



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 39, Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2020

Change Your  
Clocks Back &  
Smoke Alarm  
Batteries



## Outdoor, In-Person Communion

We will be offering outdoor, in-person Communion on **Saturday, November 21 at 3 pm** and **Saturday December 12 at 3 pm** in the back parking lot of Prince of Peace. Pre-packaged individual communion kits will be available for each person. The rite will last approximately 15 minutes, with time for brief conversation afterwards. We will plan to be outside and maintain physical distance from one another. Please wear a mask. Questions? Contact either [Pastor Steve](#) or [Pastor Christine](#).



## Give Thanks!



Prince of Peace will again join together with Good Shepherd and Christ the Servant Lutheran Churches for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. This year, the service will be virtual, and streamed [on our Facebook page](#) on

Wednesday, November 25 at 7 pm.

## Gaithersburg HELP

Gaithersburg HELP is deeply appreciative of all of the strong food donation and financial support from POP members. The outside bins continue to fill up, with a generous upswing of peanut butter and jelly from the fall Sunday School drive.



## Sunday School Schedule



Sunday School will not meet on:  
Thanksgiving Sunday, November 29  
Christmas Sunday, December 27  
New Year's Sunday, January 3

## Faith-Full Families

Faithful Families is now available "To-Go." Are you a parent or grandparent of young children and want some hands-on, fun, faith-enriching activities to do at home? We will have Thanksgiving To-Go Boxes available on **November 14th**. The kits will include: crafts, prayer, story, table decorations, and family-fun items related to the theme of Thankfulness. Please email [Judy Bruening](#) or [Pastor Christine](#) by **November 8th** to receive a kit.



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to our 2020 Prince of Peace Confirmation Class: Ricky Bolek, Rachel Carreras, Kate Hawley, Stella Meyer, Sawyer Smith! An outdoor Confirmation service was held on Sunday, October 25. If you missed it, the service can be viewed on our Facebook page!



## From Pastor Steve...

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

As the Covid pandemic has dragged out, most of us have been longing for all the things we've lost (at least for now). We can't gather in person in large groups, for worship or concerts or games. We're feeling isolated from friends and family. And we're feeling fatigued from having to maintain all the social distancing measures.

And as Thanksgiving approaches, it can seem harder and harder to feel thankful. And yet, it's in times like these that, paradoxically, having a sense of thankfulness can be most important. I read an article a few years ago that said, purely from a mental health standpoint, that it was helpful to conclude each day by thinking about at least three things that you were thankful for that day. This was especially true on bad days, when finding things to be thankful for might be hard! But the article said that people who did that built up a kind of emotional and mental resiliency that many others didn't.

So over the past few weeks, I've been working on a personal list of "19 Things I'm Thankful for During Covid-19". Those things range from personal things like, "I'm thankful I have more time to take longer walks with Blake" and (as a NON-morning person!), "I'm thankful I haven't had to set an alarm to get up for the past six months!" Some of those things are more long-lasting like, "I'm thankful I've begun to see new ways of doing ministry and being church, which will continue long after this is over." And, I confess, some are things I probably shouldn't be thankful for like "I'm thankful Synod Assembly got cancelled this year!"

All of these things remind me that there are things to be thankful for even in difficult times. So as we approach Thanksgiving Day, which may be very sad and difficult for many of us, I invite you to think about things for which you're thankful; to be more open to the ways that God is still acting to bless and strengthen you through this time; and to look for opportunities God is putting before you, which you might not have seen in happier times.

Yours in Christ,

## November Highlights

### Every Sunday

9:00 am Preschool and Elementary Sunday School on Zoom

9:00 am Middle School Sunday School on Zoom

10:00 am Worship streamed on our Facebook Page

11:00 am High School Sunday School on Zoom

### 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 4)

### 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...

### November

- 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 1 All Saints' Day
- 3 Election Day
- 8 Due: Faith-Full Families kit request (pg 1)
- 10 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 4)
- 14 Faith-Full Families "To Go" (pg 1)
- 21 In person Communion (pg 1)
- 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service (pg 1)
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 No Sunday School (pg 1)

### December

- 8 Church Council Meeting
- 10 Women's Book Group (pg 4)
- 12 In person Communion (pg 1)
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 27 No Sunday School (pg 1)
- 31 New Year's Eve

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, Uhrig  
Family, Laura Wilson

### Sympathy

Family of Ruth Carlson  
(mother of Sally Zimmerman)  
Family of Bea Rogers  
(mother of David Rogers)

### Thanksgiving

Birth of Halston Gregory Carr  
(son of David & Carolyn Carr)  
Marriage of Matt Farrar & Theresa Smith  
(son of Richard Farrar)  
Marriage of Michael & Chaley Bulla  
(son of Tami Bulla)  
Our Confirmands: Ricky Bolek, Rachel Carreras,  
Kate Hawley, Stella Meyer, Sawyer Smith

### Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality  
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their  
Caregivers  
All those impacted by the West Coast fires  
All those impacted by the storms and hurricanes

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

[https://poplutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PoP\\_Prayer\\_List.pdf](https://poplutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PoP_Prayer_List.pdf)



## 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.

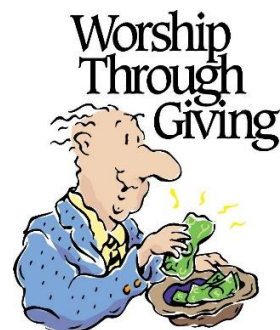
### Electronic Giving

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](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). (AmazonSmile will remember the nonprofit previously selected.) It's easy!





## ADULT EDUCATION

### Bible Art Journaling



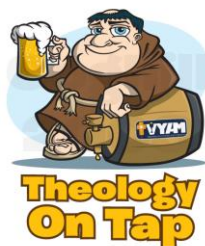
The Bible Art Journaling Class is coming BACK!

We've been working diligently to create a Zoom space to allow for

creativity and expression. We are working on a new project entitled "Sowing Seeds." This project is a stand alone work, so it's a perfect time to try something new and connect with friends. Watch the Weekly Email for the next date and time. [A supply list can be found here](#). Please contact [Pastor Christine](#) with any questions.

### 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)).



## MUSIC

### Adult Choir

The Adult Choir will be singing virtually this fall! Check emails, the website, and the Sunday bulletins to find out when the choir will be singing.

If you'd like to find out more about this interesting and new way of doing choir, please contact [Lindsey Paradise!](#)

### Grace Notes

Grace Notes will be singing virtually this fall! Check emails, the website, and the Sunday bulletins to find out when they will be singing.



## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Women's Book Group



Thursday evening turned out to be a very pleasant change of pace for our Book Group. It got a bit chilly towards 8:00 pm but felt so good to be out in the fresh air and be together once again. The weather was beautiful, no bugs, and a brief visit from a few deer that were probably wondering why nine women were sitting in a circle in the parking lot in the dark.

We did a show and tell of our jewelry and it was interesting that the pieces chosen were not expensive but were important because of how/where they had been obtained. We heard some good stories.

So, on to the November book:

**On Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 pm**, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* by Sebastian Junger.

Excerpts from GoodReads:

Sebastian Junger takes a critical look at post-traumatic stress disorder and the many challenges today's returning veterans face in modern society. This timely look at how veterans react to coming home will reconceive our approach to veteran's affairs and help us to repair our current social dynamic.

A Zoom link will be sent to Book Group members a few days before this event. For anyone at POP who is not a regular member of the Book Group but would like to participate, contact Kathy Mellott at [ufda\\_gal@yahoo.com](mailto:ufda_gal@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link.

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

December 10	<u>The Book of Longings</u> by Sue Monk Kidd
January 14	anti-racism book TBD
February 11	<u>The Dutch House</u> by Ann Patchett

## 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

The Masai tribe in West Africa has an unusual way of saying thank-you. Translators tell us that when the Masai express thanks, they bow, put their foreheads on the ground, and say, "My head is in the dirt."

When members of another African tribe want to express gratitude, they sit for a long time in front of the hut of the person who did the favor and literally say, "I sit on the ground before you."

These Africans understand well what thanksgiving is and why it's difficult for us: At its core, thanksgiving is an act of humility.

--Joel Gregory

One Sunday in church, members were praising the Lord for what he had done in their lives that week. Mr. Segault said that the roof of his house had caught on fire, but fortunately, a neighbor had seen it, and the possible disaster was averted with only minor damage.

A minute later, a woman stood up. "I have a praise, too," she said. "I'm Mr. Segault's insurance agent."

--Ariana Macksey

It was one of the worst days of my life: The washing machine broke down, the telephone kept ringing, my head ached, and the mail carrier brought a bill I had no money to pay.

Almost to the breaking point, I lifted my one-year-old into his highchair, leaned my head against the tray, and began to cry.

Without a word, my son took his pacifier out of his mouth and stuck it in mine.

--Clara Null

The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

To tie Jesus Christ to the very best human system is to tie a star, light years distant, to a dead horse here on earth. Neither the star nor Christ will thus be bound.

--Joe Bayly

Too many of us Christians confuse political convictions with spiritual convictions. Insecure with ambiguity, we assume people of one Lord, one faith, and one baptism must also promote one political agenda. That assumption leads the church into trouble. First, it prompts us to make judgments about people that ought to be left to God. . . . Second, when the church confuses spiritual and political convictions it is tempted to use political power to forward a "spiritual" agenda.

--Dan Ratzlaff



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