



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 39, Iss. 2

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

March 2020

Holy Land Trip Sharing

Our PoP Holy Land Trip participants will share their experiences, photos and reflections with the congregation on **Sunday, March 1 at 10 am** (between services). Come join us!

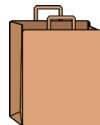
Lenten Wednesday Services

Each Wednesday evening during Lent you are invited to join us as we gather for spiritual engagement and fellowship. From **6:30-7:15pm** there will be a devotional exercise available in the Fellowship Hall. Concurrently, refreshments of wine, cheeses and light desserts will be available in the Narthex. You may come at ANYTIME between 6:30-7:15pm for centering and fellowship. **Holden Evening Prayer will begin at 7:15pm** in the Sanctuary.



Lenten Sharing Bags are back!

March 9th through April 14th, we will be collecting items for two local charities: Lutheran Social Services and Comfort Cases.



See page 4 for more information.

Filled Easter Eggs Needed!

We need filled Easter Eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday! Use your own eggs or pick up some empty recycled eggs from the foyer (available mid-March); just fill and return by **8:30 am on Easter morning**. Please include a label with the number of filled eggs in the package. Thanks for helping with this popular, annual event!



Volunteers Needed

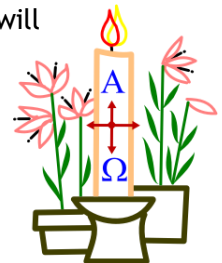


Volunteers are needed to serve during the Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the window in the narthex later in March; please sign up if you are available to serve at any of these services. Thanks!

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar this Easter, orders and payment will be due on **Friday, April 3rd**.

Lilies and hyacinths can be donated in honor or memory of a friend or loved one and may be taken home after the last Easter service. Order forms will be available in the narthex.



Keep an eye on Weekly Email and bulletin inserts for when you can start ordering and what the cost will be.

Movie Night: "Emanuel"

Please join us on **Saturday, March 21st at 6pm** for a screening of the movie "Emanuel." Pizza and lemonade will be provided. Feel free to bring something to share or an adult beverage. We encourage you to bring friends, too! After the movie, time will be provided for casual conversation, to debrief the movie.



See page 4 for a description of the movie.

First Communion

First Communion instruction will be offered beginning **Sunday, April 26** for children at least in 3rd grade. If you'd like your child to participate, please contact [Pastor Steve!](#)

From Pastor Christine...

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



I believe that creativity, imagination, and beauty are crucial to our spiritual lives. I've never felt I'm a good artist, at least not from a traditional perspective. Despite this, I often experience God, divineness, and deep inner-connection through tactile means. Art and creative expression opens up something in me that nothing else seems to do. I also believe that the world needs more art and more truly lovely things. So much of our world has devolved into mundane, harsh expressions and realities.

The very act of worship sits in direct contrast to the harshness the world panders. Worship is meant to be beautiful, and glorious, and exquisite. This Lenten season we will actively be adding more beauty into God's world.

As you likely know, each Wednesday during Lent we gather from 6:30pm - 7:45pm to connect with others and God. We do this through fellowship, conversation, prayer, and spiritual engagement activities. From 6:30pm-7:15pm wine, cheese, and light snacks are available in the narthex. This is a great way to unwind from the day and reconnect with friends (and make a new friend). Simultaneously, a self-directed spiritual engagement activity will be happening in the Fellowship Hall. This is where the beauty is happening, so check it out! To close out our evening, a brief, song led prayer service begins at 7:15pm (wrapping up by 7:35pm).

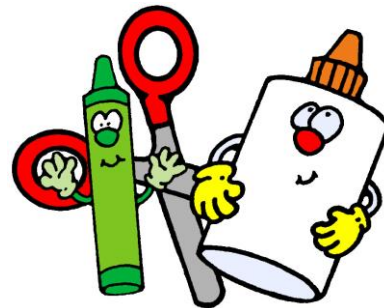
I'd like to share a bit more about the spiritual engagement piece and what we will be doing during that time. Over and over, our scriptures offer us glimpses of God meeting people in words and images, in visions and poetry, in dreams and revelations beyond our wildest imagining. As Lutherans, we have a robust appreciation for the WORD. We value the many ways scripture can instruct us, teach us, and guide us. However, in worship we often confine the WORD to the printed, flat words on the page. This Lent, I'd like to change that - which is where you come in.

Each week we will be creating some 'sanctified art' in the Fellowship Hall. Some of it will be utilized in worship during Lent and Easter. Some of these activities will be collaborative (i.e. Lace banners - you'll have to come to find out what that is); and some will be personal (i.e. Wilderness branches and paper cranes - again, check it out to find out more).

