



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 2

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

March 2023

Lenten Wednesday Services

Come join us in person or [livestream](#) as we continue [our Lenten journey](#) each Wednesday during Lent! We will have a service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm (both in-person and livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#)) preceded at 6:15 pm by a time of fellowship with wine, cheese and finger foods, as well as self-directed devotions using the labyrinth.



Lenten Sharing Bags are Back!

Beginning February 26 - April 2, we will collect for Interfaith Works, Gaithersburg HELP, and Seneca Valley High School. Please pick up a bag from the narthex (or use your own), fill with as many donation items as you'd like, and leave all donations in the narthex. [Click here to learn more about the items we need!](#)



Easter Eggs and Easter Flowers

The Easter season wouldn't be complete without the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! This year's Easter Egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday morning, April 9th, beginning at 9:00am. Children are encouraged to bring a basket or bag to collect the eggs. Eggs to be filled can be found in the Narthex later in March.



Information concerning Easter flowers will be available later in March. Watch for it in the Weekly Email and Sunday Bulletin.



Congratulations to Our Church Council Members!



The newly elected Council met for its first meeting on February 21, and elected Jon Conary as President and Lauren Gibson as Vice-President. Jon Conary, President; Lauren Gibson, Vice President. The role of secretary will rotate through the other members of the church council: Laura Dillon, Bill Harrel, Chuck Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, Rainer Sahmel, and Yasya Yanevskyy (youth position).

Daylight Saving Time

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed **Saturday, March 11** for the start of Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 12.



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., March 11.** This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.



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)

The old saying goes, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” Around here, that often hasn’t been the case, as March often arrives feeling like a warm, spring day and ends with an ice storm! Still, March is a transitional month that leads us from winter into the spring. Warmer days are coming. Buds are coming out on the trees. And soon there will be new outdoor opportunities to enjoy.

This year, most of Lent is in March as well. And Lent is also a transitional time. In the ancient church, Lent was a time of preparation for baptism, and the renewal of baptismal vows that would come at the Easter Vigil. And this was because baptism isn’t just a recollection of getting wet once, but of being incorporated into the dying and rising of Christ. And so even today, whether you’re getting ready for baptism or not, Lent is a time of getting ready for the new life Jesus brings in Easter, not only at the end of time, but right now.

And so rather than simply viewing Lent as a time of extra spiritual devotion, we should see it as a time that God is preparing us for the new life of Easter. And as for the first disciples, that new life begins in this world.

And so, as we go through this month, and this season of Lent, we’ll read stories about people of faith who are on various journeys. We’ll read stories about people being healed of disease. We’ll read stories of people who are challenged to think “outside the box” and recognize new ways that God is moving in their lives. These are all some of the ways that Jesus “transitioned” people into new life with him.

So don’t just listen to the stories. Use them as opportunities in your life. Consider how God is using the story to call you to journey beyond an old season into a new time of life and growth. Open yourself to how God might be using the story to help heal you of old pain so that you can live in a new way. And be willing to think “outside the box” in your own life to recognize how God may be

moving and acting to transition you into a new time and season in your life and faith.

Yours in Christ,

March 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

Every Wednesday

6:15 pm Lenten Fellowship
7:15 pm Holden Prayer



COMING UP...

March

- 1 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 8 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 9 Women’s Book Group (pg 7)
- 11 Saturday Worship Service (pg 1)
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Starts (pg 1)
- 12 VBS Committee Meeting
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 15 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 17 - 19 Youth Retreat grades 6-8
- 18 - 19 Youth Retreat grades 3-5
- 19 Service Sunday (pg 4)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 22 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)
- 29 Lenten Wednesday Service (pg 1)

April

- 2 Palm Sunday
- 2 No Sunday School (pg 5)
- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 9 No Sunday School (pg 5)
- 9 Easter Egg Hunt
- 10 Easter Monday
- 11 Church Council Meeting
- 13 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 18 Tax Day

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

February 2023

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the Feb Church Council
meeting.

Finances: Giving was light in January and we
finished the month with more expenses than
income ([Council notes](#)).

Solar panel project: Continuing to work with the
vendor to move this project along.

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.

Council Officers: Jon Conary, President; Lauren
Gibson, Vice President. The role of secretary will
rotate through the other members of the church
council.

VIEWS

We have three new members of church council:
Charles Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, and Yasha
Yanevskyy (Youth member).

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on February 21. 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, Carmen Hooks-Hill,
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

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

Sunday School learners have been busy! See what they have been doing.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday School learners counted and bagged the congregation's generous Souper Bowl donations to Gaithersburg Help. Total donations: 215! The Chiefs received 89 votes via cans of soup and stew, and the Eagles got 126. Once again, we predicted the winner - the Eagles received more votes, so of course, the Chiefs won!



January Service Sunday

Here are the results of our MLK service day. Seven dog toys for three different animal rescue groups!



February Service Sunday

This month resulted in two no-sew blankets as gifts for hospitalized children. This project is sponsored by the Montgomery County Association for Family & Community Education. We also set up a quilt top in oranges and yellows. A big thank you to everyone (nine people - a new record) who participated!



The next Service Sunday is March 19. Come see what we do and join in!

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): **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.

Honduras Mission Trip 2023

We are excited to announce that this summer, Prince of Peace is sending a group of six missionaries to Honduras with non-profit, Haven Universe. This year we have several projects to support and are asking for your help in March:

- Build 10 latrines for a community up in the mountains which will greatly improve their lives and sanitary conditions. \$3,270.00
- Build a duplex house for two families. \$6,190.00
- Painting at CEPI, a special needs school in Copan. \$500

The total for the three projects together is \$9,960.00 and we are requesting prayerful support and contributions, if able. Any questions can be directed to [Ric Kienzle](#). This support will go a long way in helping families in need. Donations can be made to Prince of Peace and marked for "Mission Honduras." We are grateful for your support!

