



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2021

Change Your
Clocks Back &
Smoke Alarm
Batteries



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 24 at 7 pm.

Mask Mandate

Because of the Montgomery County indoor mask mandate, masks are currently required for all indoor activities at the church.

Council Report Available

Council met on October 12. 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.

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. **Our next service will be on Saturday, November 13.** This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells!

It is time to get Christmas Pageant started! Since our youngest actors will not be fully vaccinated in time, we will do another virtual pageant this year.

See page 3 for all the details.



Quilt Dedication



Our PoP Quilters have been hard at work at home and at our regular Tuesday morning (10am till noon) meeting and the fruits of our labors will be dedicated **Sunday, November 21 during the worship service.** Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in this effort, from

the quilters on Tuesdays to those of you who donate cloth!

By the way, we could use more quilters and more cloth. If you are interested in helping us make the quilts, either on Tuesdays or from home, show up or contact [Lisa Conary](#). If you have cloth to donate, please let us know or drop it off in the music room or the office. Thank you!

Advent Evening Prayer

Holden Evening Prayer (in person and [livestream on Facebook](#)) will be held **each Wednesday evening in Advent (Dec. 1, 8 & 15) at 7:15 pm.**





From Pastor Steve...

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

As most of you know, right after Easter, my dog Blake was diagnosed with a condition known as degenerative myelopathy. It's basically doggie Lou Gehrig's disease. So, over the last several months, I've had to learn a lot about how to care for Blake as his condition worsens and, most importantly, how to keep him happy and comfortable through this time.

As Blake's condition worsens, he's less and less able to walk. And so even back a few months ago when he could still walk about a mile on his own, I knew I'd need to get a hind-end lift and a doggie wheelchair. When I first started researching the wheelchair, I remember feeling a sense of dread that that time was coming.

But about a month ago, Blake got to the point where he really couldn't walk any substantial distance without the use of the chair. And while, like his dad, he's resistant to help and initially really fought me to get him into the harness and the chair, he's now well acclimated to it! In fact, we can now take walks in the chair for almost a mile at a time.

And the other day, as we were taking one of our walks with the chair, it occurred to me that I was so thankful that we were able to do this! We can actually take walks again (at least for now). And Blake is visibly happy to be able to again sniff the neighborhood and be able to read and reply to "pee-mail"!

And that experience reminded me that usually, we look for things to be thankful for in the midst of happiness and abundance. But often, it's in the difficult times that we can be most thankful for the things (like the chair) that help us to cope. It's often in the midst of problems that we're most thankful for our blessings. And sometimes, especially when things are going to get tougher before they get better, we can most be thankful for the strength and help God gives us to live in the moment.

So as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, I'm paradoxically going to be more thankful for the situations and opportunities God has given me than I might have if things were easier.

Yours in Christ,

November Highlights

Every Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

COMING UP...

November

1 Names due for All Saints' Day
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends (pg 1)
7 All Saints' Day
9 Church Council Meeting
11 Veterans Day
11 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
13 Saturday Service (pg 1)
21 Dedication of Quilts (pg 1)
21 Bible Art Journaling (pg 5)
24 Thanksgiving Eve Service (pg 1)
25 Thanksgiving Day
28 First Sunday in Advent

December

1 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
8 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
9 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
11 Saturday Service
14 Church Council Meeting
15 Advent Evening Prayer (pg 1)
19 Bible Art Journaling
24 Christmas Eve
24 Children's Christmas Eve Service
24 Carols and Communion
25 Christmas Day
25 Carols and Communion
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

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

Sympathy

Family of Joyce Taylor (mother of Kim Drissel)

Ongoing

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

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

SPOTLIGHT

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells!

It is time to get Christmas Pageant started! Since our youngest actors will not be fully vaccinated in time, we will do another virtual pageant this year.

The overall plan will be to video and audio tape the actors one family at a time at the church (about 1 hour) and then put the filmed segments together to produce a pageant that will be streamed sometime during Advent.

So, please:



Sign up for the Christmas pageant

- by email (lconary@prodigy.net),
- call the church office (301-869-3666), or
- use the sign-up sheet outside the office door



List your actors and their ages, and whether they want a speaking or non-speaking role, also a description of their Halloween costume if they have one.



Please include your preferred contact information (email or text).