I always enjoy designing these Lenten experiences. I hope they add value and depth to your life. If you've never participated in the past (one year we did labyrinth meditations, one year we did poetry and prayer activities), I invite you to come to at least one Wednesday evening gathering this Lent.

We are all created in the image of the Creator and share the capacity to be creative and imaginative. Art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God. Blessed Lent to you all.

Deep peace and joy,
Pastor Christine



March 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 7)

Every Wednesday

7:30 pm Adult Choir (pg 7)

Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

8:00 am Men's Group (pg 7)

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

COMING UP...

March

- 1 Holy Land Trip Sharing (pg 1)
- 1 Confirmation Theme Event #11
- 3 Super Tuesday
- 4 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 2)
- 5 Faith-Full Families (pg 6)
- 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 10 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 2)
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 8)
- 15 Confirmation Theme Event #12
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 2)
- 19 Men's Book Club (pg 8)
- 21 Movie: "Emanuel" (pp 1, 4)
- 22 Bible Art Journaling (pg 7)
- 25 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 2)
- 29 Confirmation Theme Event #13

April

- 1 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 2)
- 5 Palm Sunday (pg 3)
- 5 Bible Art Journaling
- 9 Maundy Thursday Service
- 10 Good Friday Service
- 11 No Saturday Service
- 12 Easter Sunday (pg 3)
- 13 Easter Monday
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 15 Tax Day
- 16 Faith-Full Families
- 19 Confirmation Theme Event #14
- 26 First Communion Instruction (pg 1)

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, Annie Hampe, Roy Johnson, Chris Knaus (deployed to Afghanistan), Mike Langum, Remi Langum, Carolyn Levine, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, John Miltzer, Dick & Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson, Angelo Witten & family

Sympathy

Baker - Jacobs Family (friends of Judy Bruening)
Family of Nancy Varipapa (mother-in-law of Cherie DeGeorge's daughter)

Thanksgiving

Birth of Rowan Marie Kane (daughter of Lauren Rose Kane & Stephen Kane, granddaughter of Donna & Tim Rose)

Godspeed

Gordon Gipe

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

PLEASE NOTE

Service Times for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday



Service times for Palm Sunday (April 5) will be held at the usual times:
Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 am.

There will be a change in service times for Easter Sunday (April 12).
All services will be on Easter Sunday morning: 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 am.



Updated Photo Directory Under Construction -Your Input Needed!



A draft of our updated photo directory has been posted in the narthex. Please review your entry and correct information, especially contact information, that has changed. Place a check mark if your information is correct.

Inclement Weather

During the winter months, if inclement weather requires us to cancel services or activities, a notice will appear on the website homepage (poplutheran.org) and be left as a message on the church phone (301-869-3666).



EVENTS DURING LENT

Movie Night: "Emanuel"

Please join us on **Saturday, March 21st at 6pm** for a screening of the movie "Emanuel." The documentary chronicles the story of Dylan Roof, a 21-year-old white supremacist and member of the ELCA, who opened fire in church, leaving nine African Americans dead—leaving their families and the nation to grapple with this senseless act of terror. In the midst of unspeakable grief and suffering, the families of the Emanuel Nine faced the killer and offered words of forgiveness. Their demonstration of grace ushered the way for hope and healing across a city and the nation. The documentary powerfully weaves the history of race relations in Charleston, the significance and impact of Mother Emanuel Church, and the hope that somehow emerges in the aftermath. It's the story that rocked a city and a nation as it happened ... and the days that followed. "Emanuel" is a poignant story of justice and faith, love and hate, examining the healing power of forgiveness.

Lenten Sharing Bags

Lutheran Social Services

- Blankets/comforters (full or queen)
- Sheet sets (full or queen)
- Pillows
- Trash bags
- Shampoo/conditioner (full size)
- Broom and dustpan
- Diapers
- Cooking utensils (spoon, spatula)
- Silverware
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Stainless Steel Mixing Bowls
- Kitchen trash can

****HIGH NEED:** new car seats (infant, convertible, booster)



The confirmation class will be collecting items for Comfort Cases during the lent season. On April 19th they will take over the items collected and help sort and pack backpacks.

Comfort Cases are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system. Typically, children are given a trash bag to pack up their belongings when they are removed from their homes. We are working to end this practice while providing the essentials for a child's first few days in foster care. You can help support Comfort Cases by donating the items listed below.

