



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 4

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

May 2021

In-Person Service

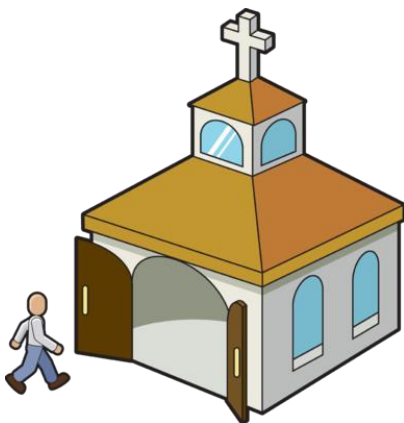
With vaccinations increasing and the weather getting warmer, the Council and Pastor Steve have developed a plan for us to resume in-person worship at Prince of Peace. **It is still of utmost importance, however, that any in-person experience at Prince of Peace be safe for all involved.** Therefore, there will significant changes and expectations put in place for in-person worship.

We will fully comply with [Montgomery County Covid regulations for Religious Facilities](#), including especially requiring the wearing of facemasks and social distancing. In addition, at least until we see how many people wish to participate, attendees will be required to sign-up using our [signup.com](#) account. A sign up link will be emailed to everyone on the Monday before each Sunday worship service. We will begin offering in-person worship opportunities on Sunday, May 2.

It is important to remember that we will continue to livestream the service, so online worship will remain an option for everyone, even after we resume in-person worship. As with other public places, if you're feeling ill or think you may have been exposed to Covid, please join us online rather than in person.

Note:

For more information, see Spotlight on page 3.



Spring Clothing Drive!

Please stop by Prince of Peace May 13-15 and drop off your gently used, clean adult and children's clothing. Clothes will be stored in the fellowship hall for several days to ensure safe handling, and then they will be delivered to [Interfaith Works Clothing Center](#) in Rockville. Clothes should be clean and folded, and preferably organized by size, age, and gender. Interfaith Works is also in need of new underwear and socks for adults and youth, so if you are feeling generous, we would be happy to take these items as well. Lastly, business attire is always a good donation.

Drop off times: Thursday, May 13th, 5 - 7pm;
Friday May 14th, 5 - 7pm;
Saturday, May 15th, 9am - noon.

Simply drive around to the rear parking lot and drop your items on the sidewalk.

Interfaith Works Clothing Center in Rockville is also in need of volunteers, so if that is your cup of tea, please reach out to [Chris Michel](#), [Bill Harral](#), or with [IWCC](#) directly.



Vacation Bible School



We are busy planning for Prince of Peace Vacation Bible School 2021. This year's theme is Discovery on Adventure Island, Quest for God's Great Light. **Our plan is to hold VBS virtually the week of July 19th - July 23rd.** Similar to last year, there would be 5 sessions, each one approximately 45 minutes in length. There will be a fee of approximately \$20 which will include the materials needed to complete a daily craft and science project, music CD and scripture treasure lanyard. In order for us to gauge interest and to finalize the format we would appreciate you taking this brief survey ([click here](#)). Thank you for your time and feedback.



From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;

301-869-3666)

It feels like forever since we've had in-person worship on Sunday. And it also feels appropriate that as we conclude the celebration of Easter this month, we will "resurrect" in-person Sunday worship again!

Of course, things will be different as we return to in-person worship. We'll initially need to sign up to attend worship to ensure that we don't exceed the number of people who can worship while staying socially distanced. We'll have to wear masks, refrain from group singing and have communion at our seats. And, as things move along over the next few months, I'm sure our processes and patterns will evolve and change, partly due to whatever the State and County health regulations are.

What will NOT change is that we will continue to livestream the service, since we realize that many people want and need this option. What will NOT change is that, whether online or in-person, we will continue to praise God and experience the presence of Jesus in our lives. What will NOT change is that we will continue to be people called together by the Holy Spirit to be the church, even as the way we function as "church" continues to change and evolve.

And that, too, is part of the message of Easter. The Resurrection means that new life is different from the way life was before, but that God's promise of life has not changed. The Resurrection means that God's love is not limited by time and space, but that God's love for us has not changed. And the Resurrection means that we are called to live in new ways and in different times, but that God's desire to have us be his children has not changed.

