



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 4

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

May 2023

Special Congregational Meeting

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."

Cinco de Mayo!

Come enjoy fun and fellowship at the PoP "Cinco de Mayo" party on Friday, May 5 at 7:00pm! This will be the kick-off of what we hope will be many great events held on our new patio! A special (and short) Congregational meeting will be held right at 7:00pm to vote on one by-law relating to a more flexible annual meeting date. Then we will celebrate the start of summer with delicious Mexican food, margaritas, and some much-needed fellowship. We hope you can join us for this time of refreshment and fun!



Prince of Peace is in full bloom with fresh flower arrangements on Sundays!!



Please help us by ordering an arrangement. The cost will be \$40.00. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Cook at 301-806-8016 (call or text).

Sunday School Ends May 21

Our last Sunday School class for this school year is May 21. Thanks to all our learners for their enthusiastic participation, thoughtful discussion, and kind interactions.

YARD SALE is happening June 3 from 8:00 am -1:00 pm.

What we need:

Yard Sale donations and volunteers to sort and price the week of May 28.



The church will be open for donations, pricing and sorting:

- From 11 am until 8 pm on Sunday, May 28,
- From 9 am until 8 pm on Monday, May 29,
- From 4 pm until 8 pm on Tuesday through Thursday, May 30 - June 1,
- On Friday evening, from 4 pm until 8 pm, pricing and sorting only.

Sign up to help in the narthex on the poster on the glass parking lot wall. An on-line Sign Up Genius coming soon.

For tweens and teens:

Service Opportunity: SSL hours available for the teens and tweens that help with Yard Sale!!

COMING THIS SUMMER

Adult Bible Study

and

VBS for Prince of Peace Families

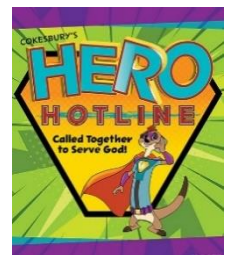
Sunday, July 16th through Thursday, July 20th
6:00pm until 8:00pm

Dinner will begin at 6:00 for anyone interested (main dish provided).

At 6:30 adults will join Pr. Steve for Bible Study and the children will begin VBS activities.

All adults are welcome.

Please let [Judy Bruening](#) know if you are interested or have any questions.





From Pastor Steve...

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

When I first started to ski, I chose the trails I'd ski on based on how easy or hard they were. I still do that sometimes. But later, as I got better and could ski on many more trails, I started to realize there were many other factors I needed to consider when picking a trail. One of those is the wind. Often, especially when I ski at altitude in Colorado, the wind can be quite strong, and it sometimes changes direction as the day goes on. And when the wind gets strong enough, I've literally been able to point my skis downhill on a pretty steep slope and stay nearly stationary! It's not a lot of fun. And so, at that point, I find a trail where the wind is pretty much at my back.

Skiing with the wind at your back is a lot more fun! But also, I discovered that because of the blowing of the wind, I've often tried out trails that I might never have gone down. I've developed new favorites because some of those trails turned out to be really great, even when the wind isn't blowing. And I've increased my repertoire of trail possibilities because of the blowing of the wind.

Ski season is now over for the year, but this month we enter a new season of the church year with the celebration of Pentecost. And Pentecost is a story about the wind of the Spirit blowing through the lives of the disciples. It was such a strong wind that it blew them out of the house where they were hiding. It inspired them to talk to new people, and in languages they themselves hadn't learned. And it pushed them to try new trails in following the Risen Jesus into the future.

The season of Pentecost calls us also to be alert to how the wind of the Spirit is pushing us into new trails on our journey of following Jesus. And so, as the late spring and summer begin at Prince of Peace, we'll try some new trails we haven't been on before, like our Cinco de Mayo Party and our hosting of the Juneteenth Celebration for our neighbors next door and other congregations on Route 28. And we'll also be trying new trails to do things differently than we've done them before, such as trying a new format for VBS, which will be

held in the evening this year and include a class I'll be leading for adults.

Like with skiing, we're never sure what some of these trails might look and feel like. And you never know what trails might turn out to be favorites or show you other trail possibilities. But we can be certain that the wind of the Spirit is always blowing in our lives. It's often changing directions and calling us to try some new trails. And like those first disciples on the Day of Pentecost, we can be certain that God will do new things with us, as we follow the wind of God's Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

May Highlights

Every Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School (pp 1, 4-5)
10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page

Every Monday

7:00 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal (pg 5)

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters (pg 6)
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 5)

COMING UP...

