



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 7

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

September 2021

Property Work Day and BBQ

Beginning immediately after worship on Sunday, September 5, we're going to work together to spruce up our outside grounds, including hedge trimming, tree pruning and weeding! If you have useful tools for these tasks, please bring them with you! Then, we'll stop at 3 pm and everyone will share in a congregational barbecue, during which we'll have time for some informal discussion on our [thoughts about moving forward after Covid](#). At the barbeque, burgers (including veggie burgers) and hot dogs will be provided, and we're asking folks to [sign up here](#) to bring sides.

Interfaith 5k is BACK!



Despite what we see in the news, people of different faiths get along with one another and cooperate wonderfully. As a

symbol of interfaith respect, we are again supporting a 5k race on **Labor Day, September 6**. We will have a Prince of Peace team again this year and look forward to having another LARGE turnout for PoP. Please follow the link [here](#), select Register Now, select teams on the left-hand side, and find the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church team to join. We are also in need of volunteers to help that day. To sign up to help, [please click here!](#)

Help Afghan Allies

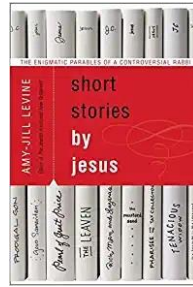
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area is helping to **resettle Afghan allies**. [Here is the link](#) to learn more and find out ways you can help.

Updated Directory

An updated 2021 Directory is now available. You can pick up a paper copy at the church and/or request a web version. The updated web version will be forwarded to those who requested one in the past during the first week of September.



Join This Online Book Discussion!



Join us for an online book discussion of [Short Stories by Jesus](#), a book by Amy-Jill Levine which explores several parables of Jesus! This will be a joint discussion with members of the Lutheran congregations of Trinity, North Bethesda, Prince of Peace, Gaithersburg and Christ, DC, and

will be alternately led by Pastor Christine, Pastor Steve and Vicar Sharon. We will [meet on Zoom](#) each **Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 pm from September 15-October 20**. Each participant will need to [purchase their own book](#). You're welcome to come to one or all discussions, but for planning purposes, it's helpful if you [sign up here](#) for each session you plan to attend. For more info, please contact [Pastor Steve](#).

Sunday School

Sunday School leaders are looking forward to welcoming our learners from preschool through high school age back to in-person class on the morning of **September 12!** This fall, Sunday School will run from **9 - 9:50 am, preceding the 10 am worship service**. Preschoolers through elementary age will meet for Opening in the sanctuary and then head to their classrooms at 9:10. Middle School and High School classes will meet outside during good weather. In bad weather, they will meet in the larger areas of BYC. Everyone is welcome any week they are able to attend!

We will be wearing masks, keeping some physical distance, and making adjustments as conditions warrant. See details about classes on page 4.

Please contact Janet Levine (lyle1janet@msn.com) or your learner's Sunday School leaders with any questions, comments, or concerns.





From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

Over the past few weeks, I've been watching a series of video seminars put together by several ELCA Synods in the western US. They're intended to help all of us think through some of the ways that we can grow ministry in hybrid ways - that is, neither going back to the way things were before the pandemic (which often weren't working), nor simply doing stuff online. It's a both/and approach to our ministries.

It's clear, as we've lived through these past 18 months or so that nobody wants to simply stay online. We need actual face-to-face in-person interaction with each other. At the same time, we've also learned that some of the ways we were forced to adapt to have been extraordinarily helpful. Even though we're now back to in-person worship, the fact that we continue to livestream the service allows folks who live far away, who are homebound, or who can't be in church at a particular day or time, to participate in worship. Zoom meetings, which can't replace all meetings, can replace some of them, removing the stress and time it takes for everyone to commute to a single place for the meeting. And it's clear that having material and information online can often help and supplement our in-person events.

Hybrid ministry is about taking the best of in-person and the best of online and finding ways to integrate them so that more people can participate more deeply in the community of Jesus Christ. So, we'll be exploring how to do that over the next few months.

For example, we'll continue to livestream the service, so that the worship experience continues to be available to more people. We'll look for ways to use our online connections to foster in-person connections. We'll be trying some different ways of doing faith formation. For example, Confirmation this fall will have both online and in-person components. We'll also be joining with two other congregations to do a book study by Zoom. And we'll continue to focus our in-person gatherings on events which help us build community with one another.

