



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 41 Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2022

Souper Bowl Sunday Collection



Sunday School is heading up the Souper Bowl Sunday collection to benefit clients of Gaithersburg HELP. Please donate hearty soup and stew now through February 13!

Over the past 30 years, \$170 million has been donated, with 100% of donations going to local organizations. 300,000 groups in all 50 states have participated.

Please join us in this annual campaign and support a cause important to our young people. Drop off donations in the bins outside at any time or in the narthex on Sundays.

The "Live Stream" Team

Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on how we perform many of our daily/weekly activities including how we do church. Would you like to be part of the team that makes our "Live Stream" church possible? We are looking for a few more people to control the cameras and sound during our worship services. Contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.



LUNCHES FOR INTERFAITH WORKS WOMEN'S SHELTER



Prince of Peace will be making lunches for Interfaith Works Women's Shelter in Rockville on Sunday, February 27, right after church in the fellowship hall. It shouldn't take too long to put the lunches together, especially if we have a good group doing it. Families are especially welcome to come and help us. All ingredients and supplies will be provided. If anyone would like to donate funds to help purchase supplies, you can contact Jane Sahmel. The ladies at the shelter will really appreciate getting lunch on that day!

Congratulations to Our Church Council Members!



Newly elected: Dekker Spielman (youth position).

Re-elected: Pamela Cook, Bill Harral, and Chet Wolejsza.

Continuing: Kwame Mensah, Lauren Gibson, Scott Gowing, Jon Conary, Laura Dillon, and Rainer Sahmel.

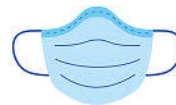
Thank you for your service on council: Katrena Huen (youth member).

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex and online.

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 Sat., February 12. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

Mask Mandate



Whenever Montgomery County imposes an indoor mask mandate, masks will be required for worship and all other indoor activities at church. Otherwise, masks will be optional, except for Sunday School, as most children are not yet vaccinated.

Inclement Weather

During the winter months, if inclement weather requires us to cancel services or activities, a notice will appear on the [website homepage](#) (poplutheran.org).





From Pastor Steve...

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

Just after Christmas, Prince of Peace was able to get all of our lights, both inside and outside of our building, replaced with LEDs. We did this through a Pepco rebate program, so we only ended up paying about \$2K to get \$20K worth of work done! (Special thanks to Bill Harral for shepherding the program through for us!)

The lighting change will make a huge difference for us. It will be great for our electric bill. It will be great in reducing our carbon footprint. And it will mean that we'll rarely have to climb ladders to replace the lights in the ceiling of the sanctuary!

And in this season of Epiphany, we celebrate another "lighting change." We celebrate the revealing of the light of Jesus in the world. That's really what "epiphany" is all about - it's about noticing the light of Jesus in our lives, celebrating the light of Jesus' presence, and sharing the light of Jesus with others. But all of those things often require effort on our part.

You might not notice the lighting changes at church unless you're here at night to see how much brighter the parking lot is, or unless you see how the energy savings are affecting our bills and carbon footprint. And often, noticing the light of Jesus means practicing being actively attentive to the ways God is working in our lives, particularly in dark moments.

And because it's easy to miss the light, it's often easy to feel like nothing's different. In our world at the moment, a lot of things seem stuck. And so, it's easy to wallow in the darkness. But the season of Epiphany calls us to actively celebrate the presence of the light of Jesus in our world, even and especially when it still feels like night outside.

And of course, the reason that there are Pepco rebates is because lowering our carbon footprint and decreasing demand on the grid benefits others besides us. And even so, the light of Jesus in our lives isn't just so we can personally enjoy God's love and presence, but so that we're empowered to share that light with others through our actions, words, and attitudes. Sharing the light is

sometimes the most important thing we're called to do as Christians.

So, in this season of Epiphany, look closer for Jesus' light in your life. Make a point of celebrating the light. And look for ways to share that light with others around you who particularly need it!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve



February Highlights

Every Sunday

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

Every Tuesday

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

COMING UP...

February

1 Lunar New Year
2 Groundhog Day
8 Church Council Meeting
12 Saturday Service (pg 1)
13 "Souper" Bowl Sunday (pg 1)
14 Valentine's Day
21 President's Day
27 Lunches for Interfaith Works Shelter (pg 1)
27 Confirmation

March

8 Church Council Meeting
12 Saturday Service
13 Daylight Savings Time starts
17 St. Patrick's Day
27 Confirmation

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, Clara Ely, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Annie Hampe, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, John Militzer, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Dick & Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Clara Koenig Satria, Sherry Schiebel, David Swanson, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson, John Zobel

Sympathy

Family of Gary Eldridge
(grandfather of Carolyn Carr)
Family of Cy Gruber
(friend of Tracy Solomon's family)
Family of Jay Rosenberg
(neighbor of Sherry Schiebel)

Thanksgiving

Birth of Gemma Lucia Garofalo (daughter of Laura (Hampe) and Matteo Garofalo)
The safe return of all the Honduras missionaries:
Nancy & Chet Wolejsza, Catherine Shoer, Ric & Grey Kienzle

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.

