



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 39, Iss. 7

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

September 2020

Sunday School



Our new season of Christian education kicks off on **September 13th** with weekly classes from preschool to high school. This fall we will meet

remotely via Zoom starting on **Sunday, September 13th**. Please see pages 4 and 5 for how to let us know of your learner's participation and to access Zoom links.

We realize young people will face a new situation this fall and that you might not be sure whether another Zoom experience is right for your learner. Please know that, as always, everyone is welcome any week they are able to attend. By getting on our elists, you will have the Zoom links available for those weeks a Sunday School class works for your family. For security, Zoom links will not be published. We pray that our learners feel the warmth of God's love through Sunday School.

To help us in planning and to get our elists in order, please email Janet Levine at lyle1janet@msn.com to tell us your preferred email, and the names and grades of each of your learners soon. You will receive your Zoom link via email.

Hope to see you on September 13!

2020 Yard Sale



We regret to announce that 2020 Yard Sale has been delayed (not canceled!) until Spring due to social distancing rules still in effect for Montgomery County.

Please hold onto your valuable items until our rescheduled event. We can't wait to see you all, and to continue this great community tradition. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Christian Michel and/or Bill Harral.

We may have a Clothing Drive this fall at PoP. More information to follow.

Special Offering of PB&J



September and October are Peanut Butter and Jelly time! Our Sunday School is leading this drive with their offering.

Learners contribute jars so local students have filling lunches - please consider buying several and leaving them in the buckets outside both entrances to POP. Families could also consider making an online donation to Gaithersburg HELP by clicking here (<https://www.gaithersburghelp.org/>).



PB & J is part of an easy and filling lunch kids can make for themselves!

More information for donating to Gaithersburg HELP can be found on pages 5 and 6.

School Supply Drive



Even though there is some uncertainty about what this school year will look like, Interfaith Works is running their new school supplies program again to help the families in need in our community.

This year, to make the process as safe as possible, they have set up an Amazon Wish List: [Interfaith Works School Supplies Amazon List](#) Please consider donating to help children in need in our community!

NOTE: See page 4 to see how to make this purchase through AmazonSmile.





From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;

301-869-3666)

Every year, I feel like September is “get back to normal” month. Vacations are over. School begins again, and all the “regular” fall programming at church starts back up.

Not this year! This September is anything but a return to “normal”. Almost everything is different from the way it was before the pandemic. School is still in virtual learning mode. And worship is still online. And while we have glimmers of things that start to give us a feel of the way things were, it’s not clear when things will really feel like they’re back to normal.

Of course, these past few months have also been a time when we’ve learned to do some new things and adapt in ways that many of us hadn’t considered before. At Prince of Peace, we’ve learned how to do online worship, and we’ve made some AV upgrades in the past few weeks to enhance the worship experience and to ensure that we’ll be able to livestream to people who need and want the online worship experience even after we begin to return to “normal.” This month, we’ll also be experimenting with virtual choir and Grace Notes, so there are some exciting things happening even when things aren’t “normal”!

But in all this, I’ve discovered that there is one thing that’s still normal around here. Jesus continues to be with us, to guide us and to strengthen us, even when we’re not together. In fact, I’ve sometimes come to appreciate Jesus’ presence and strength in ways that maybe I wasn’t so tuned into before. Hopefully, that’s been the case - and will continue to be the case - for you as well.

As we began this “new normal” it wasn’t clear (and it still isn’t) where this experience will lead us. And it would have been easy to imagine that churches would have just dissolved and closed like so many other businesses in our community. But it’s clear that we’re more than a business or even a volunteer organization. We’re a community called together by the Holy Spirit, even when we need to

stay 6 feet apart. We’re a community continually strengthened by Jesus’ Word, even when we hear that word online. We’re a community that really is a “communion of saints” because of the abiding presence of God in our lives.

That presence of God is a normal part of our lives. It always has been, and it always will be. And even if everything else seems upside down right now, Jesus’ presence with us will always part of whatever our “normal” is!

Yours in Christ,



September Highlights

Every Sunday

- 9:00 am Preschool and Elementary Sunday School on Zoom (starting September 13)
- 9:00 am Middle School Sunday School on Zoom (starting September 13)
- 10:00 am Worship streamed on our Facebook Page
- 11:00 am High School Sunday School on Zoom (starting September 13)

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...