We'll be trying some different ways of doing things. Some will work, and others won't. But these past months have shown us that God has made us more resilient than we perhaps thought we were. God has shown us some new ways of connecting with each other which we need to take advantage of. And most importantly, God has shown us new ways and new possibilities to make the Gospel of Jesus a living reality in our lives and in the lives of our neighbors.

Yours in Christ,

September Highlights

Every Sunday

- 9:00 am Sunday School (pp 1, 4)
- 10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page

Every Tuesday

- 10:00 am Quilters
- 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 5)

COMING UP...

September

- 5 Property Work Day and BBQ (pg 1)
- 6 Labor Day
- 6 Interfaith 5K (pg 1)
- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 5)
- 12 Sunday School Resumes (pp 1, 4)
- 14 Church Council Meeting
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- 19 Bible Art Journaling (pg 5)
- 22 Online Book Study (pg 1)
- 29 Online Book Study (pg 1)

October

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- 13 Online Book Study (pg 1)
- 14 Women's Book Group (pg 5)
- 17 Bible Art Journaling
- 20 Online Book Study (pg 1)
- 31 Reformation Sunday
- 31 Confirmation
- 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

Alice & James Baur, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Barney Cook, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Richard Farrar, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Annie Hampe, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, John Miltzer, Dick & Sandy Moore, Gail Moran, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson, John Zobel

Sympathy

Family of Loraine Burton (neighbor of Sherry Schiebel)
Family of Bonnie Emerson (friend of Judy Bruening)
Family of Karin Remington (former PoP Member)
Wilhelm Family (friends of Tracy Solomon)

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Amy Gibson (daughter of Lauren & Dan Gibson)
Wedding Celebration of James Rogers and Theodora Martin

Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers
All those impacted by summer/fall storms

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



Spread out your petition before God, and then say, "Thy will, not mine, be done." The sweetest lesson I have learned in God's school is to let the Lord choose for me.

--D.L. Moody

SPOTLIGHT

This month we are looking at ways we can and have helped kids, especially school age, in need.

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 to Gaithersburg HELP so local students have filling lunches - please consider buying several and leaving them in the buckets outside both entrances to POP. PB & J is part of an easy and filling lunch kids can make for themselves!



School Supply Drive Thank You!

THANK YOU! Our school supply donation to the **Interfaith Works** was overwhelming. We made a dent in their goal to provide 3000 back packs to children in need in Montgomery County.

Among the donations we collected:

7 back packs 188 pencils 76 folders

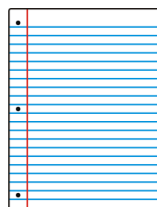
33 packs of pens 42 packs of scissors 27 packs of paper

25 binders (in multiple sizes) 43 boxes of colored pencils

We also collected:

erasers notebooks dividers
glue sticks pencil pouches multiple highlighters

Enough to give many kids a great start to a new school year. Thanks again for all your help.



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.

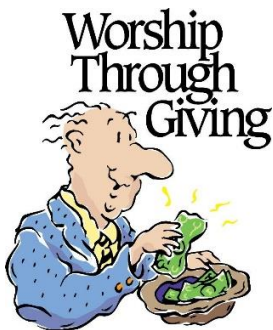
Electronic Giving

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

Sunday School

Please see announcement on page 1 for time and general information.

Preschool through Elementary School

Each week, we will meet for Opening in the sanctuary, where we will introduce a Bible truth, share our offerings, and participate in music led by Danielle Drobny.

Next, we will head to our Preschool - Kindergarten, 1st - 2nd Grade, and 3rd - 5th Grade classrooms, where we will use Group's DIG IN curriculum. DIG IN features a "you are there" approach with a new Bible story each week. We are excited about resuming in-person activities such as active games, crafts, and science experiments. Our workshop leaders will be Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten. Jacqui Bardill and Trish Taylor will be our elementary shepherds.

We want your students to feel comfortable, so remember that parents are always welcome in class.

Middle School

We will use Sparkhouse Re:form Ancestors to explore the biblical ancestors of our faith. Using quirky worksheets and short films, we'll discover similarities between ourselves and the many unlikely people chosen by God to do the extraordinary. Our Middle School leaders are Samuel Bornhorst and Sarah Kuykendall.

High School

We use movies such as *Courageous*, *The Grace Card*, and *Miracles from Heaven* to open discussions on how to handle difficulties people face. We will watch part of a movie, identify the difficulties the characters are facing and, using the Bible, concordances, and topical Bibles, explore what help we can find there.