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

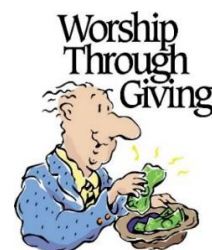
You can support Prince of Peace with each Amazon purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives .5% of your purchases. Use AmazonSmile every time you shop! AmazonSmile is completely integrated with Amazon.com; you use the same account and have the same 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

A \$56.36 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2021!

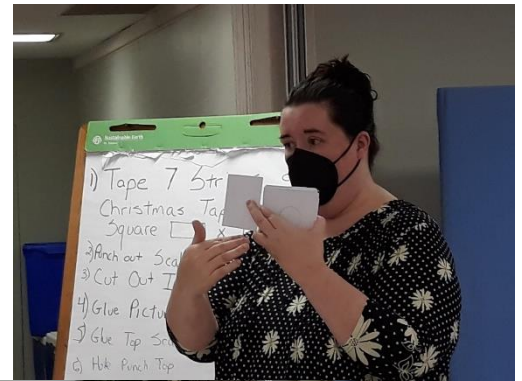


YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

In our last class before Christmas break, the Lower and Upper Elementary classes combined for a lesson on Jesus being the treasure for whom people had waited a long time. We read some of the Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment hundreds of years later in Jesus. We wondered what the magi knew that caused them to follow the star to bring their treasures to Jesus.

Sunday School leader Anne Witten had a special craft project for our learners. Using her extensive scrapbooking supplies, she had prepared everything for them to make a photo ornament. She explained each step, and then took a photo of each child. The learners used colorful Christmas tape and their imagination to make photo ornaments for them to give to someone special.



Fruits of the Spirit

The elementary classes have begun lessons on the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. Each week, we explore another attribute by discussing a Bible story illustrating it. For instance, we explored patience by reading how Jacob worked for seven years so he could marry Rachel, only to be tricked by Rachel's father into marrying her older sister instead. Then Laban said Jacob could marry Rachel if he agreed to work another seven years.

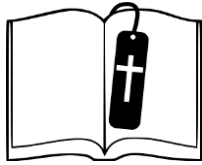
We talked about the patience needed to wait for something good to happen, understand people who are being difficult, and try to get through a difficult time. In all of these situations, the Holy Spirit is in us, helping us to have patience.

Each lesson is stand-alone, and everyone is welcome any week they are able to attend!



ADULT EDUCATION

PoP Women's Bible Study



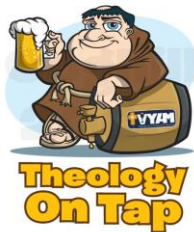
The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm on Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Esther. Questions?

Contact Pastor Wendy Deeben

(wdeeben@gracerock.org)

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

Grace Notes



Is this the year to dust off your trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, guitar, or other musical instrument and start playing again? Have you always wanted to sing or play with "the Band"? Grace Notes is looking for musicians and singers. We rehearse Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:00pm and are working toward the goal of playing once a month during our worship service.

Contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP

Would you be interested in driving community members to doctor appointments? Getting volunteer drivers is always one of the most difficult jobs to fill. You can choose which driving request(s) you would be willing to accept and drive as frequently or infrequently as is convenient for you. Please check out the website, GaithersburgHelp.org to learn more.



Otherwise, things are going well, except for ongoing and unpredictable supply chain issues. Donations of non-perishable foods are always welcome, and 1-pound bags of rice seem to be the most consistently unavailable. Since the neighborhood animals really enjoy it when rice is

left outside, please plan to put those donations inside. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Quilters



Would you like to change the world for someone? Can you tie a knot or tear/cut a piece of cloth? Then join the Quilter's group, Tuesday morning from 10:00 am till noon at the church or work from home. We also can use donations of cloth (cotton preferred). We are

changing the world one quilt at a time!

Contact [Lisa Conary](#) for more information.

Christmas Project Updates

The Giving Tree: Through members' generosity, 8 families and their 24 children had a more joyous Christmas. Many thanks to *Rachel and Bertha Carreras* for coordinating this effort.

