



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2023

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection



tacklehunger.org

Sunday School is heading up the Souper Bowl Sunday collection to benefit clients of Gaithersburg HELP. In 2022, HELP served 4,100 households with food and infant needs. Please donate hearty soup, stew, and chili now through February 12!

Please join us in this annual campaign and support a cause important to our young people. Photos show Sunday School learners counting and bagging last year's donations. Drop off donations in the bins outside at any time or in the narthex on Sundays.



Our next Saturday Service will be held on Saturday, February 25 at 5 pm!

(Please note this is a change from our usual pattern!) But, as usual, this service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.



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



Congratulations to Our Church Council Members!



Newly elected: Chuck Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, Yasya Yanevskyy (youth position).

Re-elected: Jon Conary

Continuing: Lauren Gibson, Laura Dillon, and Rainer Sahmel.

Thank you for your service on council: Kwame Mensah, Scott Gowing, Dekker Spielman (youth member).

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex and [online](#).

Ash Wednesday



Come join us in person or [livestreamed](#) as we begin [our Lenten journey](#) at our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:15 pm.

Lenten Wednesday Services

During the [other Wednesdays in Lent](#) beginning March 1, we will have a time of Fellowship at 6:15 pm (in person) and the service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15pm, in-person and [livestreamed](#).



Lenten Sharing Bags

Watch for the Lenten Sharing Bags coming soon! POP will collect canned fruit and cereal for Gaithersburg HELP and household needs for Interfaith Works.





From Pastor Steve...

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

February has always felt like an “in-between” time to me. In January, we celebrate the beginning of a new year. In March, Spring begins and we’re looking towards Easter. But it always feels to me like February is month where we’re just “in-between.”

Even in the liturgical cycle, it often feels this way. Most of February is what we call the “season after Epiphany.” The Christmas cycle is over, and we’re getting ready for Lent. And in-between, we’re reading stories about Jesus calling his first followers and beginning to do a little teaching. It doesn’t seem like these are the really exciting parts of the story - you know, the parts where angels sing, or Jesus performs miracles or rises from the dead.

And yet, these “in-between” stories are actually important stories. They lay the groundwork for everything Jesus is about to do. They help us understand who Jesus really is. And perhaps most importantly, they remind us that God is at work and moving powerfully in our world even in “in-between” times.

Often, I look for God to act in big and powerful ways. I enjoy the stories of Christmas and Easter and Pentecost. And sometimes, I’m so busy looking forward to the “big events” in my life that I can miss out - or at least not fully recognize - the slow, deliberate, preparatory things that God is doing in my life. And sometimes, I need the “in-between” seasons of the Church year to remind me that Jesus is working in my life all the time, not just in the big, splashy moments.

So, whatever times or seasons of your life feel like “in-between” times, remember that God is at work in those moments as well. Pay attention to the ways that God may be preparing you for the next thing through those moments. And be open to the ways that Jesus is leading you - perhaps in small and subtle ways - even in times that feel like they’re just “in-between” the big events.

Yours in Christ,

February 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 (pg 5)
- 12:30 pm Women’s Bible Study (pg 4)

COMING UP...

February

- 5 Pastor Christine Dunn (pg 3)
- 9 Women’s Book Group (pg 6)
- 12 Souper Bowl Sunday (pg 1)
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 20 Presidents’ Day
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 25 Saturday Worship Service (pg 1)

March

- 1 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 8 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 9 Women’s Book Group (pg 6)
- 11 Saturday Worship Service
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Starts
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 15 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 17 - 19 Youth Retreat grades 6-8 (pg 4)
- 18 - 19 Youth Retreat grades 3-5 (pg 4)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 22 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 29 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)

April

- 2 Palm Sunday
- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Easter Sunday

For a current calendar, see:

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

SAVE THE DATE



VBS is scheduled for
July 16-20, 2023
6:00 to 8:00 pm

We will cookout at 6:00pm and start the VBS at ~6:30pm

Also new for this year.... there will be an adult class!!!

