



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 41 Iss. 10 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD Dec 2022/Jan 2023

## Advent and Christmas worship at POP

Join Advent and Christmas activities as you are able! Below is what's planned, along with links for you to learn more. Please share this information with others!



### Advent Evening Prayer

Holden Evening Prayer ([livestream on Facebook](#)) each Wednesday evening in Advent (November 30 & December 7, 14 & 21) at 7:15 pm

A time of fellowship with wine, cheese and finger food will precede each service beginning at 6:15 pm.

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### Christmas Eve and Day Services

#### Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Children's Service at 4 pm (in-person and [Livestream on Facebook](#))

Christmas Eve Carols and Holy Communion at 7 pm (in-person and [Livestream on Facebook](#))

#### Christmas Day

Carols & Holy Communion at 10 am (in-person and [Livestream on Facebook](#))

For updates (or more information), please check our [Advent](#) and [Christmas](#) web pages.

## Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 11 @ 6 pm! You're also invited to attend dress rehearsal immediately after the Saturday Service on December 10. For more info please, contact [Jon](#) or [Lisa Conary](#).



## CHRISTMAS GIVING

### Village at Rockville

Help spread holiday cheer by purchasing gifts for residents at the [Village at Rockville](#) (formerly the National Lutheran Home) who could use something special at Christmas. Staff at the Village have asked for donations of throw blankets to warm the residents in the chilly months as well as wall calendars. [Click here to sign up to provide one or more of these gifts, and for more info!](#) Gifts are due at the church on Sunday, December 11.



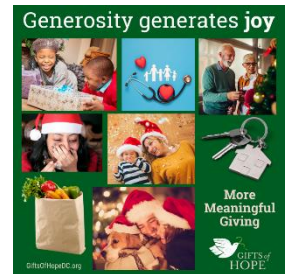
### Giving Tree

Make a child's Christmas joyful. POP members and friends are invited to purchase a special gift for selected students from Brown Station Elementary School. The Giving Tree will be virtual again this year. Use the link below to choose your gift. Gifts should be wrapped with a sticky note with the gift number and description. **Please bring your gift to POP no later than Sunday, December 18th.** For more info or if you'd like to help with the project, contact [Jennifer Maloney](#). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4EADA729A3FA7-pop2022>



### Gifts of Hope

At Christmas, we often pray for peace on earth and that everyone has enough. We can put our prayers into action by supporting organizations that give shelter, clothing, food, medical assistance, employment aid, and much more to people who need it. Give through *Gifts of Hope*, our Synod's alternative gift-giving program, and have confidence that you will be changing the lives of others and giving them peace of mind during difficult times. Purchase in-person or online (<https://metrodcelca.org/gifts-of-hope/>). Cards and purchase opportunities will be available at the Sunday services on November 27<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>.





## From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler  
([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)

This is the time of year when we're all more acutely aware of light and darkness. The days have grown shorter. It can feel like it's late at night even when it's early evening. It may be dark when we get up. And if we have outdoor activities we want or need to do, there's a much shorter window in which to do them.

We treasure the light we have! But in fact, there's often an upside to the darkness as well. Sometimes, the darkness outside beckons us to come in and rest more than we otherwise might. The darkness provides the needed backdrop for the many gorgeous displays of holiday lights. And while the nights aren't always "silent nights", sometimes the darkness and stillness can be soothing.

Our liturgical seasons during this time of year are also centered on the themes of light and darkness. As Advent begins and the days are growing shorter, we light more candles on the Advent wreath as a sign of hope that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. During Christmas, we read John's Gospel which reminds us that the "light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) And the word "epiphany" means not only "revealing" but "enlightenment", as we read the stories of how people came to recognize God's presence in their lives through Jesus.

It's true that often, in the Bible, darkness is portrayed negatively. And yet, it's also the case that Jesus is born into the world at night. Nicodemus comes to Jesus "at night" and learns from him. And the magi see the star because of the night sky.