Thanks in advance for your help and support!
Jon and Lisa Conary

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!



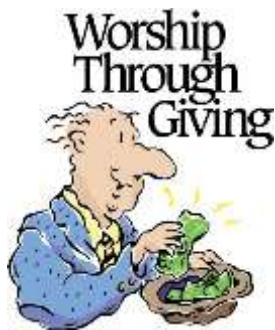
AmazonSmile

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!

Or you can use the Amazon app at no extra cost to you. Simply follow the instructions below to select "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. PoP will continue to receive applicable donations from your purchases.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

High School Class

The high school class is developing a set of questions to use with guest speakers to learn more about their jobs. We will have more to update on this aspect of our class later. In addition, the high school class is continuing to watch and discuss movies. We are currently watching "Facing the Giants." This film does a really good job of presenting dealing with fear, facing obstacles, and the power of prayer.

Middle School Class

Middle School Sunday School has been active in-person and online! Students have been learning about individuals in the Bible, their stories, and how we can relate to them today in God's big picture. We ask the students to try to imagine what it was like for these people, putting stories in the context of Biblical times to better understand the impacts of the time on different groups of people.

Elementary Classes

One of the lessons we studied in Sunday School was Jesus making friends with Matthew. We discussed our friendships and how to be friends with new people. Here, in the Lower Elementary class, we played a game using magnets to see who could collect the most pipe cleaner disciples. We also made a friendship basket to illustrate our Bible story.



The Lower and Upper Elementary classes also talked about the amazing miracle in John 4 of Jesus curing the official's son. We talked about amazing things we have seen people do, and that Jesus's miracles recorded in the Bible are even more amazing. Although we don't know why some people are cured and not others, we can ask God these questions in heaven one day. We do know that the miracles in the Bible helped people in Bible times and today see God's power and love. Then we considered the capabilities of the human body as further evidence of God's amazing power. Before and after jumping jacks, we compared our heart rates. The brain is also amazing - each of us thinks about 50,000 thoughts a day!

Bible Presentation

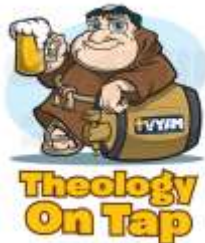
On October 17, several of our second graders were presented Bibles by their parents. The Bibles are inscribed with the child's name and signed by Pastor Steve and Sunday School leaders. We read from the Bible every week in Sunday School, and now each child has their own Bible to also enjoy at home. It is heartwarming to see their excitement during the worship service as they receive their Bibles, and each week, as they gain skills, knowledge, and inspiration reading from the Bible during class.



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, November 21, 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

Now that cool weather has arrived and seasonal jobs are becoming scarcer, the number of Gaithersburg HELP clients is climbing. Also HELP is providing food to some families who have been seeking help from Epworth Methodist Church. Nonperishable donations continue to be deeply appreciated - tuna, PB&J, cereals, etc. Thanks for your ongoing excellent support.



Check the GaithersburgHELP website or talk to Hope Walker (hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org) for more information.

Thank You

Thank you to Joan Kowalik and Cherie DeGeorge for volunteering to pick up donations to deliver to Gaithersburg HELP!

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 (lconary@prodigy.net).

Social Justice Ministry News

The Social Justice Ministry Committee is reforming at Prince of Peace, after a hiatus during the pandemic. Through this new effort, we hope to serve our Community, encourage service among our congregation members, including our youth, grow our congregation's commitment to service, and reach out to our own members who may have needs. We are a group of about six people right now, and we welcome anyone who may want to join us in this endeavor. We are meeting on Zoom now, but we will reassess this as the situation changes. If you would like to have the Zoom link to join this meeting, and find out what is happening, contact [Jennifer Maloney](#), and she will send you the link.

Our first priority is to support the Afghan Refugee Resettlement efforts at Lutheran Social Services in the DC area. They are the main resettlement organization for this area. There are a number of ways our congregation can help in this effort. There is a link in our online bulletins and in the Thursday email of happenings to the Lutheran Social Services Website. Here are some opportunities to be aware of:

1. You can go to the Lutheran Social Services site and donate money to them for Refugee Resettlement at any time.
2. LSS is looking for sponsors to help a family with apartment setup, and other needs that the family may experience in their new home. Right now, it appears that LSS has enough sponsors for apartment setup. We may look at this as a possible future commitment.
3. There are opportunities for mentoring and tutoring and providing transportation to individuals, and these include high school students who can mentor their peers.

