



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 8

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

October 2021

Special Offering of PB&J

The PB&J special offering continues through October! 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 box in the narthex or in the buckets outside both entrances to POP. PB & J is part of an easy and filling lunch kids can make for themselves!



All Saints' Day



On All Saints' Day, November 7, we will celebrate one of the oldest festivals of the Church. During worship there will be a time to remember family and friends who have gone before us.

If there are some special people you would like to remember on this day, please submit their names to the [Church Office](mailto:office@poplutheran.org) (office@poplutheran.org) and their names will be spoken during the service. Please include your name, their name(s), relationship to you, and whether the passing occurred in the past year. Please submit names by Monday, November 1.

Second Saturday Service

In order to provide an additional opportunity for worship apart from Sunday morning, we will hold a 5 pm Saturday service on the 2nd Saturday of each month, beginning on Sat., October 9. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

Council Report Available

Council met on September 14. You can read the notes (including the previous month's minutes, Pastor's Report and Financial Summary) [by clicking here](#). These are also available in hardcopy on the bulletin board.

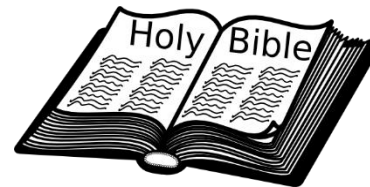
Blessing of Animals

Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take place at 3 pm on Saturday, October 2!

This year, our animal blessing will be a stand-alone, live event in the back parking lot. The rite will last about 10 minutes, but you're welcome to come anytime between 3:00 - 4:00 pm to have your pets blessed and see one another. Please follow all Covid requirements.



Parents: Bible Presentation Sunday



Second and third graders as well as older children through 5th grade who have not yet received a Bible

from Prince of Peace will receive inscribed Bibles during worship on **October 17**. If your child is between 2nd and 5th grade and has not yet been presented a Bible, please contact Janet Levine (Lyle1Janet@msn.com) so that we have an inscribed Bible ready.

October 31st is
Confirmation and
Reformation Sunday.



LSS – Resettle 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.



From Pastor Steve...

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

Each year, Lutherans celebrate the Reformation on the last Sunday of October. And each year, Pastors often spend time explaining what the Reformation was really all about. But it seems to me that I really don't need to do that as much, because we've all been living through a "reformation" over these past 18 months or so.

For indeed, the Reformation wasn't really about Luther causing a big stir in the medieval church. Instead, the Reformation, or any "reformation" in our lives, is like the one we've been living through. It's about finding yourself in a new situation that forces you to reconsider what you've been doing; which forces you to re-evaluate what's important and why; and which motivates you to reform how your life is going to move forward.

In Luther's day, that meant reconsidering what the purpose of being the church was all about. Was it about perpetuating the institution, or about being a community which heard the Word of God and lived differently because of it? And why was worship important? Was it about appeasing an angry God, or about gathering to receive the gifts God had to offer? And what would the answers to those questions mean for how Christians lived with one another, raised their children and shared Jesus with those who didn't believe? In fact, those are questions that need to be asked by every generation of Christians, and throughout our lives.

As we've been living through (and hopefully soon out of!) this time of pandemic, we've asked those kinds of questions in many areas of our lives. Because life has changed, we've appropriately asked questions like, "What have I been doing in my life that needs to change?"; and "What's really important and how do I focus on the important things?"; and "How might I need to re-form how I organize my life to stay focused on what's really meaningful and important?"

Those are the questions of Reformation. And whether they specifically seem to involve our religious life, they're all questions God calls us to

ask in every area of our lives in order to be good stewards of the life God gives us. And as with our church celebration of Reformation, these are not questions for one day or one year. They're questions God calls us to ask each day of our lives. And they're questions that God promises to help us answer! And so I invite you to continue to live Reformation, not just at church, but in your personal life.

Oh, and it should also be pointed out that sometimes technology is part of Reformation. Luther's ideas caught fire and circulated not because Luther's ideas were unique or because Luther had a better marketing strategy. Luther happened to live right as the new technology of the printing press came online, and that was part of the change in the world around them. So, sometimes our technology, for all its faults and frustrations, is also a vehicle God gives us for Reformation!

Yours in Christ,

October Highlights

Every Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School (pg 4, 5)
10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters (pg 6)
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 5)

COMING UP...