So as the Easter season concludes, we'll begin living in some new and different ways. But that also means that we'll simply continue to live the Resurrection as we move forward in our life together.

Yours in Christ,

May 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 (pg 5)

Every Wednesday

7:15 pm Night Prayer - Pastor Steve will lead us in Evening Prayer (10-15 minutes near the close of the day) streamed on our Facebook page.



COMING UP...

May

2 First In-Person Service (pp 1, 3)

5 Cinco de Mayo

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11 Church Council Meeting

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June

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14 Flag Day

19 Juneteenth

20 Father's Day

20 First Day of Summer

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, Annie Hampe, Allison Hurst, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Jim Mc Nerney, John Militzer, Gail Moran, Dick and Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson

Sympathy

Family of Bernard Coates
(uncle of Laura Hurst)

Family of Christine Drobny
(mother of Danielle Drobny)

Family of Pran and Pam Sharma
(parents of Monica McKnight)

Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their
Caregivers
All those impacted by weather

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.



In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without heart.

--John Bunyan

My four-year-old daughter and I would always pray before she went to sleep. One night she volunteered to pray. She prayed and prayed and prayed—her voice getting softer and softer and softer, until only her lips were moving. Then she said “Amen.”

“Honey,” I said, “I didn’t hear a word you said.”

She answered, “Mama, I wasn’t talking to you.”

--Helen B. Poole

SPOTLIGHT

The following modifications will be made in order to ensure in-person worship can be held safely:

- Everyone will be required to wear masks, maintain social distance and follow any other CDC & MDH regulations
- Nursery will not be offered.
- Seating will be reduced and spread out to reflect social distancing requirements.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be provided.
- Windows will be opened to ensure fresh air circulation and outside doors will be propped open so that people don’t need to grab door handles.
- The “greeter” and “usher” functions will be combined into one or two people who will help direct and guide people at an appropriate social distance.
- Communion will be at people’s seats using the communion “snack packs” we’ve been using for outdoor communion.
- There will be “no contact” passing of the peace.
- The offering plate, bulletins and communion snack packs will be placed on a table at the entrance to the building so that everyone can pick up their own materials and leave their offering. Worshippers will continue to be encouraged to download the bulletin file on their own device, as well as to donate online.
- Everything worshippers need will be in the bulletin or on the projector, so there will be no need to handle worship books.
- Since group singing is currently discouraged, in-person worshippers will hum along (or simply listen) to the hymn as one cantor (wearing a mask from a distance) sings the verses. Online worshippers may sing along.
- No food or beverages will be provided for fellowship time.
- To the extent possible, fellowship will be held outdoors.
- Following the service, door handles, bathroom fixtures and other hard contact surfaces that may have been touched will be cleaned according to guidelines.

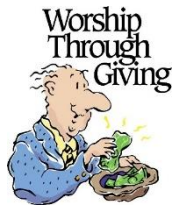
Our guidelines may also be found on our website [by clicking here](#).

If you'd like to help, or have questions, please contact Council President [Kwame Mensah](#) or [Pastor Steve](#).

STEWARDSHIP

From the Finance Team

Quarter 1 2021 Financial Summary



Year-to-Date Income from all Sources: \$74,249 Actual vs. \$91,008 Planned.

Difference: - \$19,759 (22% under plan)

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$70,940 Actual vs. \$86,228 Planned (Adjusted for current staff vacancies)

Difference: -\$15,288 (18% under plan)

For the first quarter of 2021, our financial position is good. Actual budgeted income (\$74,249) has exceeded actual budgeted expenses (\$70,940). However, actual expenses are lower than budgeted, primarily because of staff vacancies. And, actual income is lower than projected, due in part to the intervals at which people give and a couple of larger givers moving away. All of our other Fund balances (including Feast Fund, Building Fund and Capital Repair Fund) are positive and in good shape.

As we move forward in 2021 and resume in-person worship, we continue to expect Prince of Peace to be in a good financial position. However, we encourage everyone to continue to give regularly (online if possible) to ensure that we continue to be in good shape. And of course, our actual income this year will be a major factor in determining our budget for next year.