September

7 Labor Day

13 Grandparents Day

13 Sunday School Begins

22 Autumn Begins

October

12 Columbus Day

31 Halloween

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, Mike & Remi Langum, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Gail Moran, Dick and Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson

Sympathy

Family of Stephen Robert Farrar (brother of Richard Farrar)

Family of John Murray (friend of Sherry Fischer)

Family of Donald Stillwagon (father of Nancy Wolejsza's daughter-in-law)

Thanksgiving

Birth of Amy Lana Gibson (daughter of Lauren & Dan Gibson)

Baptism of Makayla Hoffman (daughter of Lauren Ballou & Steve Hoffman)

Marriage of Laura Hampe & Matteo Garofalo

Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality

All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays and at the following website:

https://poplutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PoP_Prayer_List.pdf

CONTINUING. . .

Please remember that although the office is closed, you may still:

- Call or email the office (or the Pastors directly) - we will be monitoring email and voicemail from home, so it's always possible to contact us;
- Drop off food for Gaithersburg HELP at the church - the bins are outside each door under the covered walkways. Gaithersburg HELP volunteers will come by periodically to take that food to the pantry (it is also possible to order food online to ship to volunteers, and to [donate directly to Gaithersburg HELP on their website](#)); (For more ways to help Gaithersburg HELP, [please click here.](#))
- Send offering checks to the church (although [we're encouraging online donations](#) if you can do that.) But, mail will still be checked and your offerings deposited. We appreciate your continued support of our congregation during this time!

As we move forward, we will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as necessary!

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/COVID19GroceryStores.pdf>

Many stores, including grocery and retail, are offering curbside 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.

Story Time



Pastor Christine leads story time for children every Friday at 7:00 pm

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) or Kwame Mensah (mensahkn@gmail.com) with any questions.

Electronic Giving

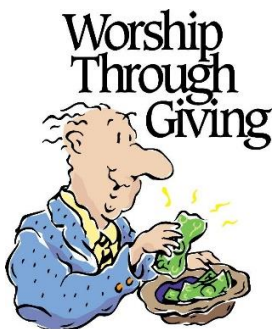
To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



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!

As a 2-for-1, consider making your purchase for Interfaith Works school supplies through SmileAmazon.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

From page 1: Descriptions of the Sunday School classes with time meeting on Zoom and the leaders and helpers.

Preschool - Elementary School

Dig In with us! Since we'll be meeting via Zoom this fall, we've chosen Group's Dig In "Foundations of Faith Today" curriculum. The curriculum has modifications to support virtual learning and includes two hours of content for every Bible story for each age group, so we can choose the interactive elements that work best for our learners.

Dig In features a "you are there" approach, with a new Bible story each week. We have options to dig deeper into the story, and to explore the Bible point through games, experiments, crafts, and brief videos. The learners will also sing and dance along with by Ms. Danielle.

We are planning to have the usual Preschool-K, 1st-2nd, and 3rd-5th grade classes. Our goal is to have the most age-specific experience possible while also giving the learners the chance to interact with their peers. This fall, we will meet **Sundays from 9 - 9:40 am via Zoom.**

Music - Danielle Drobny

Preschool-Kindergarten Leader - Jamie Pflasterer

Elementary Leaders - Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, and Anne Witten

Shepherds - Trish Taylor and Jacqui Bardill

Middle School

The Middle School learners will use the Sparkhouse Connect curriculum to take a journey through the New Testament, exploring the connections between several Bible passages each week and relating biblical themes to their own lives. Quirky videos introduce topics and fun activities get the conversations going! This fall, we will meet **Sundays from 9 - 9:40 am on Zoom.**

Middle School Leaders - Samuel Bornhorst and Sarah Kuykendall

High School

Using books such as *God's Power to Change Your Life* and *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions*, both by Rick Warren, along with videos, and films like "Remember the Titans," "Courageous," and "Miracles from Heaven," we will explore what the Bible tells us about themes like stress, discouragement, loneliness, failure, leadership, equality, faith, and honor. This fall, we will meet **Sundays from 11 - 11:40 am on Zoom.**

High School Leader - Jon Conary

Participation and Zoom Links

To help us in planning and to get our elists in order, please email Janet Levine at lyle1janet@msn.com to tell us your preferred email, and the names and grades of each of your learners soon. You will receive your Zoom link via email.