COUNCIL CORNER

January 2023

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the Jan Church Council meeting.

Finances: Finances are doing okay and we finished 2022 with a slight budget surplus ([Council notes](#)).

Shed project: Is completed. Thanks to Dekker and his Boy Scout troop for this much needed addition to our storage needs.

Solar panel project: We are in the process of negotiating with a new vendor. The new federal initiatives have made a project of our size and scope for a non-profit organization less desirable and we have had to find a different vendor.

BYC: Needs a painting party for repaired dry wall (minimum) but everything except for the high school room could use a fresh coat of paint. The high school room was done three years ago.

Church Cleanup Day: It would be good to have a PoP Spruce up day before Easter.

VIEWS

We have three members of council leaving at the end of their terms: Kwame Mensah, Scott Gowing and Dekker Spielman (Youth member). Thank you for your service on behalf of PoP.

We are also welcoming three new members to the PoP church council: Chuck Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, and Yasya Yanevskyy (Youth Member). Thank you for your offering some of your time to help support PoP.

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on January 10. 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, Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer, John Miltzer, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David Rogers, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, David Swanson, Denny Tritinger, Cynthia Watter, Laura Wilson, Nancy Wolejsza, John Zobel

Sympathy

Family of Ryan Dillon (brother of Sean Dillon)
Family of Sandy Moore

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Joe Rowan Daniel, IV (son of Joe Daniel, III and Brittany DeGeorge Daniel)

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.

SPOTLIGHT

Pastor Christine Visits and Preaches on February 5th

Pastor Christine Dunn has accepted a new position as Director of Community Engagement at Lutheran Social Services of the Nation's Capital (LSSNCA). She'll be joining us to talk about LSSNCA and to preach on Sunday, February 5th. During Sunday School hour, everyone is invited to learn about all the services that LSSNCA provides. (This will be livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#).) Pastor Christine will also give us ideas of how we can move from donating goods to interacting and serving more directly with examples. In addition, she'll talk about the importance of advocacy, especially in addressing support for Afghan allies and Ukrainian refugees. Refreshments will be served. Please join the conversation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Retreats

Attention students in grades 3-5 and 6-8 (and their parents):

Prince of Peace will be attending the upcoming Seekers youth retreat for students in grades 3-5 on March 18-19 and Transformers Leadership retreat for students in grades 6-8 on March 17-19. Both events are being held at Mar-Lu-Ridge in Jefferson, MD and are co-sponsored by the DC Metro and Maryland-Delaware synods. Registration is open through March 1 for these fun and spiritually meaningful events. More information can be found at

<https://www.youngfaithmatters.com/events-retreats/seekers> and <https://www.youngfaithmatters.com/events-retreats/transformers>.

OTHER EVENTS

Haven Universe “Saturday Night Alive!”

Non-profit, Haven Universe has been partnering with Prince of Peace for several years and invites you to volunteer at HU “Saturday Night Alive” this fall. These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. “Saturday Night Alive” event assistance is needed on the following dates from **4:00-7:00 pm** at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): **February 11, March 11, April 15 & May 20**. Positions for volunteers include front desk check-in, gym setup/takedown, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. This is a chance to see God’s work through our hands. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions. We hope you can join us to be a witness of Christ to others.

Haven Universe “Bible Study” on Zoom

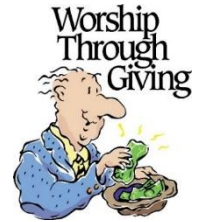
Non-profit, Haven Universe will be hosting a 5-week Bible study on Friday evenings via Zoom this winter for individuals of all ages and abilities. A sample lesson can be found [here](#). This is a great way to learn more about God’s Word and include the whole family (from the comfort of your own home!) Come when you can, (you do not need to attend every week.) These will be presented online from **7:00-8:30 pm** on the following dates:

February 3, 10. Email hu@havenuniverse.org to receive the Zoom link and lessons for this series. Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions. We hope you can join us!

