



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 39, Iss. 3

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

April 2020

## Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, April 5 - Worship at 10:00 am  
([live stream on Facebook](#))

Join us after the service for online fellowship on Zoom ([click here!](#))



Monday, April 6 - Night Prayer at 8:30 pm ([live stream on Facebook](#))

Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday Liturgy at 7:30 pm ([live stream on Facebook](#))

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 pm ([live stream on Facebook](#))

Saturday, April 11 - Easter Story time at 7:00 pm ([live stream on Facebook](#))

Easter Sunday, April 12 - Worship at 10:00 am  
([live stream on Facebook](#))



Join us after the service for online fellowship on Zoom ([click here!](#))

## Lenten Sharing Bags

We are still collecting items for two local charities - Lutheran Social Services and Comfort Cases - through April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please leave your packages at the front door of the church.



See page 3 for more information.

## Another Way to Share



Gaithersburg HELP is stressed and suffering from this shut down. They are in desperate need of donations and help. Go to page 4 to see how you can help and for more information.

## Ways We Are Getting Help

Many stores that supply groceries have special hours for seniors and those at risk. The link below is a list of the stores with their location, phone number, special hours information.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/COVID19GroceryStore\\_s.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/COVID19GroceryStore_s.pdf)

Many stores, including grocery and retail, are offering curb side pick-up. Order online, drive to the store, and pick up your order when you present your ID.



Don't forget to contact Pastor Steve or Pastor Christine if you need help.



## Celebrate the Season

The pictures above illustrate many views of the seasons we are experiencing in our religious lives. We are in the season of Lent and headed into the season of Easter. What is ironic to me is that we are now living that in our daily lives whether we want to or not. The days before Palm Sunday are over for some, others see it approaching. Our Easter will be much like the first, taking many days for the news to spread. Actually, if I am not mistaken, it is still spreading today.

What I want to focus on for all of us is Easter. New life. New beginnings. Take time to share this with your family no matter their ages. If you have children at home, be sure to have a hunt. It doesn't have to be Easter eggs if you don't have them. Just make it fun. Take pictures to share with others who can't be there. Take time to call, Skype, Facetime, even yell over the back fence. Just remember - it is Easter!



## From Pastor Steve...

*Pastor Steve Buechler*  
([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)

A number of years ago, I took a continuing education class in which we were taught to look at every situation a church (or any other organization) might face through the lens of “SWOT”. That is, in every new situation, good or bad, a congregation has both Strengths and Weaknesses to deal with the situation. And every situation presents both Opportunities and Threats. In situations like this pandemic, it’s easy to feel the Weaknesses and to perceive the Threats. But we also have many Strengths to face this situation together. And it’s already apparent that there are some important Opportunities that we have as a congregation.

Among our Strengths is the fact that, before we even asked, several members volunteered to help bring groceries and pick up prescriptions for people who didn’t feel comfortable venturing out of their house. It’s always been a strength of this congregation that in times of crisis, people step up and help, and this is happening again. (If you, or someone you know, needs help like this, please let us know!) Also, among our strengths is the fact that we paid off our mortgage last year and that more than half of the congregation gives through automated bill pay or online. This puts us in a much stronger place than we would have been even a few months ago. (If you’ve been thinking of donating electronically, now would be an excellent time to do that!)

And among our Opportunities is the new ways we’re finding to get together electronically when we can’t be together in person, both for worship and other events. The online and live streaming of worship has been really well received, and the numbers of people viewing live or afterwards are really encouraging. Also, we know we’re engaging former members who have moved away, as well as local members who we haven’t seen “live” in a long time, so this is clearly having a good impact, and is something we can build on and use even after this crisis is over. (Please keep checking our website and emails for different ways to get together and connect online.)

And another opportunity this situation gives us is the real and actual need to consider what it

means to be a community of Jesus. A number of my pastor buddies have shared memes on social media which remind us that “the church isn’t the building - it’s the people.” And that’s true. But the church isn’t just a bunch of people who stand around together in the same place (building or not). What does it mean for us to really be a community which shares God’s love with one another, whether we can be physically present or not? How do we stay connected in Christ, when we can’t be in the same place together? Those are always questions we should wrestle with, but this crisis forces upon us the need to really wrestle with those questions.

And in the end, the greatest opportunity we have is to experience God’s help and presence in the midst of the trouble we and our world are going through right now. The opportunity we have is to be instruments of God’s peace in a world that’s right now filled with fear and confusion. And the opportunity we have is to come through this experience with renewed confidence that we really can depend upon God’s presence and on the community we share with each other in Jesus’ name.

Yours in Christ,

**Editor’s Note:** See page 4 for more information if you are interested in donating electronically.

### **April Highlights**

#### **Every Sunday**

10:00 am Worship streamed on our Facebook Page

#### **Every Monday**

8:30 pm Night Prayer - Pastor Steve will lead us in Compline (10-15 minute prayer at the close of the day). This will be streamed on our Facebook page.

#### **Every Tuesday**

12:30 pm Women’s Bible Study (pg 5)

#### **Every Friday**

7:00 pm Story Time for Children - Pastor Christine will lead story time for children. This will be streamed on our Facebook page.

## COMING UP...

April

- 1 Devotions - Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday

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.

### The World

All those affected in any way by the pandemic

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

## SPOTLIGHT

### **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. They will sort and pack the backpacks when they take over the collected items.