In reality, God is at work in the light and in the darkness. We may look for God in the light of the happiness and joy of our lives. But sometimes, Jesus shows up in the darkness of our nights. We may want Jesus to enlighten us in big, splashy ways that everyone sees. But sometimes, like Nicodemus, Jesus shows us the way in the quiet and stillness of the night. And we may want to feel the heat of God's love shining like the sun on our

faces. But sometimes, the light of Jesus, like the light of the star, which is always there, isn't noticed by us until things get darker.

So, as we live through these next couple of months of light and darkness - and read stories in church about light and darkness - remember that God's light is shining on you, whether it's light or dark outside. Remember that God's love is always coming into your life, whether your days feel light or dark. And most of all, remember that no matter how dark it may feel at the moment, in Jesus the darkness never overcomes the light.

Yours in Christ,

## December/January Highlights

### Every Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School

No Sunday School on December 25 and January 1.

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

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

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., December 10. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

The January service will be on Sat., January 14.

## COMING UP...

### December

- 4 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 4 Confirmation Class
- 7 Holden Evening Prayer w/ Fellowship (pg 1)
- 8 Women's Book Group (pg 8)
- 10 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)
- 10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 11 Christmas Pageant (pg 1)
- 13 Church Council Meeting
- 14 Holden Evening Prayer w/ Fellowship (pg 1)
- 21 First day of Winter
- 21 Holden Evening Prayer w/ Fellowship (pg 1)
- 24 Christmas Eve (pg 1)
- 25 Christmas Day (pg 1)
- 25 No Sunday School (pg 6)
- 31 New Year's Eve

## January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1 No Sunday School (pg 6)
- 8 Sunday School Resumes (pg 6)
- 8 Confirmation Class
- 10 Church Council Meeting
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 8)
- 14 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)
- 21 Board Game Night (pg 5)
- 22 Confirmation Class
- 29 Annual Congregational Meeting (pg 6)

## February

- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 8)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 20 Presidents' Day

For a current calendar, see:

<https://poplutheran.org/church-calendars/>

## COUNCIL CORNER

### December 2022

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

#### NEWS

Here are the updates from the Nov Church Council meeting.

**Finances:** Finances are doing okay but the last three months have shown a decline in income compared to both expenses and previous years income ([Council notes](#)).

**Shed project:** The shed has been painted and is ready for use except for some shelving installation.

**Solar panel project:** the solar panels project has run into some challenges. We should have more info next month.

**BYC:** The Besecker dry wall work has been completed.

**Church Cleanup Day:** We are in the process of scheduling a church cleanup day be watching for further information.

#### VIEWS

Thank you again for your continued support with both time and talents.

Respectfully,  
Jon Conary

**Council met on November 8.** You can read notes from that meeting (including the Pastor's and Treasurer's report) [by clicking here.](#)

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

#### Sympathy

Marion Manning (wife of Jim Mc Nerney's friend)

#### Thanksgiving

Confirmation of Ellie Acheson

#### Ongoing

The people of Ukraine

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.



## MORE CHRISTMAS

### It's Poinsettia Time!

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar this Christmas, **please have your order and payment in by Sunday, December 12.**

Poinsettias are available for **\$13 each in Red, Pink, and White.** Check the Weekly

Email for any changes in this information. Flowers can be donated in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. You may take your flowers home any time after Christmas Day. Order forms are available in the narthex or email the office.



## Devotion Time

Want an easy way to spend more time in God's Word every day? Try out the Daily Texts devotional from Ground Up Grace



(<https://store.groundupgrace.com/daily-texts-2023/>). With two daily Bible verses and a short prayer, it is easy to start or continue a Bible reading habit. To order, sign up in the narthex by December 11 and leave payment (\$12) in envelope, or email Donna Von Wald ([dlhsjvw@rcn.com](mailto:dlhsjvw@rcn.com)). See sample in narthex. Books will be in at the end of December. If you would like a copy but cannot afford it, please let Pastor Steve know.