Baby (Under 2 years old)

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas (newborn to 24 months)
- Baby Blanket
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Body Wash
- Baby Lotion
- Diaper Wipes (soft packaging)
- Diaper Cream
- Baby Bibs
- Baby Washcloths
- Toddler Safe Stuffed Animal
- Board Book

Youth (10+ years old)

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Blanket (60"X60" or larger)
- Adult Toothbrush
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Journal
- Book



SPOTLIGHT

This month we are looking at two PoP members.

First, a poem for Lent, written by Susan Weiner, from her book of Christian poetry, *Before the Foundation of the World*.

Jesus of Galilee

For Lent

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus of Galilee: Lord of the Jews,
Christened in blood, with Judas untrue,

Forsaken by Man, before God denied,
To the lash and the thorn become as a bride.

As nails scored both flesh and bone
And dice beneath the cross were thrown,

Then darkness spread across the land
And vultures wheeled above the sand.

So that which was spoken came to be:
Jesus pierced for our iniquity.

Scorned by a crowd, mocked by a jeer,
When water fell from the edge of a spear,

In the place of skulls, in the place of bones,
The son of Mary died alone.

Second, in case you missed it. On the front page of the December 20, 2019 issue of "[The Town Courier](#)" is an article about PoP member Chris Knaus and Rachel Carson Elementary School. Read this article to learn that we are not too young or too old to learn compassion and connection.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vacation Bible School



We are busy planning for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is Knights of North Castle: The Quest for the King's Armor! Mark your calendars for **July 20 - 24**. We hope you can join us for another fun adventure.

Honduras Mission Trip 2020!

Prince of Peace has four members who will be joining non-profit organization, **Haven Universe** for their 2020 mission trip to Honduras! Chet and Nancy Wolejsza, Ric Kienzle, and Catherine Shober will be traveling to Honduras in June to assist with medical missions, construction projects, and local outreach. The PoP mission team is requesting prayers and accepting financial contributions toward trip and supply costs. Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to **Haven Universe** and dropped in the offering plate or inserted into the Mission Trip envelope within the mission mailbox in the narthex. **Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by April.** Any contribution (large or small!) would be **greatly** appreciated, and most importantly we ask for continued prayers for a safe and successful mission!

Yard Sale

The Yard Sale (The Big One!) will be on **June 6**. Watch for more information as there will be changes this year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS Coordinator



We are looking for a new coordinator for our Vacation Bible School program for next year. If you are interested or want more information, contact [Lori Kohne](#).

Ushers, Greeters, Team Leader, Snacks



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!

Also needed for late service: snack provider for the 1st Sunday and Team Leader (starting in March) for the 2nd Sunday.

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)

CAPITAL REPAIRS

The POP office Air Conditioning system was recently replaced after the original 30-year-old A/C unit had hung on longer than expected. The new system was installed by Don Hoffacker's Air Conditioning and Heating out of Germantown and the new unit has a SEER rating of 14 which is more energy efficient than the old unit we replaced. This system serves Pastor Steve's office, the church office and copy room along with the Sacristy. The Building Committee is currently seeking recommendations and Bids for replacement of the Sanctuary A/C system which is also 30 years old. We are also exploring installing heating thermostats in various rooms throughout the church to improve comfort and be more energy efficient. These capital repairs had previously been approved by Council and the Congregation.

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage \(poplutheran.org\)](http://poplutheran.org) and click the green Donate Online button at the bottom of the page. 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

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!

2020 Offering Envelopes

You'll find them on the table in the narthex. Pick yours up today! If you do not want your offering envelopes OR if you do not find a box with your name and want envelopes, please let [Bob Butler](#) or the [office](#) know.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Faith-Full Families

Faith-Full Families' Lent event will be held Thursday, March 5th 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)

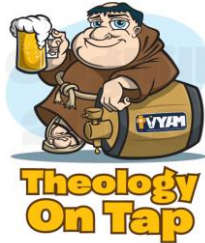
ADULT EDUCATION

Living into the Word

Each month, using material prepared by Pastor Steve, a few small groups meet to study and discuss a Sunday Bible reading. Look for new dates and times in the Weekly Email and bulletin inserts. Come and join in!

Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session, 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 **March 22 from 5pm-7pm.** 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.

