



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2021

Ashes to Go!



We'll have small tins of ashes available for anyone who would like ashes for Ash Wednesday. Tins will be available on a table outside the back door (parking lot side) of the church **beginning at the Outdoor Communion service on Saturday, February 13.**

Ash Wednesday

We begin our Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday service on **February 17 at 7:15 pm online on Facebook.**



Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesdays in Lent (**February 24 - March 24 at 7:15 pm**), we will hold Holden Evening Prayer with reading and reflection online on Facebook.

Outdoor, In-Person Communion



We will be offering outdoor, in-person Communion on **Saturday, February 13 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 [Pastor Steve](#).

Church Directory

A new church directory is now available to help us keep in touch with each other during these distanced times! And we have finally updated it to include cell phone numbers (for those who agreed). You can request a pdf copy [by emailing the office](#). But, we'll also have hardcopy directories available during live gatherings.



Souper Bowl Donations



Many of our learners are accustomed to reminding the congregation to donate for Souper Bowl Sunday by decorating and handing out bags for soup and stew donations to Gaithersburg Help. In normal times they also bring in soup and stew for their weekly offering and on Souper Bowl Sunday.

Whether or not your child is currently participating in online Sunday School, please consider helping them continue this tradition by donating soup and stew in February. Since cans are not disturbed by critters, you may drop them off any time in the bins outside both entrances. You may also make donations together from the homepage of Gaithersburg Help (<https://www.gaithersburghelp.org/>)

Changes in PoP's staff

Pastor Christine Dunn

Pastor Christine has taken a new call as solo pastor at Trinity Lutheran (North Bethesda) and is no longer serving as Associate Pastor at Prince of Peace. If this is a pastoral care concern, please contact Pastor Steve (pastor@poplutheran.org). For other inquiries, please contact the office (office@poplutheran.org). If you know Pastor Christine personally, and need to reach her, please use her personal email account.

Pastor Wendy Deeben

We are excited to welcome Pastor Wendy Deeben as leader of our Women's Bible Study **beginning on Tuesday, February 2. She will lead the group by Zoom each Tuesday beginning at 12:30 pm.** You can learn a little more about her from her staff page at Grace Lutheran in Bowie, where she serves part-time as their pastor: <https://www.gracerock.org/staff>

Ethelyn Christopher, Admin Secretary

Ethelyn Christopher has resigned as PoP's Administrative Secretary. We thank her for her work and wish her well in her future endeavors! Please note that the mail, office email and voicemail will continue to be checked by others.



From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;

301-869-3666)

One of the big themes of Lent is the call to “repentance.” And the word “repent”, in Greek, means “change.” Jesus’ call to repentance, therefore, is Jesus’ call to change.

And while most years we can hear this call and think, “yeah, there probably are a few things in my life that need changing”, in the past year most of us have already probably had enough of change! We’ve had to change the way we work; the way we go to school; the way we interact with our friends and family; and even the way we worship. As we begin this month, at Prince of Peace, we’re beginning to live with the change of Pr. Christine not being our Associate Pastor anymore. Yeah, most of us have had enough of change!

But here’s the thing about Jesus’ call to change: Jesus’ call to change isn’t just a command for us to do something, it’s also a promise that God is doing something, too. Whenever Jesus asks people to change, he’s promising that he’s going to be leading them through that change. Whenever Jesus asks people to change, he’s promising them that he will help them to make the change. And whenever Jesus calls people to change, he’s promising that God is calling them into a future that’s worth changing for, even if the change now is difficult.

As we’ve lived through these last many months, we’ve endured a lot of changes. Indeed, even the changes we make today may need to be changed tomorrow. And as we return to “normal”, hopefully later this year, that too, will require change.

So as we live through the season of Lent, and hear Jesus’ call to change, don’t just focus on the “command.” Instead, listen for Jesus’ promise to lead us through the changes. Look for the ways Jesus is working in your life to help you through those changes. And look forward to the new future which Jesus is calling us to change into.

Yours in Christ,

February 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 Tuesday

12:30 pm Women’s Bible Study (Note: Pastor Wendy Deeben starts February 2.)

