

# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 3

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

April 2023

#### Holy Week Schedule

Join us (and invite friends and family!) for Holy Week and Easter worship! Check out the signup sheet in the narthex to help with worship.

Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 am

Worship (in person and <u>live stream on Facebook</u>)

April 6 at 7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Service (in person and <u>live</u> stream on Facebook)

April 7 at 7:15 pm Good Friday Service (in person and <u>live stream on</u> <u>Facebook</u>)

#### April 8 at 5:00 pm

Easter Vigil (in person only) This is our Second Saturday service; however, it is a different service from Sunday this month.

Holy Week: <a href="https://poplutheran.org/worship-and-music/holy-week-at-prince-of-peace/">https://poplutheran.org/worship-and-music/holy-week-at-prince-of-peace/</a>



Easter Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 am
Worship
(in person and <u>live stream on Facebook</u>)



Easter Sunday at 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Easter: <a href="https://poplutheran.org/worship-and-music/easter/">https://poplutheran.org/worship-and-music/easter/</a>

#### Filled Easter Eggs Needed!

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. If you would like to donate filled eggs for the hunt, please bring eggs filled with goodies on or before 8 am on Easter morning. Thank you for your continued support of the annual Easter egg hunt. If you have questions or need additional information, please email Laura Hurst.







#### **Lenten Sharing Bags**

Remember: Lenten Sharing bags are due back to church by April 2.

#### **Easter Flowers**



If you would like to donate flowers for Easter Sunday, please fill out the form at church or email the office by Sunday, April 2. Lilies are \$12.00. Hyacinths are \$10 (color cannot be guaranteed).



# Help Create God's Global Barnyard!

Through the ELCA GOOD GIFTS program, you can buy a herd of goats (\$300), a share of a cow (\$50), honeybees (\$20), an individual goat (\$50), or piglet (\$30). Pick up a barn box from Social Ministry to collect change to support the program or use a container of your choice. Please contribute to these life-changing projects that our Sunday School learners selected. Follow this link for more information, <a href="https://goodgifts.elca.org/gods-global-barnyard">https://goodgifts.elca.org/gods-global-barnyard</a>. Please bring your change to church by April 30.

See page 6 for more information.



# From Pastor Steve...

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

Like many Pastors, I'm always tempted to view Easter as the "end of Lent"! And that's probably because there are a lot of extra services and activities that Pastors need to attend to during Lent. But over the years, I've found it's not just Pastors. Lots of us appropriately spend extra time and effort on spiritual devotion during Lent. We may have given up something for the season of Lent. And while we may be glad we've done those things, we could use a break now. And Easter is the end!

But in fact, Easter is really just a new beginning. It was like this for the first disciples as well. On Good Friday, they felt that they had reached the end. Jesus had been crucified. They were hiding out in the house, perhaps until it was safe to leave Jerusalem. And they probably figured they'd just have to manage to go back to living like they had before they met Jesus.

But Easter changed all that. It was a new beginning of their relationship with Jesus. And it was a new beginning for how they'd relate to each other and the world around them. They would never just go back to the way things were.

I have a desk calendar a friend gave me years ago, and one of the passages says, "An end shows us the next beginning." This is really true of Easter. What seemed like the end showed the disciples the next new beginning God was giving them. And that message is still true for us.

Easter is not merely the promise that the end of our lives will herald our birth into the next life. Instead, Easter is the promise that God is always giving us new beginnings, even when we feel like we've reached an end. Indeed, Easter is the promise that God always uses our endings to show us the next beginning.

May this Easter season be for you not only the ending of Lent, but the experience of the next new beginning God is giving you!