## GET INVOLVED WITH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

### Seasonal

Vacation Bible School  
Christmas Pageant  
Christmas Decorating

### Ongoing

Sunday School	Fellowship Committee
The "Live Stream" Team	PoP Quilters
Online Greeter	SPLASH Volunteer
Vice Treasurer	Altar Guild
Counters	Photographer
Choir	Weed Warriors
Grace Notes	Window Washers

Descriptions of all these volunteer opportunities can be found in last month's issue of Glad Tidings.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Sunday School Discovers Faraway World of LWR Quilt Recipients

*By Anne Lomperis*

Members of the Sunday School have been learning how to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) through an initiative by Lisa Conary. From this beginning point, the Sunday School leaders thought it might build even more purpose for the students to learn how much these quilts are appreciated by those who receive them overseas. Some of the

benefits might be ones they never would have thought of!

On Sunday, October 16, all Sunday School members and their leaders came together for a joint class to learn about LWR quilt distribution. The class was led by Anne Lomperis, a "mish (missionary) kid" who was born and raised in South India through high school graduation. She and her siblings helped their parents, who put in a 40-year career in-country, distribute food, clothing, and other donor goods like LWR quilts to the very neediest in remote, rural villages in Andhra Pradesh, a southeastern state.

The Sunday School session began by first learning where quilts and various kits (personal care, new school, and baby care) from Prince of Peace (POP) itself are sent. These destination countries are located in the Caribbean, Central and South America, West Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Anne spread out lots of world maps and asked students to identify all the POP destination countries. (See table.)

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) - Quilt and Kit Tracker  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,  
10-12-22 From Lisa Conary  
(World Region and Geographic Color Coding by Anne Lomperis)

Items	Date Shipped	Destination Country	World Region
Quilts	12/7/15	Georgia	Central Asia
Quilts	11/16/16	Haiti	Caribbean
Quilts	9/25/17	Georgia	Central Asia
Quilts	6/18/20	Georgia	Central Asia
Quilts	3/3/22	Jordan	Middle East
Personal Care Kit	12/7/15	Georgia	Central Asia
New School Kit	11/30/15	Honduras	Central America
New School Kit	10/26/16	Haiti	Caribbean
New School Kit	11/16/16	Haiti	Caribbean
New School Kit	11/23/18	Mauritania	West Africa
New School Kit	2/28/20	Honduras	Central America
New School Kit	8/13/21	Dominican Republic	Caribbean

Then Anne introduced the Sunday School to India and Andhra Pradesh - again with more maps. In Anne's day, Andhra included both coastal stretches along the Bay of Bengal and interior lands on the Deccan Plateau where the capital, Hyderabad, is located. Since then, however, the interior has formed its own, new state called Telangana.

Political boundaries notwithstanding, on the way from the coast to the interior was very harsh, almost unproductive, steppe land awaiting the transformation of irrigation from a major dam construction project. Pre-irrigation, there was often drought or at least insecurity in food and water supply. (Anne remembers growing up, at times, on two *sehns* [about a quart] of water a day—one for drinking; one for everything else.)

Here in the scrubby village of Macherla, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) had an outpost clinic staffed by “Aunt Myrtle,” a nurse who had previously served on horseback in Appalachia in West Virginia. (All missionaries were called “aunt” and “uncle” by the “mish kids” in the spirit of an extended family. This was because missionary families only visited their own blood relatives every five years on furlough to the States.) Aunt Myrtle worked with village elders and administrators to keep a list of the neediest so these individuals could be contacted to line up at the clinic gate on days when donor goods were going to be distributed.

To get a feel for the lives and living conditions of these most needy, Anne brought an array of props to associate with the lifestyle and circumstances of these villagers. She then asked the Sunday School students to imagine how LWR quilts could make the villagers’ lives and living conditions better. Here are the paths to their discoveries. (Also see photos.)