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

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Gaithersburg HELP

Please keep those Gaithersburg HELP donations coming! With the virus situation, school closures and loss of hourly wages for many families, the number of neighbors requesting food has skyrocketed. On a typical day HELP gets 20 calls from families needing food, plus or minus a few. On March 13 after school closures were announced, 62 families called in, only 25 of whom could be served that day. No school means no free breakfasts or lunches, and possibly the need for unexpected daycare so parents can work. HELP is gearing up to order more food, provide longer hours, possibly add weekend hours, and institute changes to procedure to eliminate a crowded client waiting room. All food donations and of course financial donations would be deeply appreciated.

If you want to give to Gaithersburg HELP but don't feel safe spending extra (or any) time at the grocery store, you may order from Amazon and send it to Hope Walker. You may use her address from the directory or email her at [hopewalk04@hotmail.com](mailto:hopewalk04@hotmail.com) or [Hop.Walker@gaitersburghelp.org](mailto:Hop.Walker@gaitersburghelp.org) for any questions.

NOTE: Be aware that currently Amazon is running late with many of their orders.

#### How to Donate to Gaithersburg HELP (from Weekly Email March 29, 2020)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#) is in serious need of food as well as financial donations due to the huge increase in community need. Because many people have asked how they can help, we are offering the following three options - drop food off to either of two locations, ship food, or donate money. Details are provided below. Please note that if you already have an organization or friend collecting food for HELP, you may continue using that approach. Thank you for your concern.

**Drop-off:** If you want to drop off food at the Pantry, please adhere to the specified time frame. Deliveries can be safely dropped outside only during the time period shown. If you want to drop off donations at the church, please leave them outside:

- Gaithersburg HELP Pantry, 301 Muddy Branch Rd, only between 1:00 and 3:00 PM, Mon- Fri when volunteers are in the pantry and can move deliveries inside. Do not leave things at other hours as they will likely disappear.

- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 11900 Darnestown Rd. Best between 9 AM and 3 PM Mon-Fri, but any time is acceptable. (Leave food under the covered area by either the front or back doors)

**Online:** If you would like to order online and have food shipped, here are four home addresses of volunteers who have covered porches to receive deliveries. Specify Gaithersburg HELP as the addressee on the order form:

- 157 Bralan Lane, Gaithersburg MD 20877
- 12829 Doe Lane, Gaithersburg MD 20878
- 211 E. Deer Park Dr, Gaithersburg MD 20877
- 18430 Cape Jasmine Way, Gaithersburg MD 20879

All types of nonperishable, healthy foods are needed, including cereal, canned fruit, vegetables, beans, tuna, peanut butter, rice, spaghetti. We also need diapers in all sizes.

**Donate Money:** Financial donations can be mailed to Gaithersburg HELP at the above address or through the donate link on the Gaithersburg HELP website [by clicking here](#).

## 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. 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](mailto:michel_christian@yahoo.com)) or Kwame Mensah ([mensahkn@gmail.com](mailto:mensahkn@gmail.com)) with any questions.

### Electronic Giving

To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to [poplutheran.org](http://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](https://smile.amazon.com) instead of [www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). (AmazonSmile will remember the nonprofit previously selected.) It's easy!

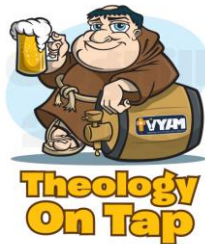
## ADULT EDUCATION

### Living into the Word

Each month, using material prepared by Pastor Steve, we have the opportunity to study and discuss a Sunday Bible reading. Look for new dates and times in the Weekly Email and online worship notice. We are currently connecting on Zoom. Logon and join in!

### Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session to talk about issues of faith. Pastor Steve leads one of these events each month. Check Weekly Email and the online worship notice for the next date. We are currently meeting on Zoom. Logon and join us!



### PoP Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are currently meeting on Zoom. Scheduled dates for are April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5. For more information or questions, see [Pastor Christine](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) ([pastorchristine@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org)).

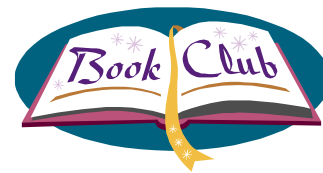


## FELLOWSHIP

### Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will not be deterred by the Coronavirus! We are in the process of arranging a virtual gathering; **details will be revealed well before April 16** to all members on the Book Group e-mail distribution list.

Our book for April is *Florida* by Lauren Groff which is a book of short stories in which the author "brings the reader into a physical world that is at once domestic and wild—a place where the hazards of the natural world lie waiting to pounce, yet the greatest threats and mysteries are still of an emotional, psychological natural".



## THANK YOU!

A thank you from the congregation to the pastors, council and staff who have set up the live streaming of services, prayer time, and meetings such as Women's Bible Study during this pandemic:

The communications have been so warm and assuring to the congregation that we are all still together as a community while apart physically. It is these positive gestures during these disturbing times that add a ray of positivity to our lives. Finally, the gentle urging from the pastors to reach out to each other and to those in need as well as to continue our financial giving is also a refreshing reminder of our faith and our mission as members of the Pop family and our Christian community. Many thank yous to all involved! You are appreciated!

## 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. Most current for many of us is the Covid-19 pandemic. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage](https://elca.org/disaster) (<https://elca.org/disaster>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

## LOCKDOWN

Brother Richard Hendrick, a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland, penned a touching poem about coronavirus.  
March 13th 2020

### Lockdown

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be a disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

## THINK ABOUT IT

The resurrection is not only the Good News, it is the best news imaginable.

--Ray C. Stedman

If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything.

--T.J. Bach

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*Glad Tidings* is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org).

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