October

2 Blessing the Animals (pg 1)
6 Online Book Study (pg 3)
9 Saturday Service (pg 1)
12 Church Council Meeting
13 Online Book Study (pg 3)
14 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
17 Bible Presentation Sunday (pg 1)
17 Bible Art Journaling (pg 5)
20 Online Book Study (pg 3)
31 Reformation Sunday (pg 1)
31 Confirmation (pg 1, 7)
31 Halloween

November

1 Names due for All Saints' Day (pg 1)
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends
7 All Saints' Day (pg 1)
11 Veterans Day
11 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
13 Saturday Service (pg 1)
21 Bible Art Journaling
24 Thanksgiving Eve Service
25 Thanksgiving Day
28 First Sunday in Advent

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,
Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Richard Farrar, Laura
Hampe Garofalo, Annie Hampe, Roy Johnson, Mike
& Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, John Militzer,
Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Dick & Sandy
Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry
Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson, John
Zobel

Sympathy

Family of Gail Moran
Family of Matthew Gaertner
(son of Greg and Linda Gaertner)
Family of Fred Horne
(nephew of Nettie Horne)
Family of Matthew Jaffe
(grandson of Mike and Ellen Carroll)

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Tomakyi Yaneskyy
(son of Oleksandr and Emma Yanevskyy)

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.

SPOTLIGHT

POP Gives 15K to Upper Montgomery Assistance Network

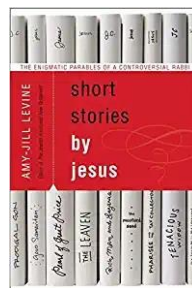
Prince of Peace made an impact on homelessness and housing transition in our area. We came out of 2020 in a better-than-expected situation, thanks to the financial faithfulness of our congregation and the Payroll Protection Act funding. We decided to pass some of our excess funds along as a means of continuing to care for our community during the pandemic. Therefore, we donated \$15,000 to the [Upper Montgomery Assistance Network](#), a wonderful organization that works with homelessness, utility help, people in housing transitions, and provides education and support. This is an organization that we have referred people to in the past, so we are especially grateful to be able to provide some financial support.

Even though Church is looking and operating differently, we are still a church and are still caring for our neighbors. Thank you for being a part of this.

-Lauren Gibson, Council Vice President

OTHER EVENTS

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 through 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](#).

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage](http://poplutheran.org) (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

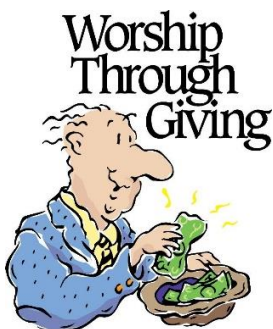
To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



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 received \$40.08 between April 1 and June 30.) 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!



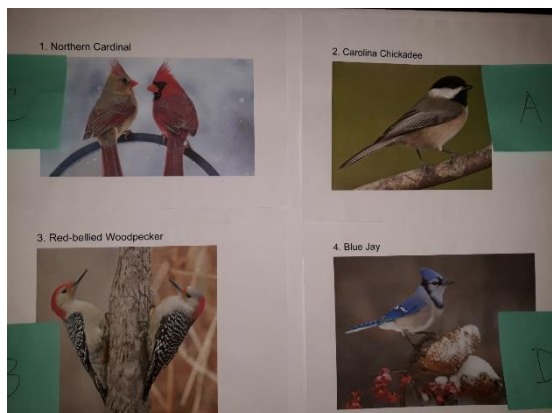
YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School



For the first Sunday School lesson of the year, the PreK/K classroom learned about God's Promise to Abraham and Sarah. Learners heard a story of how God made a promise to Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would be more numerous than the stars, and God kept his amazing promise! After the story we had a contest to draw as many stars as possible on the board and counted them all. Then each learner received a star and we talked about how we are all children of God; how God keeps his promises to us to love us, be with us, and never leave us; and how when we look at stars, we can remember these promises. Everyone wrote their name on one side of the star and then drew a picture of a gift from God to us!





Upper and Lower Elementary classes read Jesus's words in Matthew 10, reminding us that God knows all about every sparrow and even how many hairs are on each of our heads. God cares about everything about each of us, and he also cares about others just as much. We asked God to help us care about others as we remember how much he cares about them. Next, we watched video clips of four common birds in the area and identified details about their calls. Both classes correctly identified the bird call for each species when we quizzed ourselves! Lower Elementary learners also practiced looking up the Bible verse and are excited about receiving their own Bibles during the worship service on October 17.