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. **We have received \$825.27 as of March 2021!** 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

Although we would love to be spending time in person, our learners have been so engaged that they have helped make our virtual model very enjoyable! Everyone is welcome, any week they are able to join. Contact Janet Levine (lyle1janet@msn.com) for the Zoom link.



Calendar update

Elementary classes will continue through June 13. Middle and High School classes are still scheduled to end on May 23.

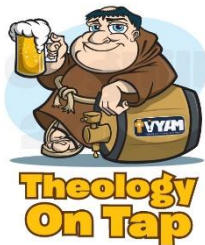
Faith-Full Families "To-Go"

Are you a parent or grandparent of young children and want some hands-on, fun, faith-enriching activities to do at home? There hasn't been a Faith-Full Families event for Pentecost because May is usually a crazy busy month for everyone. If you are interested in getting a To-Go box for Pentecost, please email Judy Bruening by Tuesday, May 18th to receive a kit. They will be available on Saturday, May 22nd (the weekend before Memorial Day) from 10 am - 12 pm. The kits will include: crafts, prayer, story, table decorations, and family-fun items related to the theme.

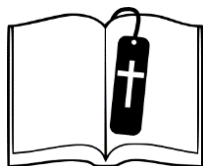
ADULT EDUCATION

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 on Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Acts. Questions? Contact Pastor Wendy Deeben (wdeeben@gracerock.org)

Spiritual Art Journaling

(formerly Bible Art Journaling)

Spiritual Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering is Sunday, May 16, 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Zoom.



Carmen Hooks-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](#).

MUSIC

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is singing virtually! 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 is singing virtually! 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 soups and peanut butter are great. Diapers in sizes 5 and 6 are especially needed lately. At the moment, client need has returned to about normal levels, except for diapers. Thanks for the ongoing wonderful support.



If you have any questions or want more information, please check the GaithersburgHELP website or talk to Hope Walker (hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org).

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

Since many of us are thankfully already vaccinated, we are hoping to get together IN PERSON for our May 13th upcoming meeting!!! Alice Benson has graciously agreed to host at her home, and has plenty of room outside/on the deck for our group. We will probably start a little earlier than usual and will also have a zoom link for those who are not able to attend in person (or prefer not to). More details and logistics will be provided before the meeting, including the zoom link information. So keep your fingers crossed for a warm, clear spring evening!!

For anyone not on the Women's Book Group email distribution, please contact Kathy Mellot or Lisa Woodard for details.

The Women's Book Group will be discussing *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides on Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 pm.

GoodReads describes *The Silent Patient* as a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

June 10	<u>The Vanishing Half</u> by Brit Bennett
July 8	<u>Anxious People</u> by Fredrik Backman
August 12	<u>The Giver of Stars</u> by JoJo Moyes

Montgomery County Young Adults Gathering!

Come join Young Adults (those in their 20s and 30s) from Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, and Christ the Servant for a combined [virtual Young Adult gathering on Zoom](#) on Sunday, May 23 at 1pm. We will get to know each other and play a few games. Please contact [Kelly Stief](#) with any questions and to let us know you're coming. Looking forward to seeing you there!

MAR-LU-RIDGE SPECIAL OFFER!

We have had a good response to summer camp, filling all programs for older campers, but we still have space for more Junior and Junior High age youth. We want to be sure that everyone who wishes to come to camp this summer is able to attend. Camperships available for all in need of assistance.

Also, virtual MLR at Home will be offered again, as well as Family Camp and Family camping rentals. We hope this provides an opportunity which meets every family's comfort level.

Summer Camp Special offer:

Register for any session of Junior (ages 6-10) or Junior High (ages 11-14) during the Mar-Lu-Ridge camp season and save \$50! Offer begins April 11.

Visit <https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/registration-and-forms/> to register and we will apply the discount to your account. It's that easy!

Read our [FAQ](#) or important facts about COVID, check the [schedule](#) and [register today!](#)

We can't wait to see you at MLR!

Sarah and Amy mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org 800.238.9974



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.

QUOTE

Seen on a church sign: If evolution is true, how come mothers still have only two hands?

-- Donna Waldeyer



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Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

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