Every Wednesday

9:00 am Night Prayer: 3, 10 Compline
17 Ash Wednesday
24 Holden Evening Prayer



COMING UP...

February

- 7 Souper Bowl Sunday (pg 1)
- 7 Bible Art Journaling (pg 4)
- 9 Church Council Meeting
- 13 In person Communion (pg 1)
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 15 President’s Day
- 17 Ash Wednesday (pg 1)
- 24 Holden Prayers (pg 1)

March

- 3 Holden Prayers (pg 1)
- 9 Church Council Meeting
- 10 Holden Prayers (pg 1)
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 17 Holden Prayers (pg 1)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 24 Holden Prayers (pg 1)
- 28 Palm Sunday

April

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday

SPECIAL PRAYERS

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



PoP Members

Alice Baur, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Kevin Ely, Annie Hampe, Allison Hurst, 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 Family of Eytan Berman
(friends of Cassidy & Tracy Solomon)
Family of Joanne Oddo
(grandmother of AJ Oddo)
Family of Sam Morch
(friend of Sherry Schiebel)
Family of Bishop E. Harold Jansen
(Bishop Emeritus of the Metro DC Synod)
Family of John DeLuca
(friend of AJ Oddo & family)

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.

SPOTLIGHT

Pastor Christine leaves us a good-bye letter.



One of the most difficult things about saying ‘good-bye’ during a pandemic is the inability to see most of you in person, to receive your warm smiles, to touch your hands during communion, to give that one last farewell hug.

This piece grieves my heart. However, as we all know, during these past 10 months, we have gotten creative with personal encounters and better with using written forms of communication, along with oral words to express our feelings.

I want to thank all of you who took the time out of your busy lives to write me notes, cards, and emails; all of you who waited in a long line to drive-up and say good-bye to me (and Maddie); all

of you who zoomed in and found words to tell me things you appreciated not only about me, but about Prince of Peace. Truly this is a special congregation and I have been blessed by each of you. Also, thank you for the gift cards to spruce up my clerical wardrobe and my theological library!

And not only have you been a blessing in my life, but you have challenged me and asked me smart questions. I have appreciated this so much, because you have helped me grow intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally.

You’ve also embraced my family, and supported my family needs. As a parent, this means so much to me. While my boys were only around a few years (and then they went off to college), Maddie has not known another congregation besides this one. This is the place she was baptized, the place which first formed her faith, the place she first learned that church is a safe place and God loves her. Thank you. So much.

We have done good work together! We have had hard conversations together! We have loved and served God together! What more is there?

I could write a tome about the special moments that I will hold dear, but I also want to take a moment and give an individual thanks to Pastor Steve. Pastor Steve and I are very different people: he leans towards order; I lean towards creativity. Together we were a good team. We didn’t always see things in the same way, but I always knew that he was on my side and he supported me as a person. I have been so lucky to have him as a senior pastor, but also as a friend. I will miss him. Care for him well.

I believe that Prince of Peace and Trinity will find ways to partner and work together in the upcoming years. I can’t wait to see where God leads you, because I know you all will make a difference in the world.

Grace upon grace.

Deep peace and joy,
Pastor Christine



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

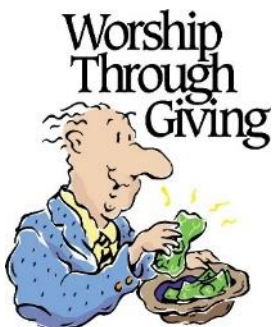
To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



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!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Virtual Sunday School



Learners of all ages from Preschool - 12th grade are welcome to join a virtual Sunday School class any week they are able to attend. Please

contact Janet Levine (Lyle1janet@msn.com) or your learner's Sunday School leader for a Zoom link or with any questions or concerns.

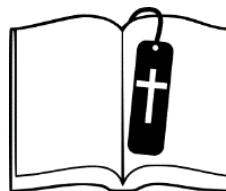
Faith-Full Families "To-Go"

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 Lent To-Go Boxes available on Saturday, February 20th from 10 am - 12 pm. The kits will include: crafts, prayer, story, table decorations, and family-fun items related to the theme of Thankfulness. Please email [Judy Bruening](mailto:JudyBruening) by Monday, February 15th to receive a kit.