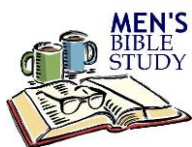


PoP Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are reading and discussing 1 Chronicles. Please join us any week you can and feel free to bring a bagged lunch. Questions? See [Pastor Christine \(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org\)](mailto: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

Souper Bowl Outcome

So who won the big POP Souper Bowl Sunday competition? In 4th place were the San Francisco 49ers, with 70 cans. Third place went to the Kansas City Chiefs with 96 cans. You should now be thinking, "Huh, what!?". The big POP soup can winner was the "Who Cares?" box, supplemented with an overflow box, for a grand total of 117 cans. And the grand champion is Gaithersburg HELP, which happily received 388 pounds of soup. Thanks to the whole POP community for your ongoing support. By popular demand, the Who Cares box will make a return appearance in 2021.

Gaithersburg HELP thanks POP for the generous 388 pounds of Souper Bowl Sunday donations. All nonperishable donations continue to be most welcome. Need is always up in the winter months when seasonal work is scarce and groceries have to compete with high heating bills for funding.

HELP and the 2020 Census

HELP is very involved with getting the word out on the importance of all area residents responding to the 2020 Census - ALL RESIDENTS, not just all citizens. A large percentage of our area residents are non-citizens. The Census effort kicks off in mid-March. It is expected that in the current environment many residents will be reluctant to fill out government forms. Any help that POP members can provide will be appreciated, for example talking to people who work with or for you to encourage them to participate.

Why does Gaithersburg HELP care - a lot? Because much of the HELP funding comes from city, county and state grants. Here are some facts:

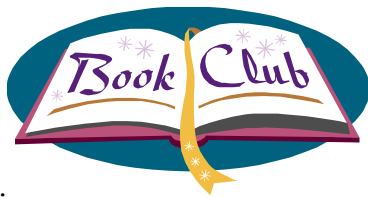
- Every person NOT counted equals at least \$2,200 in lost revenue PER YEAR in state and county funding.
- The results are used to decide how many representatives of each state will serve in the House of Representatives.
- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$675 billion in funding based on Census data. That money drives programs that create jobs, build affordable housing, improve transportation, open stores, and more.

If you can use Census information flyers, in English or Spanish, please contact Hope Walker at hope.walker@gaitthersburghelp.org and she will get a stack to you. Thanks!

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

POP's Men's Book Club pays homage to the Grand Old Game with a reading of Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer*. "The classic narrative of growing up within shouting distance of Ebbets Field, covering the Jackie Robinson Dodgers, and what's happened to everybody since." All men of POP and their male friends are cordially invited to a lively discussion of this diamond classic on **Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Charles Sullivan. Please RSVP to [Charles](#).



Women's Book Group

The March selection for the Women's Book Group is *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. After the death of her brother and fiance' in WWI, Violet leads a rather gloomy existence. A chance encounter at a cathedral provides her with purpose, friendship and support that have been missing from her life. We will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm. Laura Dillon will be hosting. laldillon@yahoo.com

RECENT NEWS

Congratulations to our new council officers!

President: Kwame Mensah
Vice President: Bill Harral
Secretary: Lauren Gibson

RECENT EVENTS



Congratulations to our students, 2nd through 5th grade, who received their inscribed Bibles on the weekend of February 8-9!

POP OFFICE

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2020 has been posted!

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!



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.

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.

Serving in Worship Schedule

The Serving in Worship schedule for March and April has been posted on our [website](#) and the bulletin board in the narthex. Please review it and make arrangements for any conflicts. Thanks!

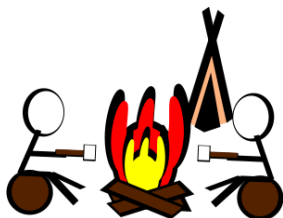
SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Ready to jump into a new adventure?!? Mar-Lu-Ridge is celebrating their 60th anniversary. The programming is Christ-centered, fun, and safe. Residential camps for ages 6-17, day camps for ages 6-10, and off-site Mobile Mar Lu day camps are offered.

Attend Open House on **March 15 and May 17 at 2-4:40 pm**. Tours, snacks and the chance to meet staff and have questions about camp answered. All are welcome.

More information about the different camps, cost, registration, and Mar-Lu-Ridge go to their [website](#). [Financial assistance](#) is available.



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 \(https://elca.org/disaster\)](https://elca.org/disaster) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

THINK ABOUT IT

I was listening to my five-year-old son, Mathew, as he worked on his Speak-and-Spell computer. He was concentrating intensely, typing words for the computer to say back to him.

Mathew punched in the word *God*. To his surprise, the computer said, "Word not found."

He tried again with the same reply. With great disgust, he stared at the computer and told it in no uncertain terms, "Jesus is not going to like this!"

--Mary Farwell

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Articles for the April issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **March 15**. 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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