Yours in Christ,



# **April Highlights**

**Every Sunday** 

9:00 am Sunday School\*

10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our

Facebook Page

\*Except Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

**Every Monday** 

7:00 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

**Every Tuesday** 

10:00 am Quilters

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

# **COMING UP...**

#### April

2 Palm Sunday (pg 1)

2 No Sunday School (pg 6)

6 Maundy Thursday (pg 1)

7 Good Friday (pg 1)

8 Easter Vigil (pg 1)

9 Easter Sunday (pg 1)

9 No Sunday School (pg 6)

9 Easter Egg Hunt (pg 1)

10 Easter Monday

11 Church Council Meeting

13 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

18 Tax Day

23 Confirmation

30 Service Sunday

#### May

5 Cinco de Mayo

5 Special Congregational Meeting (pg 2)

9 Church Council Meeting

11 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

13 Saturday Worship Service

14 Mother's Day

29 Memorial Day

For a current calendar, see:

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

# **SAVE THE DATE**



Special Congregational Meeting May 5, 2023, 7:00 pm Before Cinco de Mayo celebration Here is the Zoom link for those who cannot attend.

# Council therefore proposes to change by-law B10.01.01

From: "The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held the last Sunday in January each year."

To: "The annual meeting shall be held between the third Sunday of January and the second Sunday of February. The council will decide the exact date no later than December 1."



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 March 2023

News and Views from the PoP Church Council NEWS

Here are the updates from the Feb Church Council meeting.

Finances: Giving was a bit better in February and we finished the month with a small positive balance. (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.

Yard Sale: A Yard Sale Survey is coming soon. Hopefully, this will guide a decision about Yard Sale and which departments to include.

Volunteers Wanted: There are a number of Volunteer Opportunities posted on the door leading to the parking lot.

#### **VIEWS**

We continue to be a generous congregation.

Thank you again for your continued support with both time and talents.
Respectfully,
Jon Conary

**Council met on March 14.** 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-Militzer, John Militzer, 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 Kurt Christopher (husband of Ethelyn Christopher)

Family of Miriam Marin de Diaz (mother of Mariela Diaz Butler)

Family of Joan Tripp (mother-in-law of Megan Bruening)

#### **Thanksgiving**

Birth of Finley William Mertens (son of Kelly (Brower) and Chris Mertens)

#### 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.

# **HAVEN UNIVERSE**

# 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 season. 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 4:00-7:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): 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:

- 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

Worship

Through

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!

# GET INVOLVED WITH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

There are many opportunities and different ways to volunteer in the ministries at PoP. A few of those opportunities are listed and described below:

#### **Sunday School**

The Sunday School leaders are excited to be back!



New this year: once-a-month Service Projects during Sunday School (Our next project: quilt making!). Snacks.

The Same: loads of Love, Mercy, and Grace. We are looking for students from Preschool to 12th grade. We are also looking for a Middle School assistant or co-leader and a shepherd (a second adult in the room) for Preschool or Elementary classes. You can contact Janet Levine for more information and/or to sign up.

#### **SPLASH Volunteer!**



Looking for a volunteer opportunity that can be done from home, takes about an hour a month and benefits the

youngest members of our church?

Coordinating our SPLASH mailings could be the perfect fit! These monthly newsletters from Augsburg Fortress support caregivers of children birth to 36 months by helping them incorporate faith formation into the events of daily life.

Once a month it would be your job to:

- Check with the office for an update on new families and new babies to add to the mailing list
- If there are any newbies, order new supplies and send a welcome letter
- Finally, send out the pre-printed newsletter to everyone on the list

Contact Jamie Pflasterer for more information.

#### **Fellowship Committee**

If you love having friends over or giving parties, then the Fellowship Committee is for you! If interested, contact Pamela Cook!



#### **Photographer**



Looking for a designated photographer: someone who can take pictures to update and/or add to the church directory and our picture wall.

Also looking for a list of people willing to take pictures at church events.

Contact <u>Pastor Steve</u> or <u>Jon Conary</u> for more information.

#### **PoP Quilters**



Join us on Tuesdays, 10am -Noon and once a month on Service Sundays! (Watch the PoP weekly email for the date.) If interested, contact <u>Lisa</u> <u>Conary!</u>

#### **Vice Treasurer**



Actually, that is the Treasurer's job!