Upper elementary had lots of fun reviewing the story of Jonah, reminding us that God knows everything and that you can't run away from God! First, we drew three pictures to help us track the progression through the story: a big city (which Jonah didn't want to go to), a boat (that Jonah used to run away), and a big fish (which God used to help bring him back). Then after the story, we learned some nifty facts about our body, to talk about how God knows us inside and out!

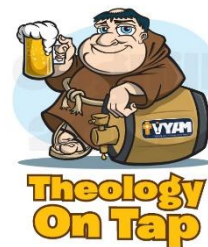
NOTE:

Due to COVID-19, PreK/K through High School classes are taking extra precautions, including increased airflow, increased distancing, masking, temperature checks, and refraining from eating together. We ask that families follow the precautions MCPS has described. Please contact Janet Levine (lyle1janet@msn.com) or your learner's Sunday School leader with any questions or concerns.

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)

Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering is **Sunday, October 17, 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



Quick HELP status: all is well. So many other groups, mostly churches, have jumped into providing temporary covid food staples, that our number of clients is much lower than it has been. **But they're all in loaned space and consider their services to be temporary**, so we assume that

when covid quiesces, we will again be swamped. Nonperishable donations continue to be deeply appreciated - tuna, PB&J, cereals, etc.

Please HELP Hope!

Can somebody please take on the job of transferring donations to the Pantry? I (Hope) can cover for you when you're away, but I need somebody else to be the primary food runner.

If you're willing to take on the donation transfer job, or at least think about it, please contact me at hope.walker@gaitthersburghelp.org, or leave a voice message at the church office and I will call you back. A plus is that it's a great job for building arm muscle.

Quilters



Join our Quilters every Tuesday 10am to noon as we make mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing skills required! No experience necessary! Questions? Contact Lisa Canary (lcanary@prodigy.net).

FELLOWSHIP

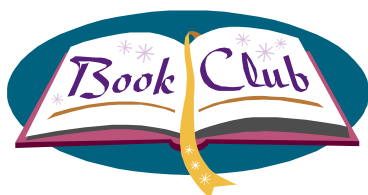
Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group has chosen *The Memory of Us* by Camille Di Maio for **Thursday, October 14, 7:30 pm**. Our hostess will be Laura Dillon. Please RSVP to Laura at laldillon@yahoo.com.

From GoodReads: Julianne Westcott was living the kind of life that other Protestant girls in prewar Liverpool could only dream about: old money, silk ball gowns, and prominent young men lining up to escort her. But when she learns of a blind-and-deaf brother, institutionalized since birth, the illusion of her perfect life and family shatters around her.

Future Book Selections

- November 11 American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt for the Criminal Mastermind Behind the Silk Road
by Nick Bilton
- December 9 The Midnight Library
by Matt Haig
- January 13 The Nickel Boys
by Colson Whitehead



RECENT EVENTS

Interfaith 5K

On Labor Day, September 6 we once again supported the Interfaith 5k race, a symbol of interfaith respect. The weather couldn't have been more perfect, and it was great to see our faith community come together. **We had a great PoP turnout of runners/walker and volunteers.** Many thanks to all who participated, volunteered, and cheered us on!



Confirmation Banner Making

9th Grade Confirmation members met after the service on Sunday, September 26 to make their banners and review the Confirmation service. You will get a chance to see their banners when they complete their confirmation process on Sunday, October 31.



POP OFFICE

Office 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>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

THINK ABOUT IT

Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance to it.

--Rubem Alves

The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

--Thomas Chalmers

MAR-LU-RIDGE

MountainTopics: Fall Sessions for Spiritual Growth

Labyrinth Day: October 19: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

"Solvitur Ambulando" or "It is solved by walking"

Saint Augustine

Join Rev. Julie Brigham for a day of labyrinth exploration and learning. Details available [here](#).

[Register here](#) for Labyrinth day.

Tuesday Gatherings:

An Anchorhold: Prayer & Spiritual Practice

Each Tuesday beginning Sept. 28-Nov. 16 (except Oct. 19) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., includes lunch.

Join Pr. Julie for a seven-fold offering of mini-sabbaths. Details available [here](#).

[Register for one or more sessions](#) Tuesday Gatherings

or RSVP: mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org, 800.238.9974

The Giving Thanks Auction Will Be Live November 18 - 21

Back by popular request, our auction will feature a number of handmade items and MLR packages just in time for the holiday giving season. We will celebrate together on Sunday, Nov 21, giving thanks for the many blessings our community enjoys. Join the fun and support the year-round ministry of MLR! Item catalog available Oct 15.

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
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Articles for the November issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **October 17**. 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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