14, 5:15 - 7:30 pm

Dress Rehearsal (audience welcome, 6:00 pm)

Sunday, Dec. 15, 6 pm

The Christmas Pageant

For more info and/or to sign up, email Jon or Lisa Conary, at lconary@prodigy.net.

Join Us As We Celebrate Christmas!

Saturday, Dec 21:

No Saturday service

Sunday, Dec 22:

Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Pastor Christine's Ordination

Anniversary

No Sunday School



Christmas Eve:

3 & 5 pm - Christmas Eve

Children's Services

7 & 10 pm - Christmas Eve

Carols & Holy Communion

Christmas Day:

10 am - Carols & Holy Communion

Share the Good News: invite friends and neighbors!

New Years schedule:

December 28:

5 pm Saturday service

December 29:

one Sunday service at 10 am, no Sunday School

January 5:

Sunday School resumes

Anniversary of Ordination

Pastor Christine's 10th Anniversary of Ordination will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 22!**

Join us for Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 am as

we celebrate this important milestone with

Pastor Christine! Bishop Ortiz will also be with us

to preach. (Please note that there will NOT be a

Saturday service that weekend.)

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 Christine...

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



The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming' or 'visit,' begins December 1. It's a time where we are intentional about waiting as we prepare for and anticipate the birth of Jesus. As I've gotten older, the waiting isn't as anticipatory or full of wonder. If I'm honest, sometimes it's more of a rushed slog like I'm running through partially solidified molasses.

However, Madeline (my three year-old daughter) is a constant reminder of just how hard it is to wait. Sure, some of it for her is the 'magic' of Santa, but most of it is the beauty of wonder and anticipation - of what lies around the corner, what surprises the next day might hold.

As I watch her engaging with all the season has to offer, I realize that the waiting feels long to her, but the waiting time is well-lived. She relishes each day as a gift. She actually does this most days, regardless of whether it's almost Jesus' birthday or not. I think I'm just a bit more in tune with it nowadays.

The monotony of adulthood sometimes strips some of our capacity for hope and wonder from us. Advent is as good a time as any to look for the hope and wonder that does accompany our days. Advent kicks off the Christian New Year and so, in light of that, I was thinking it might be a good time to make Advent Resolutions.

My advent resolutions are:
Take time to pray.

Even though it seems like the busiest time of year, I need to allow myself the gift of slowing down. Maybe that means finding 15 minutes in the morning before everyone else is awake, or a few minutes in the car before heading into work, or even wrapping up in warm clothes and breathing in the crisp air and sending up a few words of thanksgiving. When life is hectic, centering on Jesus gives me peace.

Operate deliberately.

Be present to the people in my life, especially my children. Take time to enjoy the season: notice the lights, the nativities (even the ridiculous inflatable ones), seek Jesus in everything and everyone.

Focus on love.

What can I do to bless someone else? Doing acts of love helps me keep my focus outwards, which helps me focus on Jesus (and not on the 1,000 things that really aren't that important).

Make cookies.

This is hardly 'church-y,' but it is my promise to myself and my family. Cookies are a thing in my house. I love to bake. And while the cookies get made every year, often it's at the last minute and the making process isn't life giving. This year - cookies will be made, along with the joyous mess they bring.

Being tired and stretched thin comes with being an adult. There's no getting around that, but we can work to prevent some of the frenzy and exhaustion. Take a few minutes and come up with your Advent Resolutions.

And many gracious blessings upon you and your families this Advent (and Christmas) season.
Pastor Christine

December/January 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

*See page 1 for Holiday schedule

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 6)*

*Not meeting on December 3, 24, and 31

Every Wednesday

7:30 pm Adult Choir (pg 6)

Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

8:00 am Men's Group (pg 6)

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship*

*No service on December 21

COMING UP...

December

- 1 No Sunday School (pg 5)
- 1 Confirmation Theme Event #5
- 4 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 4 Faith-Full Families - Advent (pp 1, 5)
- 8 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (pg 1)
- 8 Confirmation Theme Event #6
- 10 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 14 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal (pg 1)
- 15 Christmas Pageant (pg 1)
- 18 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 19 Men's Book Club (pg 7)
- 21 No Saturday Service (pp 1, 2)
- 22 Pr. Christine's Ordination Anniversary (pg 1)
- 22 No Sunday School (pp 1, 5)
- 24 Christmas Eve Services (pg 1)
- 25 Christmas Day
- 25 Christmas Day Service (pg 1)
- 29 No Sunday School (pp 1, 5)
- 31 New Year's Eve