Contact

Sunday School Superintendent, Janet Levine (Lyle1Janet@msn.com), or your learner's Sunday School Leader with any questions or comments.

Hope to see you on September 13!

Confirmation

Check Weekly Email and special emails for information concerning how and when Confirmation will occur.

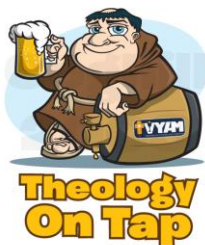
ADULT EDUCATION

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!

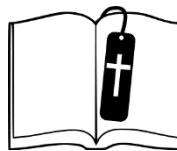
Theology on Tap

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, studying various verses using lectio divina procedure and looking at participating in a different study soon. For more information or questions, see [Pastor Christine \(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP

Fortunately, things have quieted down for now, and the number of hungry clients is back to usual levels. There are still supply chain issues buying some things. Most needed right now are Mac & Cheese, cereal, pasta and rice (1 lb is best - we can't break down 10lb bags to share between families)



There are a number of volunteer needs. For more information look on GaithersburgHELP.org or talk to Hope Walker. If you fill out an application on the website, someone will contact you.

1. A Treasurer, somebody with a CPA type of background
2. UMAN also needs a treasurer, and this job can be done by someone with bookkeeper skills
3. A leadership role in the Prescription/Financial aid area, medical background not required, but good organizational skills.
4. Drivers, over age 18 available during weekdays hours. The clients are coming back, but not all of the usual volunteer drivers have returned. How often you drive and where is your choice.
5. Ride scheduler, works virtually
6. Food and Infant Needs Coordinators, work from home one day a month from 9am-2pm

Thanks for your ongoing support.



How to Donate to Gaithersburg HELP

Because many people have asked how they can help [Gaithersburg 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. (**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. See the section above for specific needs at different times.

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.](#)

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group selection for **September 10, 7:30 pm** is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, and is set on the Korean island of Jeju in the 1930's and 1940's. This novel illuminates the unique culture of an all-female diving collective, a culture where the women are in charge, engaging in dangerous physical work, and the men take care of the children.

The Zoom link will be available a few days before the meeting. If anyone who is not on the Group's email distribution would like the link, please contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| October 8 | <u>Stoned: Jewelry, Obsession, and Desire Shapes the World</u>
by Aja Raden |
| November 12 | <u>Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging</u>
by Sebastian Junger |
| December 10 | <u>The Book of Longings</u>
by Sue Monk Kidd |

RECENT EVENTS

Vacation Bible School

Despite the situation affecting all of us this summer, we held Vacation Bible School during the week of July 20-24. Many people worked hard to put together a program of virtual interaction and prerecorded "classes" through Zoom and a bag full of supplies, goodies, and instructions. Although we encountered some technical difficulties due to a learning curve using the new technology, everyone appeared to have a good time. Using a new VBS program, we were able to offer crafts and science/STEM activities besides songs, dancing, and Bible lessons as we learned about the Armor of God. Thank you to everyone - leaders, teachers, presenters, children, families - who helped to make this year's VBS a success.

Below are a few pictures showing some of what we did:



Invisible Fire Extinguisher



Breastplate of Justice



Shield of Faith

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.

THINK ABOUT IT

One Sunday morning the pastor read John 14:2 to the congregation using a modern translation. His version read, "In My Father's house there are many dwelling places" (AMP). Immediately an elderly lady stood up and said, "I want you to read that Scripture again—from my Bible. I've lived in old, run-down houses all my life, and I'm looking forward to that mansion!"

--Carol Reddekop

Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate, wrote a little poem worth recalling:

We have the nicest garbage man.
He empties out our garage can.
He's just as nice as he can be.
He always stops and talks to me.
My mother doesn't like his smell.
But mother doesn't know him well.

--Calvin Miller

I prayed for faith, and thought that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, "Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." I had closed my Bible, and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible, and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since.

--D.L. Moody

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
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Articles for the October issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **September 20**. Please email 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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