Christmas cheer was spread to **The Village at Rockville** with nine very full gift boxes for residents.

Rhonda Ricci, Philanthropy Coordinator of TVAR, wrote, "I wanted to thank you so much for your role in the collection of items for Christmas boxes for residents at The Village at Rockville. The response was overwhelming. We had enough items to deliver Christmas boxes to our residents in skilled nursing and in assisted living, almost 140 residents. The boxes were delivered on Christmas Eve Day by our connected living team members with the help from a few of our independent living residents. There were smiles all around!

The Village at Rockville is blessed to have partners like you." Many thanks to *Susan Weiner and Jennifer Maloney* for leading this project.

Through the **Gifts of Hope**, members made contributions to our local Lutheran social ministries in honor of friends and family. We are grateful to *Joan Kowalik* who took the lead on this project.

We also held a coin collection to "purchase **Good Gifts**" from the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** catalog. Janet Levine worked with the Sunday School classes to choose the gifts - farming school for a woman farmer, vaccinations for a child, hygiene kits, a goat and a flock of chicks, and meals for visitors to a soup kitchen. The goal was to raise \$420 to buy two of each gift. We exceeded the goal, raising \$650.03, enough to buy three of each gift. Thanks to *Jennifer Maloney and Janet Levine* for coordinating and *Helen Griffith* for counting the proceeds.



Social Justice Ministry News SUPPORT AFGHAN REFUGEES, OUR NEIGHBORS, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOW

Afghan refugees and allies have been settled in our area. Food assistance is being provided by Manna, the Gaithersburg CARES Hub, and HELP. In addition to food, these families need clothing, household goods, money in the form of gift cards, paper and pencils, and such for the children, etc. The Guru Gobind Singh Foundation has been working with the Afghan families steadily and has established a list of needs and a drop-off point at the Singh Spiritual Center, [13814 Travilah Rd, Rockville 20850](#).

What can you do? Just go to <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/60b094fa4a72ca31-please> to sign up. You can drop the items off on Travilah Road or bring them to POP, leave them in the box in the narthex, and the Social Justice Ministry Committee will deliver them.

You will receive an email confirmation of the item that you signed up for. If you deliver it yourself, leave the item on the table outside the main door and notify Aman Shergill at 609.751.8729 by text before dropping things off because some of the things that they are asking for are gift cards. Aman Shergill is the main contact at the Spiritual Center.

Auction for Afghan Allies

NOTE: The Auction for Afghan Allies, benefiting Lutheran Social Services resettlement efforts, has been **postponed until May 14th** when we hope that gathering in person will be possible.

Meanwhile, look to Jamie Pflasterer's article about legislation and issues concerning supporting resettlement efforts of Afghan Allies.

Letter writing is an easy way to make a difference!

If you have ever felt moved to support a cause, but have worried that lack of time, transportation, or funds are holding you back? There is a way that you can help for just the cost of a stamp. A handwritten letter sent to your representative can be incredibly impactful. Just 10-15 letters sent to an office on the same topic are often all that is needed to bring an issue to an official's attention.

Some letter writing tips are:

- Keep it short

- Write in with a specific ask - mentioning legislation by name or number is a great way to do this
- Be respectful
- Make it personal - your own voice is much more impactful than any form letter

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> make it easy to find out who your representative is, and how to reach them.

As the Social Justice Ministry Committee continues to look for ways that Prince of Peace can support Afghan Refugees as they resettle in the Washington Region, we encourage members of the congregation to support Lutheran Social Services (<https://lssnca.org/pressroom.html>) as one of the lead organizations working directly with refugee families. The Washington Post article below has extensive coverage of their work, as well as the challenges involved in staffing up quickly to meet the unprecedented need: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/12/12/afghan-refugees-washington-virginia-cases/>

As part of a recent webinar (<https://youtu.be/Vyh6dCQR3qY>) giving guidance on where help is most needed, Lutheran Social Services requested the following legislative support:

- HR 977 - the Lady Liberty act to set a minimum floor of 125,000 refugees accepted per year by the US <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/977/all-info>
- HR 4736 - the Improving Access for Afghan Refugees act <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4736/all-info>
- HR 5168 - the Welcomed Act - provides the same federal benefits to Afghan humanitarian evacuees as Afghan refugees <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5168/all-info>
- The Afghanistan Adjustment Act - provide APAs with a clear path to citizenship <https://www.rollcall.com/2021/10/19/congress-should-pass-an-afghan-adjustment-act/>

In addition, there is a need for more consistent federal funding - the cyclical nature of support has made it very difficult for agencies to scale up quickly to meet the current level of need.