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 Sunday School Resumes (pp 1, 5)
- 7 Confirmation Theme Event #7
- 9 Faith-Full Families - Epiphany (pg 5)
- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 12 Confirmation Theme Event #8
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 26 Congregational Meeting Luncheon (pg 4)
- 26 Annual Congregational Meeting (pg 4)

February

- 8-9 Bible Presentation (pg 5)
- 9 Confirmation Theme Event #9
- 11 Church Council Meeting
- 13 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day
- 23 Confirmation Theme Event #10

For a current calendar, see:

<https://poplutheran.org/church-calendars/>



SPECIAL PRAYERS



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

Pastor John B. McGarvey

PoP Members

Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Kevin Ely, Terry Forish, Annie Hampe, Roy Johnson, Chris Knaus (deployed to Afghanistan), Mike Langum, Remi Langum, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Jim McNerney, John Militzer, Dick & Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson, Angelo Witten & family, Nancy Wolejsza, John Zobel.

Sympathy

Family of Rosemarie Blanco (mother of Judy Bruening)

Family of Frank DePalo

Family of Evelyn Gregory (mother of Debbie Chan)

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

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

It's Poinsettia Time!

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar this Christmas, **please have your order and payment in by Sunday, December 15.**

Poinsettias are available for \$13 each in Red, Pink, and White.

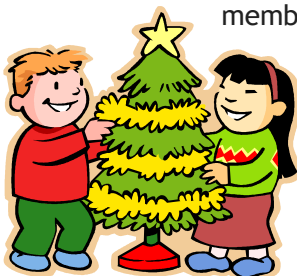
Orders received after Sunday, December 9 but by Sunday, December 15 will be for red only.

Flowers can be donated in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. You may take your flowers home any time after Christmas Day. Order forms are available in the narthex.



Giving Tree

Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PoP members can select a child's



name from the Giving Tree and purchase a special Christmas gift for him/her. This year we are working with Brown Station Elementary School to provide a happy Christmas for selected students and their siblings. If you are interested in participating, grab a set of tags from the tree in the Narthex. Write your name and phone

number on one of the tags and place it in the box next to the tree. Keep the other tag to attach to the gift. Please return your wrapped gifts with the identification tag securely attached by Sunday, Dec. 15th as we plan on delivering the gifts the next day. If you have any questions, please contact Max Carreras at carmax20021@gmail.com

Help those in need while you shop for Christmas!

Starting on December 8th you can



purchase a Gift of Hope for a friend or relative while making a contribution to someone who is in need. You will receive a beautiful Christmas card and an explanation of your purchase, while the actual gift will be forwarded to the organization which helps those in need. Gifts of Hope has recently added 2 organizations, Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Community of St. Dymas. LCM helps college students on their faith journeys. CSD is a congregation in the State of Maryland prison system. Visit the Gifts of Hope tables between or after worship services to make your purchases, look at the catalog of 42 gift ideas, or get more information about all 19 organizations. www.GiftsofHopeDC.org.

You will be able to purchase Gifts of Hope on December, 8th, 15th, and 22nd-weekend services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting



Mark your calendar for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **January 26 at 1:00 pm!** At our annual meeting, we approve our budget, elect Church Council members and make

other important decisions about our ministry together in the coming year. Lunch will be served prior to the meeting (following the late service). Fellowship is organizing the luncheon as well as volunteer for set-up and clean-up. This year we will have finger foods for the luncheon. Please look for a Signup Sheet in January or contact Pamela Cook (cook1082@verizon.net) or Melanie Zobel (mmzobel@aol.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mission Honduras

We are again planning to send a group of missionaries with Haven Universe to serve Honduras in late June 2020. If you're interested in going or just want more information email [Ric Kienzle](mailto:RicKienzle) or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. We were blessed to have five serve in 2019 and are looking to continue to grow this mission.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Counters



Who doesn't love to count money?

Come join the counting team for fun with money!! We

have a wonderful team at Prince of Peace who count and enter the donations into the computer. No experience necessary- there isn't much to it! It's a great way to make new friends and find an easy way to participate at PoP. We are looking for a couple more people to count after church about once a month. We have a very flexible schedule to fit our lives.

For more information or to volunteer, email Helen Griffith (Hgriffith22@gmail.com)

New Serving in Worship Team Members Needed!



We need a volunteer willing to serve as a Team Leader on the first Sunday of each month for the 8:30 am service. We also

need snack providers for the first & second Sunday of each month for the 11:00 am service. If you would be willing to help in either capacity please let the office know.