We need a Vice Treasurer to eventually take over the job of our Treasurer who wishes to retire after training his replacement.

If interested, please contact <u>Terry Forish</u> for more information.

#### **Counters**



We COUNT because you COUNT!!!

OFFERING COUNTERS COUNTERS.

Count the offering and prepare the bank deposit with a fun and friendly group of COUNTERS.

Goal: To have accurate bank deposits

Time Commitment: No more than an hour after church on your rotation.

If interested, contact <u>Helen Griffith</u> for more information.

#### **Altar Guild**



WANTED: An Altar Guild member for 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (i.e., when a month has 5 Sundays - that 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday would be your turn.)

#### TRAINING PROVIDED!!

TIME COMMITMENT: About 30 minutes to set up before a church service, Communion Assistant during communion, and about 15 minutes to clean up after church (4 times a year). If interested, contact Pamela Cook!

"...if you want a Holy Spirit moment, volunteer for Altar Guild. Coming into the chapel - with quietness - and preparing the Altar with the sacraments - you feel the Holy Spirit's presence. It's not a chore - it's a blessing." (Janis Dixon, Morristown, TN)

#### Window Washers



Needed - magical individuals to make our windows transparent again!!

Goal: Sparkling windows

Time commitment: Up to you

If interested, contact <u>Jon Conary</u> for more information.

#### **Weed Warriors**



First - are they really weeds? Or just grass and other miscellaneous plants that have volunteered to grow where we do not really want them to be.

Like on our little parking lot islands or under our bushes or between the bricks or in any little crevice they can find!

Needed - individuals to round them up and help them move out.

Goal: Make the landscape more attractive

Time commitment: Up to you

If interested please contact <u>Lisa Conary</u> for more information.

#### **Memorial Garden Gardeners**



We need a small crew of gardeners or gardeners in training to take over the maintenance of the Memorial Garden. At least one individual must be able to:

- 1) Nurture plants and
- 2) Tell the difference between

the plants we like and the plants we do not really want (WEEDS).

Contact: Jon Conary

# YOUTH MINISTRY

# **Sunday School**

Sunday School will not meet on April 2 and April 9.

#### **ELCA Good Gifts**

Please support the ELCA GOOD GIFTS change collection throughout April. Our Sunday School learners selected the projects the congregation's donations will fund and decorated barn boxes to brighten your home as you collect your change. The Sunday School leaders are always heartened by our learners' empathy when working on charitable and service projects. The Elementary learners had \$300 to decide upon and chose a herd of goats. The Middle School learners had \$150 to decide upon and chose a variety of animals. So, our goal is to donate at least \$450!

Read on to learn about the power of these projects, as described in the ELCA Good Gifts catalog.

Herd of goats (\$300)



Limited space to graze? Dry land? This is the goat's time to shine. Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain and

unreliable climates. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. What's more, goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, and they provide an opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others.

#### Share of a cow (\$50)



One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day. We know that milk "does a body good,"providing a calcium-packed source of nutrition for growing

children. A family can start a small business selling extra milk, cheese, yogurt, butter and more. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all.

#### Honeybees (\$20)



These busy bees didn't get their reputation as hard workers for nothing! Support farmers and healthy honeybee colonies with this buzz-worthy gift. Honeybees

provide honey to eat and beeswax to transform into handcrafted soaps and candles, allowing a farmer to start a small business selling their products. And as an added bonus, these little bees boost crop growth on the farm by pollinating plants everywhere they go.

#### Goat (\$50)



Goats can go where other animals can't. Goat's milk provides nutrition for families, and offspring rapidly transform a community.

#### Piglet (\$30)



This little piggy couldn't be a bigger lifesaver. This gift is a source of natural fertilizer, helping a family's crops grow tall and strong. If needed, taking a pig to the marketplace is like cashing out a savings

account. The funds can be used to pay school fees for children or cover an emergency.