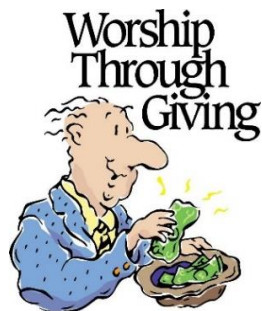
STEWARDSHIP

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

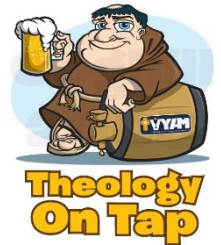
Sunday School

There is no Sunday School on Palm Sunday (April 2) or Easter Sunday (April 9).

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 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 Genesis. When we finish the book of Genesis in the next few weeks, we will do a book study on origins of religion. The book we will use is *Sacred Stories: Wisdom from World Religions*. 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

Gaithersburg HELP is looking for volunteers to take on a variety of tasks. If you have time to share, please consider getting involved.



Treasurer: not a huge number of hours per month since the Assistant Treasurer does the day-to-day stuff, but accounting skills are needed.



Drivers, to take clients to appointments on weekdays. Select one or more times to drive per month, typically in the Gaithersburg/Rockville area. The need is usually for elderly folks to get to medical appointments.

Three jobs that can be done from home one day a month or more if you choose. (1) Transportation schedulers, (2) Food Coordinator and (3) Spanish Speaking Coordinator. All of these involve working on your computer and phone to schedule clients for needed services.



Except for Treasurer, all of these jobs are during normal working hours. If you can help, please either contact [Hope Walker](#) or use the [website](#).

All-Volunteer organizations are always in need of volunteers.

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 also can use donations of cloth (cotton preferred). **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](#).

Social Justice Ministry News

Coming in March

On March 15th, POP members will prepare breakfast for the women at Intefaitth Women's Shelter in Rockville. Come to the mid-week Lenten service early to help with breakfast and then enjoy social time and worship. Look for the sign-up link in the bulletin to donate food items and/or volunteer. For more details, contact [Jane Sahmel](#).

Coming in April

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

POP will hold a coin collection to "purchase Good Gifts" from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal catalog. The Sunday School classes will choose the gifts. Last year, your loose change provided 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. So, start saving your coins now.



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - How we can help the environment!!

The City of Gaithersburg is holding a community shredding and electronics recycling event on **Saturday, May 6th**. Social Justice Committee will collect electronics including CDs and Computer Disks, Towers, Laptops, Circuit Boards, Tablets, and Mobile Phones that you don't want to donate and no longer use or want **on April 30th**. We'll drop them off at the event on May 6th. E-waste will be stored in a secure location before being picked up on Monday, May 8, by e-End, a secure data destruction company. For more information about the Community Shredding event & environmental initiatives contact [Environmental Services](#).

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

On **March 9 at 7:30 pm**, The Women's Book Group will discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Excerpt from GoodReads: "A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history". [Hope Walker](#) will host.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

April 13 *The Engineers Wife*

by Tracy Emerson Wood
host Alice Benson

May 11 *Lessons in Chemistry*

by Bonnie Garmus
host Judy Bruening

June 8 *Pieces of Her*

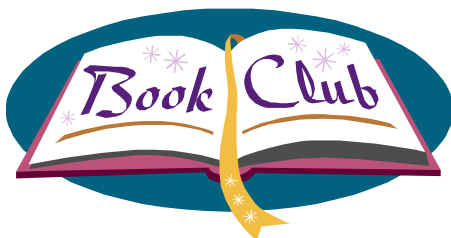
by Karin Slaughter
host Susan Victor

July 13 *The Diamond Eye*

by Kate Quinn
host Nancy Wolejsza

August 10 *The Personal Librarian*

by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray
host Becky Carr



THANK YOU

The Social Justice Committee would like to thank all members of the congregation who came together on such short notice to provide prom dresses for Montgomery County Recreation. This year, low-income students will have their choice of dresses to attend prom. Thanks especially go out to Jennifer Maloney who agreed to do drop off all these beautiful gowns. We're grateful for all the generosity received on behalf of high school students who just want to attend prom in a beautiful dress like anyone else. Thanks to the congregation who have helped provide God's love in a gown.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Lenten season is a great time to practice fasting, and to use that time to focus more on God. Try fasting for one meal per day or fasting from something that vies for your attention (like electronics) for a short period - then use that time to get closer to God in prayer and/or Bible study. *Matthew 6:17-18*

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.



Lion Club's Eyeglass Program

We continue to collect prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, readers, and hearing aids. Please look for box on the Collection Table in the Narthex.

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

THINK ABOUT IT

I was listening to my five-year-old son, Mathew, as he worked on his Speak-and-Spell computer. He was concentrating intensely, typing words for the computer to say back to him.

Mathew punched in the word *God*. To his surprise, the computer said, "Word not found."

He tried again with the same reply. With great disgust, he stared at the computer and told it in no uncertain terms, "Jesus is not going to like this!"

--Mary Farwell

My three-year-old grandson found a quarter in the driveway as the family left for church. When they returned home, he pulled it out of his pocket and handed it to his mother.

"You can have this money, Mommy. I was going to give it to Jesus, but he wasn't there."

--Joyce Parson

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Articles for the April issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **March 19**. 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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