Ushers and Greeters



Critical Need for Ushers and Greeters! Please consider volunteering to serve at your preferred Sunday service. If willing, sign up in the narthex or

contact the Office (office@poplutheran.org). You will be scheduled every 6-8 weeks. Thank you for helping us fill this critical role!

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage](#) (poplutheran.org) and click the green Donate Online button. Giving online can help all of us easily provide consistent support for the church. Signup today! 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 poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



AmazonSmile

Shopping for Christmas can be a harried and stressful time. If you are someone who prefers to order online, please consider ordering through Amazon and supporting Prince of Peace with each purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives 0.5% 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

Parents: 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 on **February 8 and 9**. If your child is between 2nd and 5th grade and has not yet been presented a Bible, please contact Janet



Levine (Lyle1Janet@msn.com) so that we have an inscribed Bible ready.

Sunday School

Sunday School for preschoolers through high schoolers meets weekly from 9:45 am-10:45 am, through 5/17/2020, except for:
December 1 - Thanksgiving Sunday
December 22 - Christmas weekend
December 29 - MCPS winter break
April 5 - MCPS spring break
April 12 - Easter Sunday
Everyone is welcome at Sunday School, any week they are able to attend!

Special Offering

Help someone smile again or enjoy a meal in comfort!

After collecting peanut butter and jelly this fall, our Sunday School offering for November and December will once again go toward an item on the ELCA's Gifts of Hope. This year, we will be helping to provide dental care for low-income elderly or disabled persons. They are residents of Fellowship Square which provides quality housing to low-income seniors in the metro area. Our purchase of a \$45 gift will help these residents get needed dental care which can be expensive and is not covered by Medicare.

Our Sunday School learners are talking about what it would be like to feel embarrassed to show their teeth or not be able to chew without pain. And how great it feels to show God's love to others! Thanks for your support!

Faith-Full Families

Faith-Full Families' Advent event will be held **Wednesday, December 3rd starting at 6 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. See page 1 for details.

The Faith-Full Families' Epiphany event will be held **Thursday, January 9th from 6-7:30 pm**. 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)

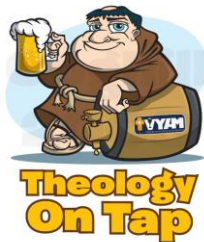
ADULT EDUCATION

Living into the Word

Living into the Word is a new Bible study opportunity for adults at Prince of Peace and their friends! Each month, using material prepared by Pastor Steve, there will be a number of small groups formed to a Sunday Bible reading. In December and January, groups will meet on:
Dec 8 at 6pm (Panera);
Dec 18 at 6 pm (church);
Dec 20 at 10 am (church);
Jan 5 at 6 pm (Panera);
Jan 14 at 6 pm (church);
Jan 17 at 10 am (church).
Please sign up for a group using our [Sign up link \(https://signup.com/go/OaOCyhd\)](https://signup.com/go/OaOCyhd). Come and join in!

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. Watch the Weekly Email and bulletin inserts for the next gathering. 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. This is a great time to join our group! All are welcome, come when you can! Feel free to bring a bagged lunch.



Our Annual Christmas Party is on **Tuesday, December 10**. Come join the fun of the white elephant gift exchange (handmade gift, regift, or \$5 or less) and enjoy a wonderful pot luck luncheon.

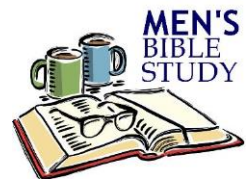
Tuesday, December 17 will be a regular class with a stand-alone class, but we will not meet on **December 3, 24, and 31**. Enjoy your holidays!

We will resume classes on **Tuesday, January 7** when we start studying 1 Chronicles 1 and 2.

Questions? See [Pastor Christine](#) (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

Men's Group Bible Study

Men's Group Bible Study meets every Saturday morning around 8:00 am. Join us for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and a discussion on the Bible readings for the weekend. It's a good way to get ready for the Sunday sermon!



MUSIC

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

Gaithersburg HELP received LOTS of peanut butter and jelly from the Fall drive: 97 jars of peanut butter and 67 jellies. Thanks for your generosity!



Cereals, fruits and tuna are particularly needed now. And of course year-end financial contributions are always most welcome in order to adequately serve the clients in need.



Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels



Gaithersburg Meals On Wheels has an urgent need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the

Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with 8 to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. **Please call 301-216-4200, or contact [Lisa Koenig](mailto:Lisa.Koenig@gmail.com) (lisamkoenig1@gmail.com), 301-869-0190).**

UMAN Needs Help

Most of you know something about HELP, but do you know UMAN? Upper Montgomery Assistance Network was formed many years ago to do things that HELP doesn't have the capacity to do, like prevention of utility shutoffs and evictions in both Gaithersburg and Germantown. Gaithersburg HELP is a big financial and programmatic supporter of UMAN, and we are now trying to help in recruiting a new Treasurer for UMAN to fill an urgent need. The job is estimated to require no more than about 6 hours a week. If you might be willing to take this on, to get more information you can contact Hope Walker (hope.walker@gaitersburghelp.org) or even better Janet Neumann, who is HELP's rep on the UMAN Board, at janet.neumann@gaitersburghelp.org.

FELLOWSHIP

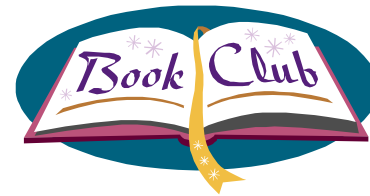
Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club concludes an informative and entertaining year with a soaring discussion of David McCullough's The Wright Brothers.

"On a winter day in 1903, on the remote Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers from Ohio changed history. The age of flight had begun with the first heavier-than-air powered machine carrying a pilot. Far more than a couple of Dayton bicycle mechanics who happened to hit on success, Wilbur and Orville Wright were men of exceptional ability, unyielding determination, and far-ranging intellectual interest and curiosity."

All men of Prince of Peace and their male friends are cordially invited to join us for beer and munchies on **Thursday, December 19, 7:30 pm** at the home of Charles Sullivan. Please RSVP to Charles@Homesflash.com.

Check Weekly Email and the bulletin insert for information about the January book choice, host, and date.



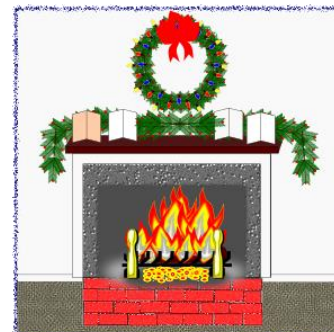
Women's Book Group

Lisa Woodard will be hosting the special holiday season Women's Book Group on **Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm**. We'll continue with our book exchange tradition so please bring a wrapped, new or gently used, book as well as an appetizer or dessert. The December book selection is Virgil Wander by Leif Enger. After nearly drowning in icy Lake Superior, Virgil loses language and memory. With the help of locals, he begins to piece together his personal history which may be the key to reviving their broken town. Please RSVP to woodard4@comcast.net.

On **Thursday, January 9 at 7:30 pm**, Judy Bruening will host the Women's Book Group where the The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware will be discussed. A journalist for a travel magazine, Lo has been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise. The cruise takes a turn for the worst with dangerous seas and Lo's witnessing a body being thrown overboard. Please RSVP to judy.bruening53@gmail.com.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

February 13 - Educated
by Tara Westover,
hosted by TBD



POP OFFICE

Serving in Worship Schedule

Updated Serving in Worship schedule is posted on our [website](#) and the bulletin board in the narthex weekly. Please review it and make arrangements for any conflicts. Thanks!

Flower Chart

The 2020 Flower Chart is now available on the bulletin board in the narthex for your flower dedications for the coming year. Flowers can be given in memory or honor of a person or special occasion. A donation of \$35 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!



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!



Kitchen Care

Help us keep the kitchen tidy and organized! Please check out our new kitchen rules so that we can keep it clean and tidy and make it easier for everyone to use.

ELCA 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. With wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes, there are many immediate needs here and around the world. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage](#) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

THINK ABOUT IT

Advent was one week away, so we thought we'd see what the children remembered from our family devotions the year before. "Who can tell me what the four candles in the Advent wreath represent?" I asked.

Luke jumped in with seven-year-old wisdom and exuberance. "There's love, joy, peace, and . . . and . . ."

"I know!" six-year-old Elise interrupted to finish her brother's sentence: "Peace and quiet!"

--Michelle L. Hardie

It's time to recycle those leftover holiday fruitcakes. That's right. You can have your cake and use it, too.* Just consider the possibilities:

- Pothole filler.
- Shot put.
- Speed bump.
- Boat anchor.
- Flower press.
- Bed warmer (heat to 350 degrees).
- Ice pack (chilled for twelve hours).
- Chopping block.
- Scratching post for your cat.

*User assumes all liability for busted toes, hernias, and other medical ailments resulting therefrom.

--Suzanne James

America West airlines magazine

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 February issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **January 19**. 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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