ADULT EDUCATION

PoP Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are currently meeting on Zoom. Tuesday, February 2 will be a "get to know you" for Pastor Wendy and the group. See page 1 for more information.

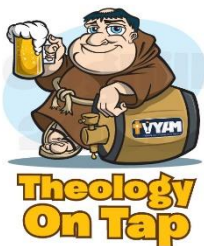
Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering will be February 6 from 6pm-8pm. Carmen Hill, a member at Prince of Peace, uses her artistic skills to guide us in our creativity based on a religious or pastoral theme. 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 Carmen. <https://poplutheran.org/event/bible-art-journaling/>.



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!



MUSIC

Adult Choir



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



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP



Please keep those wonderful food donations coming in. Cereal, tuna and peanut butter are always in high demand, and soups are especially hard to get right now. At the moment, client need has

settled into about a 50% increase over pre-Covid times. New safety procedures, generous donations and grants plus hardworking volunteers are managing the situation. There is always a need for new volunteers, especially as drivers and in a few leadership positions, including Treasurer. Check the GaithersburgHELP website or talk to Hope Walker (hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org) for more information.



FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

On February 11, 7:30 pm, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

From Goodreads: The Pulitzer Prize winning author examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.

The Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the discussion. If anyone who is not a member of the Book Group would like to participate, contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com for the link.

Future Book Selections and Facilitators

March 11	<u>Know My Name</u> by Chanel Miller
April 8	<u>The Water Dancer</u> by Ta-Nehisi Coates

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to Jennifer Maloney from the Prince of Peace Women's Book Group:

It is with deep gratitude that we accept your "resignation" as coordinator par excellence of PoP Book Group. You have initiated, organized, and sustained us for so many years. You have been the inspiration for our education through reading, whether history books, sad books, funny books, biographies, fiction, nonfiction, good books, a few not so good books, and books that were pure joy to read. And besides reading, you have also provided a venue for forging friendships and bonding through good times and challenging times. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done and what your leadership has meant to us. Thank you!

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

People need love, especially when they don't deserve it.

--Unknown

God loves us the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way.

--Leighton Ford

No one loves the man whom he fears.

--Aristotle

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

-- Kent M. Keith

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.

--G. K. Chesterton

If you're going to care about the fall of the sparrow you can't pick and choose who's going to be the sparrow.

--Madeleine L'Engle

People do not value sunsets because they cannot pay for them.

--Oscar Wilde

During World War II when housing was in short supply, a lady in our church told a five-year-old girl, "It's too bad you don't have a home."

The child quickly replied, "We have a home. We just don't have a house to put it in!"

--Margaret T. Hiscox

From the Internet, some advice from kids on love and romance:

How do people in love typically behave?

"Mooshy . . . like puppy dogs . . . except puppy dogs don't wag their tails so much" (Arnold, age ten).

"When a person gets kissed for the first time, they fall down and don't get up for at least an hour" (Wendy, age eight).

Why do people in love hold hands?

"They want to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them" (Gavin, age eight).

"They are just practicing for when they might have to walk down the aisle someday and do the holy matrimony thing" (John, age nine).

Confidential opinions about love.

"Love is foolish . . . but I still might try it sometime" (Jill, age six).

"Love will find you even if you're trying to hide from it. I been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me" (Dave, age eight).

"I'm not rushing into love. Fourth grade is hard enough" (Regina, age ten).

What are some ways to make someone fall in love with you?

"Tell them that you own a whole bunch of candy stores" (Del, age six).

"Don't do things like have smelly, green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love" (Alonzo, age nine).

Tell us your thoughts on kissing.

"You learn it right on the spot when the gooshy feelings get the best of you" (Brian, age seven).

"If it's your mom, you can kiss her anytime. But if it's a new person, you better ask for permission" (Roger, age six).

"I look at it like this: Kissing is fine if you like it, but it's a free country and nobody should be forced to do it" (Billy, age six).

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Articles for the March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **February 14**. 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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