4. You can buy necessities for Afghan Families through Amazon and have items sent directly to LSS. There are links to the needs on the LSS website. They include, bedding, household items such as brooms, waste baskets and small electronics.

5. Advocacy for Resettlement efforts with Federal and Local elected officials.

6. Participate in an upcoming Prince of Peace fundraiser to purchase some of the more expensive items that are needed, such as laptops. More coming on that!

Please consider becoming involved in this effort in some way. This is an important service that will impact the lives of many people. Detailed information on all these opportunities is on the Lutheran Social Services website.

We also plan to continue with past projects, such as Gaithersburg Help, the Christmas Giving Tree and Gifts of Hope, as well as some new ideas for Christmas. (see "Coming in December" below.) Prince of Peace has always been a caring congregation, and we hope to make sure that you are aware of opportunities to care for our community all during the year.

Coming in December

Through the ELCA GOOD GIFTS program, you can feed a refugee family for a week (\$50), send a woman to farmer's field school (\$75), or buy a community fish farm (\$250). During December, Social Ministry will distribute coin boxes to collect change to support this program. Follow this link for more information,

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/gods-global-barnyard>

Make Christmas brighter for residents of the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home). Social Ministry will collect items for Christmas boxes, from socks to toothpaste, knit throws, postage stamps, combs brushes, and more. Watch for the complete list soon.

Social Justice Ministry Survey

As a congregation, we look to serve our community. Individual members also find ways to make a difference in the lives of others. The Social Justice Ministry would like to understand the commitment of members and to celebrate the spirit of giving and service that is so strong at POP. Please tell us your story of service by sending an email to maloney.jenn@gmail.com with details of where you volunteer now (or in the past), the

mission of the organization, your role, and any other information that you want to share.

Our purpose is to get a sense of what is important to our congregation, lift up members and share stories to inspire others to service, and explore possible connections for congregational ministry. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact any member of the committee directly or through the email above.

Social Justice Ministry: Cherie DeGeorge, Laura Dillon (Council Liaison), Jamie Pflasterer, Joan Kowalik, Jennifer Maloney, and Jane Sahmel

Gaithersburg Meals On Wheels, Inc. Volunteer Drivers Needed

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has a continuing need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with eight to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call 301-216-4200, or Lisa Koenig at 301-869-0190 or lisamkoenig1@gmail.com.

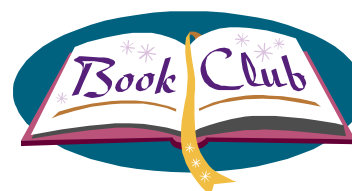
FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

On **November 11, 7:30 pm**, The Women's Book Group will be discussing *American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt for the Criminal Mastermind Behind the Silk Road*. From Goodreads: "The unbelievable true story of the man who built a billion-dollar online drug empire from his bedroom—and almost got away with it". Please RSVP to [Jennifer Maloney](mailto:Jennifer.Maloney) by **Monday, November 8**.

December 9 The Midnight Library
by Matt Haig

January 13 The Nickel Boys
by Colson Whitehead



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 \(https://elca.org/disaster\)](https://elca.org/disaster) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

MAR-LU-RIDGE

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 is available.

THINK ABOUT IT

While on a short-term missions trip, Pastor Jack Hinton was leading worship at a leper colony on the island of Tobago. A woman who had been facing away from the pulpit turned.

"It was the most hideous face I had ever seen," Hinton said. "The woman's nose and ears were entirely gone. She lifted a fingerless hand in the air and asked, 'Can we sing "Count Your Many Blessings"?"

Overcome with emotion, Hinton left the service. He was followed by a team member who said, "I guess you'll never be able to sing that song again."

"Yes I will," he replied, "but I'll never sing it the same way."

--Pastor's Update (5/96)

We are like dwarfs, seated on the shoulders of giants. We see more things than the Ancients, things more distant, but it is due neither to the sharpness of our sight nor the greatness of our stature. It is simply because they have lent us their own.

--Bernard of Chartres

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Articles for the December/January issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **November 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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