Resolve to use your \$250 Thrivent funds for ministry in 2022!

Are you a Thrivent policy holder? Did you know that you may be missing out on **free** funds that Thrivent offers you yearly for service projects and ministry? Here's an easy way to apply for and use the funds! (Not sure what type of project your funds could be used for? Please contact the Social Justice Ministry committee at PoP (maloney.jenn@gmail.com), and we'd be happy to get you started with several ideas!)

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab is the book chosen by the Women's Book Group for discussion on **Thursday, February 10 at 7:30 pm**. We'll meet via Zoom; the link will be sent out a few days prior to the gathering.

From Goodreads: France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

March 10 *Circe*

by Madeline Miller

TBD

April 14 *Apples Never Fall*

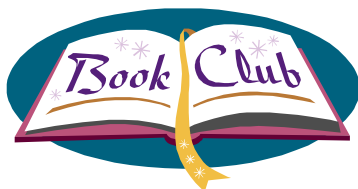
by Liam Morriarily

hosted by Jennifer Maloney

May 12 *The Nature of Fragile Things*

by Susan Meissner

hosted by Hope Walker



RECENT EVENTS

Women's Bible Study Christmas Party



Honduras Mission

Joining others from non-profit Haven Universe, five missionaries from Prince of Peace traveled to and served in Honduras in December/January: Chet & Nancy Wolejsza, Catherine Shober, and Ric & Grey Kienzle. Because of God's grace as well as the prayers and donations from PoP members and others in our community, many goods and services were able to be provided to those in need.

Missionaries hosted a medical brigade serving over 200 patients, and specialized doctors extended their services and medication to a population of psychiatric patients. They also visited and provided goods to CEPI, the first special-needs school in the region, ending in a celebration fiesta for the teachers, students, and their families.

Food deliveries were made to over 50 families in need, as well as a special meal for 225 individual families for New Year's Eve. Funds were provided to help build a home for a family and we had the opportunity to help in the construction.



A heart-felt "Thank You!" for all prayers and donations toward this effort! Because of you, God was at work in many miraculous ways. We look forward to maintaining this valuable partnership with Haven Universe to continue extending God's hands to those in need!

THANK YOU!

Message received from the Director of Gifts of Hope

Thank you for supporting Gifts of Hope, a program sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the ELCA, with your contribution of \$900.00 on January 5, 2022. Your generous donation will help the important and impactful ministries of the beneficiary organization(s) you designated. Gifts of Hope is celebrating 29 years and almost \$4 million disbursed to our beneficiary organizations for helping those in need. Your support of our program makes a difference in the lives of people locally and globally, helps those in need, and connects people to valuable and transformative ministries.

Many thanks to Jennifer Maloney, Janet Levine and Helen Griffith for their work on this project.

APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITOR

May I extend my apologies to Terry Forish and Crawford Griffith for losing this article and the pictures which should have been in the November 2021 issue of Glad Tidings. Here it is now, with many thanks for their hard work on this project.

Playground Makeover

Our weed-infested, overgrown playground was given a makeover the last couple of months. Weeds were removed, a new weed barrier was laid, and a new cedar mulch bed was put down.

As a side-benefit, extra mulch was spread around the picnic tables and the cherry trees outside of the Fellowship Hall. A special thank you to Crawford Griffith, who helped knock down the last of the mulch pile, giving the senior member of this replacement project a much-needed boost.



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

Spring Work Day

It's that time of year again - the Annual Mar-Lu-Ridge Spring Work Day will be held April 9, 2022 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us for projects and chores as we ready the camp for a busy spring and summer season. All ages and abilities welcome!

Breakfast served at 8am in Agape Hall. Lunch served at noon.

Please RSVP to mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org.

Summer Camp

Come join us this upcoming summer for a wonderful week of camp! The summer camp brochure with the full schedule and camp descriptions is available here at the church as well as online at www.mar-lu-ridge.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge offers:

- a fun, small group, Christ-centered week in the woods
- affordable pricing starting at \$415 per week
- friendships and memories that stay with your child
- camperships to ensure that all children can attend camp**
- unique specialty programs for all ages!
- ACA certification means MLR meets the highest safety standards

Camp Day: April 3 - everyone is welcome for tours and fun activities! No reservations needed: 1 - 4 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact MLR by email at mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org or by phone at 800-238-9974.

NOTE: Registration is now open. The schedule and form for financial assistance are online and in PoP's office.



THINK ABOUT IT

No one loves the man whom he fears.

--Aristotle

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

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

--Unknown

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

--Oscar Wilde

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Photography TBD

Articles for the March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **February 13**. 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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