1. Pictures of huts on rice gunny sacks and village paintings; thatch artifacts of palm fronds, fans, and trays made more real that these villagers live in thatch huts.

QUILT BENEFIT: Protection from the weather, even in huts that could let in sun, rain, and wind

2. A straw broom and straw mat made more real that children sleep on mats laid out on swept, mud floors.
3. Rope and pictures of rope beds made more real that adults sleep on rope beds. Children join them during the monsoon rains when the floors are too muddy to sleep on.

QUILT BENEFIT: A high-quality, large-size blanket to sleep under - that could cover many bodies on one rope bed or on several straw floor mats

4. An umbrella made more real that villagers need protection from both hot sun and driving monsoon rains.

QUILT BENEFIT: Shade from the hot sun and protection from monsoon rains

5. A mock-kerosene lantern, clay Diwali candle, and mosquito repellent made more real that huts have no electricity or windows or screening, so “local” lighting methods attract insects and mosquitoes.

QUILT BENEFIT: Protection against insect bites and particularly mosquitoes that can cause malaria

6. A village painting of a “laundry donkey,” “laundry wallah” (laundress), and rice paddies made more real that laundry is “washed” in local water sources (streams, ponds), by beating on flat rocks (no detergent), and dried by hanging on tree branches or draping on bushes.

QUILT BENEFIT: They are made of very sturdy cloth and last for decades, despite how they are “laundered.”

7. A sack of donated grain with printing on the outside, which Anne modeled by wearing over slacks, made more real that this fabric could be turned inside out to make clothing like shirts - or even mend or replace worn squares from the quilts.

QUILT BENEFIT: Even though quilts are very sturdy, given squares could be replaced and extend the life of the whole quilt even longer.

Anne closed the session by sharing other artifacts from her upbringing. These included a spicy, crunchy snack for sampling and three sacred, vintage Korans that had been given to her father, a Muslim specialist and Islamic scholar. She was thrilled to have this opportunity to share information about the lives and context of those who are so appreciative to receive LWR quilts.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



After a short break, game night is back! On **Saturday January 21 at 6pm** in the fellowship hall, bring your favorite board games to play with the community, for all ages! Pizza and snacks will be provided! For any questions, email to [dekker.spielman@gmail.com](mailto:dekker.spielman@gmail.com)

## Annual Congregational Meeting

### Congregational Meeting



Please save the date for the 2023 Annual Meeting, which will be held live and via Zoom on January 29. We will provide more details closer to the date, but we look forward to a good conversation with you all about plans for the upcoming year.

## Vacation Bible School

Watch for more news in the upcoming months.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Honduras Mission Trip 2023

Prince of Peace members are invited once again to join non-profit, Haven Universe on a mission trip to Honduras in June of 2023! Members have participated in this trip in recent years and have had an enriching experience of traveling to Honduras and assisting with medical brigades, construction projects, and community food donations. Haven Universe has also since begun to sponsor a unique school in that area called CEPI, which offers educational supports for children with special needs.

If you are thinking of whether a mission trip to Honduras is for you, an interest meeting will be held on Sunday, October 2 at 9:15am in the Sanctuary to provide additional information on the trip, (exact trip dates TBD.) Please contact [Ric Kienzle](#) if you would like more information on this interest meeting or the mission trip in June.

## 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](mailto:michel_christian@yahoo.com)) or Kwame Mensah ([mensahkn@gmail.com](mailto:mensahkn@gmail.com)) with any questions.