So, if you are in 9th through 12th grade, please come by and check us out.

Jon Conary will lead our High School class.

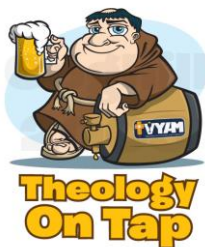
Covid 19 Precautions

We anticipate following MCPS safety protocols. In addition, we will incorporate some additional safety measures for now, such as refraining from cooking or eating snacks together and not sitting in a cluster during Opening.

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.

Tentative meeting: Meet at Pastor Wendy's house on Tuesday, September 21. Carpooling will be available. Watch the Weekly Email and emails from Pastor Wendy for details.

Questions? Contact Pastor Wendy Deeben (wdeeben@gracerock.org)

Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering is Sunday, September 19, 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](#).



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP



It's fall and school is starting, so time to think about peanut butter and jelly for school lunches. Tuna, cereal, and all other nonperishables are deeply appreciated.

Can we get a new volunteer to pick up the POP donations once or twice a week and drop them off at the Gaithersburg HELP Pantry on Muddy Branch Rd now and then? Since we are no longer a regional drop off site as other congregations have also reopened, the volume of food isn't as high as it was for a while. If you are willing to think about taking this on, please contact Hope Walker (who is trying to retire from the job) at hope.walker@gaitersburghelp.org, or leave a voice message at the church office (301-869-3666) and Hope will call you back. A plus is that it's a great job for building arm muscle.



You can also check the GaithersburgHELP website or talk to Hope Walker (hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org) for more information on volunteering.

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group has chosen *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray to discuss on **September 9 at 7:30 pm**. It tells the story of Thomas Jefferson's eldest daughter, Martha "Patsy" Jefferson Randolph, "a woman who kept the secrets of our most enigmatic founding father and shaped an American legacy". Please RSVP to our September hostess, Lisa Woodard, at woodard4@comcast.net.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

October 14	<u>The Memory of Us</u> by Camille Di Maio
November 11	<u>American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt for the Criminal Mastermind Behind the Silk Road</u> by Nick Bilton
December 9	<u>The Midnight Library</u> by Matt Haig
January 13	<u>The Nickel Boys</u> by Colson Whitehead

POP OFFICE

Office Hours

NEW HOURS!! Our office is now being staffed by Martha Rogers on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.** However, it is always possible to:

- Call or email the office (or the Pastor directly) - we will be monitoring email and voicemail daily, so it's always possible to contact us;
- Drop off food for Gaithersburg HELP at the church - the bins continue to be located outside each door under the covered walkways.
- Send offering checks to the church (although [we're encouraging online donations](#) if you can do that.)

Recycling Toner/Ink Cartridges



Please continue saving used ink & toner cartridges for PoP. We still recycle them for store credit on office supplies. You can leave them in the box in the Narthex or in the labeled bin on the "Give & Take" table outside the back door.



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.

FROM THE SYNOD FOR WOMEN

The 2021 virtual gathering, *sharing stories*, is coming! Jesus taught through parables and stories. Before we had the bible in print, people learned of Jesus' teachings through word of mouth. Over the years, humans have discovered many avenues by which to tell stories. Over this past year, we have been required to become more creative with how we connect with one another and share our stories. In addition to being creative with how we share our

stories, we also must be flexible and open with how we take in one another's stories. Join us for a morning of storytelling, learning, and community as we hear from guest speakers who will speak about how they do God's work and how they integrate sharing and hearing stories.

The Details:

Who: Anyone who identifies as female. You don't need to be part of SWO, you don't need to be part of the women's ministry at your church. All are welcome!

When: September 18th, 2021, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Where: Anywhere! If you have a computer or mobile device, you can join us! (We are encouraging "watch parties!" Details to come!)

There is *no cost* to attend this event, and everyone is welcome! We are requesting donations to [Lutheran Social Services](#) to help them in their work bringing Afghan allies back home. More details on this will also be provided in future communications.

If you would like to join us, please fill out the [Google Registration Form](#). A Zoom link will be sent out ahead of the event to everyone who registers.

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210
Email: office@poplutheran.org
Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler
Council President Kwame Mensah
Glad Tidings Editor Martha Rogers
Production Martha Rogers
Photography TBD

Articles for the October issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **September 19**. 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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