### **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 in person and on Zoom. We are currently discussing Sacred Stories: Wisdom from World

Religions by Marilyn McFarlane, a study on origins of religion. 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 7:00 to 8:30 pm 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**

Thanks for all of the great ongoing generous food donations. Also, Gaithersburg HELP is looking for volunteers to take on a variety of tasks. If you have time to share, please consider getting involved.



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.



These jobs are done during normal working hours. If you can help, please either contact Hope Walker (hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP. org) or use the website, Gaithersburghelp.org/give-help to get more information and to fill out a volunteer application.

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 <u>Lisa Conary</u> 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**

**POP CARES:** In 2022, POP donated **2,258 pounds** of food to Gaithersburg HELP. We are off to a good start for 2023. **317 pounds** of soup and other food were donated to Gaithersburg HELP as a result of Souper Bowl Sunday. Thanks to all who supported these efforts.

#### Announcements from Mar-Lu-Ridge:

April 1: Work Day All are welcome to participate as we get the grounds and facilities ready for our busiest season. Projects and chores for all ages and abilities. Breakfast 8 a.m. and lunch at noon in Agape Hall. Please RSVP: <a href="mailto:mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org">mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org</a> April 9: Easter Sonrise worship Salem on the Mountain Chapel 6 a.m. Breakfast follows the service.

**April 16:** CAMP DAY! 1-4 p.m. This free community event is for anyone who wishes to visit MLR, for the first or hundredth time! We'll have activities, crafts, food and information available.

The Social Justice Committee will be collecting used electronics for recycling on April 23 and April 30. Products include CDs, computer disks, towers, laptops, circuit boards, tablets, mobile phones, toner and cartridges. POP wants to contribute to E Waste for Gaithersburg and will deliver electronics for disposal on May 6. For more information check out Environmental Services for Gaithersburg, Environmental Services | Gaithersburg, MD (gaithersburgmd.gov).

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless is holding a Garden Gala to help support programs that have provided facilities for hundreds to improve and restart their lives. Held at Glenview Mansion in Rockville on May 10, 2023, there will be delicious food, live music, an auction, and other activities. Purchase tickets here, Gala Registration - Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (mcch.net), or donate to help, Donate Now - Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (mcch.net).

Lutheran World Relief reminds us to remember the displaced in Turkey's devastating earthquake. Some of the impacted families were Syrian war refugees who are still living without tents and shelter. Many of those left behind lost some if not all of their family to the earthquake. Can you give now and help those still struggling after the devastation? Donate to Send aid across the globe (lwr.org)

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

# **Sunday Service Snacks**

We are bringing back Snacks after Sunday Service. If you are interested in helping there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you for all your help. If you have any questions, you can contact Pamela Cook at 301-806-8016 (call or text).

#### **Women's Book Group**

The Women's Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 13, 7:30 pm at the home of Alice Benson. The book for April is *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracy Emerson Wood.

Excerpt from GoodReads: She built a monument for all time. Then she was lost in its shadow. Discover the fascinating woman who helped design and construct the Brooklyn Bridge.

RSVP (whether attending in person or via Zoom) to bensonfitch@icloud.com by April 10.

#### **Future Book Selections and Hosts**

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

September 14 The Kitchen Front

by Jennifer Ryan

October 12 The Four Winds

by Kristin Hannah

November 9 *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki

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



#### 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 <a href="ELCA Disaster">ELCA Disaster</a> Response webpage (<a href="https://elca.org/disaster">https://elca.org/disaster</a>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

#### THINK ABOUT IT

**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*)

**Food for Thought:** Is there someone close to you who's suffering? Pray for them. (1 Timothy 2:1)

Jesus' resurrection makes it impossible for man's story to end in chaos - it has to move inexorably towards light, towards life, towards love.

-- Carolo Carretto

Rumor travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth.

--Will Rogers

It's easiest to see the cross on Jesus' shoulders. It's a bit harder to see it with our neighbor's cross. Most difficult of all is seeing out own cross.

--Mieczyslaw Malinski

I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no more hurt, but only more love.

--Mother Teresa

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Articles for the May issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **April 16**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at <u>GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com</u>. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

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