### Electronic Giving

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



## AmazonSmile

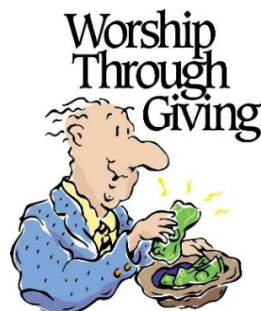
You can support Prince of Peace with each Amazon purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives .5% of your purchases. Use AmazonSmile every time you shop! AmazonSmile is completely integrated with Amazon.com; you use the same account and have the same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

### Calendar

No Sunday School:  
December 25  
January 1

Sunday School Resumes January 8

## Sunday School

### PB & J Donation

The Sunday School learners counted and bagged the peanut butter and jelly donations. Thanks to the congregation for donating 68 peanut butter and 48 jelly to Gaithersburg HELP.



### Learners Spread Thanksgiving Cheer

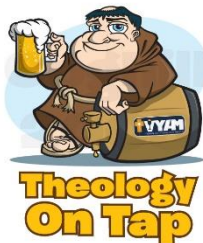
Elementary learners made a turkey craft and Thanksgiving cards for the six families that PoP sponsored through the City of Gaithersburg's Holiday Giving Program. While making the craft, we talked about our Thanksgiving traditions and what we are grateful for. We learned how meaningful the meals can be for the recipients. We also learned that they often support families for more than just one dinner.



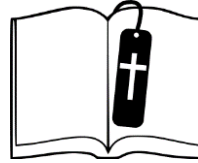
## ADULT EDUCATION

### 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 most months. Check Weekly Email and the online worship notice for the next date. 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 Genesis.

On Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting in person at Jane's house for a Christmas gathering. Jane will send more information out about what to bring and time to meet.

We will not meet on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Contact [Pastor Wendy Deeben](#).

## 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.



**Time commitment** is rehearsal 3-4 times a month and playing at one Sunday service a month. Contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Gaithersburg HELP

**URGENT NEED**

Gaithersburg  
**HELP**  
Neighbor Helping Neighbor

HELP is looking forward to a very busy year end. Donations of nonperishable foods and diapers are always vital to HELP's ability to fulfill the mission of meeting

community need. More important than usual this year is the need for financial donations. Due to increased demand and very increased costs, the year-to-date deficit at the end of October was \$155,000. Attempts to stem the loss include switching of some vendors and, unfortunately, reduction in the amount of food being given to clients. All donations will be deeply appreciated.

For questions or information, please contact Hope Walker ([hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org](mailto:hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org))

## Quilters - Fabric Donations Needed



Do you have some fabric in your home that you are not going to use? The PoP Quilters are in need of fabric and sheets for quilts. We use sheets for the backing and other pieces of cloth for squares. Cotton is best but blends work as well. Please leave any fabric donations in the church office or music room.

If you have questions, please contact [Lisa Conary](#).

## Social Justice Ministry News

Social Justice Ministry is focusing on “Giving” this month. See page 1 for more information.

## FELLOWSHIP

### Women’s Book Group

On Thursday evening, December 8 at 6:30 pm, the Women’s Book Group will be discussing *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict. This is the Annual Holiday Event. All members will bring either an appetizer or dessert, along with a wrapped, new or gently worn, book. This is always a fun event! Judy Bruening will host. Please RSVP by Monday, December 5 to [Judy](#). Zoom will also be available. Note that the start time for December is 6:30 pm instead of the usual 7:30 pm.

From GoodReads:

In December 1926, Agatha Christie goes missing. Investigators find her empty car on the edge of a deep, gloomy pond, the only clues some tire tracks nearby and a fur coat left in the car – strange for a frigid night. Her husband and daughter have no knowledge of her whereabouts, and England unleashes an unprecedented manhunt to find the up-and-coming mystery author. Eleven days later, she reappears, just as mysteriously as she disappeared, claiming amnesia and providing no explanations for her time away.

*The Authenticity Project* by Claire Pooley is the book chosen for the discussion on Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 pm. Nancy Morton will host. Please RSVP to [Nancy](#) by Monday, January 9. Zoom will also be available.

From GoodReads: The story of a solitary green notebook that brings together six strangers and leads to unexpected friendship, and even love.