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

It’s easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage](#) (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!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

Preschool and Elementary Sunday School Classes
Using Group’s Dig In *Epic Teachings of the Bible* curriculum, we are currently learning about Psalm 23. Next, we will talk about the armor of God with Bible stories exploring truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. Each week’s lesson stands on its own, and everyone is welcome, any week they are able to attend.

Middle School

Using Sparkhouse *Re:form Ancestors* to explore the biblical ancestors of our faith, we discover similarities between ourselves and the many unlikely people chosen by God to do the extraordinary. We also participate in service day projects.

High School Sunday School

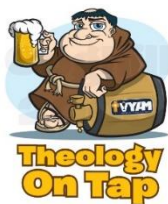
We are currently watching *Les Miserables*, which does a very good job of presenting many aspects of Grace. In addition, we participate in the monthly service day projects. Join us!

Contact Janet Levine (lyle1janet@msn.com) or your learner’s Sunday School leader with any questions or concerns.

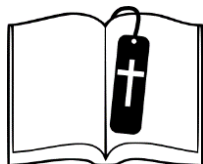
ADULT EDUCATION

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 to join us!



PoP Women's Bible Study



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



The winter months are always busy, and Gaithersburg HELP is gladly looking forward to Souper Bowl Sunday donations. Thanks in advance for your "votes" for your favorite team. Fortunately, the 2022 yearly deficit shrank significantly to "only" \$83K due to year end increase in individual financial donations plus decreased amounts of food in client bags. The 20% increase in numbers of client for the year is expected to be ongoing. As the financials hopefully stabilize, we look forward to being able to give out more food to each family. Drivers are always needed to take clients to daytime appointments, plus several significant leadership positions are in need of a volunteer, so please take a look at the website to get more information. For questions or information, contact [Hope Walker](#)

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 mornings from 10:00 am till noon at the church or work from home. We are changing the world one quilt at a time!

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

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](#).

Mar-Lu-Ridge

Mar-Lu-Ridge camp serves campers ages 6-17. Our American Camp Association accreditation means we offer the highest safety standards, background checks for staff, and quality programming for our campers. A variety of programs offer something for everyone: Night Owls, Adventure, Arts, Horseback and classic sessions are available.

We also offer two Family Camp sessions. The first coming up is Winter Family Camp on February 10-12. Bring your family to Ridge Inn for a weekend of winter fun. Community, campfires, exploring and learning more about the origins of Pass It On, good food and relaxation time. [Visit our website](#) to register or learn more!

CAMP DAY on April 16

Join us for an afternoon of games, tours, crafts and fellowship. This free event is open to anyone wanting to learn more about Mar-Lu-Ridge, whether you are registered for camp and want to see the facility, or whether you just haven't been here in a while. All are welcome, 1-4 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on **Thursday, February 9, 7:30 pm**, either at the home of Kathy Mellott or at church in the Fellowship Hall. Location will be communicated on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Please RSVP by Feb. 6, if attending, to ufda_gal@yahoo.com. The book selection is *The Tea Bird of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.

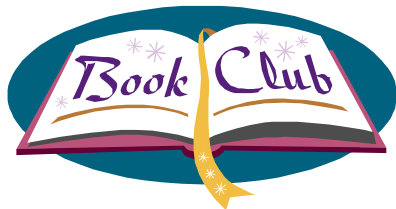
Future Book Selections and Hosts

March 9 *Horse*

by Geraldine Brooks
host Hope Walker

April 13 *The Engineers Wife*

by Tracy Emerson Wood
host Alice Benson



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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Are you faced with a big decision and unsure of the right choice? Pray for God's direction. To start, it's sometimes best to simply sit quietly and listen to how God guides your heart. (Psalm 32:8)

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

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.

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
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Articles for the March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **February 12**. 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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