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

February 9 *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*

by Lisa See

host TBD

March 9 *Horse*

by Geraldine Brooks

host TBD

April 13 *The Engineers Wife*

by Tracy Emerson Wood

host TBD

May 11 *Lessons in Chemistry*

by Bonnie Garmus

host TBD

June 8 *Pieces of Her*

by Karin Slaughter

host TBD

July 13 *The Diamond Eye*

by Kate Quinn

host TBD

August 10 *The Personal Librarian*

by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

host TBD

September 14 *The Kitchen Front*

by Jennifer Ryan

host TBD

October 12 *The Four Winds*

by Kristin Hannah

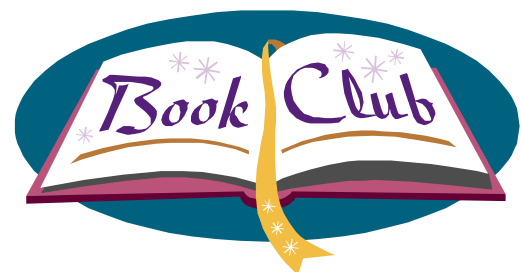
host TBD

November 9 *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*

by Allison Pataki

host TBD

NOTE: Hosts are needed February through November. Let Kathy Mellot know which month you would like to host a discussion.





## RECENT EVENTS

On Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, Prince of Peace members gathered at the firepit and picnic table location behind the Besecker Center for a fall campfire. We had about 25 members who attended to enjoy the evening fire, roast marshmallows, and make S'mores. Roasted hot dogs, sodas, and some Halloween candy were also enjoyed. As promised, the fall weather was perfect for relaxing outside - kids were able to have fun on the playground too, while adults enjoyed conversation and the evening fire.



The Social Justice Committee would like to thank everyone for coming out to attend Coffee With A Cop on Sunday, November 6. We had good attendance, good weather, and good company. Officer Dan Lane even brought two cadets with him to show off today's police force. Thanks for supporting the church's community outreach programs.



## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your contributions to the Lion Club's eyeglass program. We have delivered 75 pairs of prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, readers and one set of hearing aids. The collection will continue, please look for box on the Collection Table in the Narthex.

Many thanks to Cherie DeGeorge who coordinated our Thanksgiving Dinner project. With Cherie's leadership, we were able to provide complete Thanksgiving dinners and \$200 in grocery store gift cards to six Gaithersburg families. POP members gathered in the Fellowship Hall to pack the boxes. The effort was so well-organized that deliverers and food were on their way in less than half an hour. Cherie - you are a blessing to this congregation and community. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who contributed, their time, food or money towards Thanksgiving Families 2022. Together, as a Congregation, we truly made a difference in the lives of six Gaithersburg families.



## 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.



### Kitchen Care

Now that we are doing more in the building, help us keep the kitchen tidy and organized! Kitchen rules are posted in the kitchen, usually on the refrigerator, so that we can keep it clean and tidy and make it easier for everyone to use.



## 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 continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, and the war in Ukraine. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage](https://elca.org/disaster) (<https://elca.org/disaster>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

## THINK ABOUT IT

Advent was one week away, so we thought we'd see what the children remembered from our family devotions the year before. "Who can tell me what the four candles in the Advent wreath represent?" I asked.

Luke jumped in with seven-year-old wisdom and exuberance. "There's love, joy, peace, and . . . and . . ."

"I know!" six-year-old Elise interrupted to finish her brother's sentence: "Peace and quiet!"

--Michelle L. Hardie

Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.

--Thomas á Kempis

God, help us not to despise or oppose what we do not understand.

--William Penn

The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never to forget the presence of Christ.

--William Barclay

Good Friday came after Christmas, but the angels still sang at the manger. In the midst of the hardest reality of life, there is always a welcome for tenderness and beauty.

--Bruce W. Thielemann

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