May

5 Special Congregational Meeting (pg 1)
5 Cinco de Mayo (pg 1)
9 Church Council Meeting
11 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
13 Saturday Worship Service (pg 3)
14 Mother's Day
29 Memorial Day

June

3 YARD SALE
8 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
10 Saturday Worship Service
13 Church Council Meeting
14 Flag Day
18 Father's Day
19 Juneteenth
19 Juneteenth Event (pg 6)

July

4 Independence Day
16 - 20 VBS (pg 1)

For a current calendar, see:

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

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., May 13. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

Council met on April 11. 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, 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, Susan Weiner, Laura Wilson, Nancy Wolejsza, John Zobel

Sympathy

Family of Diane Solomon (aunt of Tracy Solomon)
Family of Pat Ciardi (friend of Tracy Solomon)

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Lexi Joanna Browning (daughter of Sarah (Kuykendall) & Frank Browning)
Baptism of Fiona Marie Haran
(daughter of Jay Haran & Lauren Melito)

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.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

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 [Pastor Steve](#) or [Jon Conary](#) 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 [Lisa Conary](#) 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](#)

Window Washers



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

Goal: Sparkling windows

Time commitment: Up to you

If interested, contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

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 4:00-7:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): **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 Prince of Peace will be sending six missionaries in June to Honduras with non-profit, Haven Universe: Chet & Nancy Wolejsza, Crawford & Helen Griffith, and Ric & Sydney Kienzle. We are asking the congregation for prayers for a safe and successful mission trip as they help fulfill various local needs through construction projects, medical brigades, food deliveries, and simply being God’s hands and feet in these communities.

Any questions about the mission trip or how to support these projects can be directed to [Ric Kienzle](#). We thank you for your prayers and support!



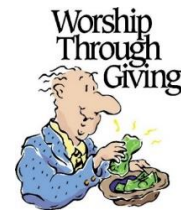
STEWARDSHIP

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

PreK/K - Try It!

Young children sometimes try Sunday School during the last few weeks of the program year.

Remember that a family member is always welcome to accompany a learner. If you would like for your child to attend these last few weeks, contact [Janet Levine](#).

Preschool and Elementary Sunday School Classes

Join us for Discovery on Adventure Island, an engaging curriculum based on Isaiah 60:1 - “Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord’s glory has shone upon you.” God’s glory shines upon us, and we are also called to shine. Through Bible stories, crafts, science experiments, and games, our Explorers learn to shine! Each week is stand-alone - come when you can!

For our first PreK/K lesson from Adventure Island, we learned how Moses had been called by God to shine, through the story of the burning bush. We took off our shoes, just like Moses did when he was on sacred ground. After listening to the story, just as Moses listened to God,



we made our own “fire” in a Ziploc bag using shaving cream and food coloring, and then we made a burning bush craft. Finishing off with a snack of Sun Chips and an interactive prayer, we learned



how God shines his light on us as well and calls on us to shine to others!

The Elementary class’s first lesson was the Creation Story. In Genesis, we read that the first thing God created was light and that God declared everything (and everyone) made to be good. Our theme for the day was “Arise! Shine with Love!” We considered a couple of questions:

- What if we tried to look at the world through the light of God’s love, the way God sees it?
- What if we challenged ourselves to find the good in people, even when they are difficult?

We drew a favorite part of creation and, also, one we didn’t care for but believed God had a purpose for. Next, we wrote messages with a yellow fluorescent marker



on yellow paper, such as “Shine with love.” The messages were not very visible until we shone a blacklight on the papers. This reminds us that even though we don’t always remember, the light of God’s love is always shining on us,

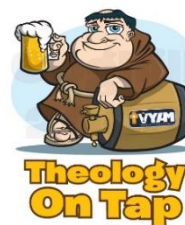


enabling us to shine with love. Finally, we used 21 Legos to represent the Creation Story, which was quite understandable once explained!

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 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. We’ll finish the current book on **May 9**. We’ll start studying Exodus on **May 16**. We’ll meet at Pastor Wendy’s house for a picnic on **May 30**.

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

Think Diapers! There is always a somewhat overwhelming demand for diapers size 5 and 6. And food as always...and volunteering as always. So many possibilities!! Thanks for your ongoing support.



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 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

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 \(mcch.net\)](#).

Though we may not see it on the news anymore, conditions on the ground after the earthquake in Turkey remain grave. In Antakya (Antioch from the Bible) at least 80% of buildings left standing must be razed to the ground. Even seven weeks after the earthquake almost two million people remain homeless. Lutheran World Relief continues to provide meaningful services and goods. You can help Turkish victims of this natural disaster by donating directly to LWR, https://give.lwr.org/page/124646/donate/1ea_tring_id=lwrwebsite

Juneteenth Celebration

Did you know that not all slaves were freed in April 1865 with the cessation of the Civil War? Territories out west had yet to be pacified by the Army. So, when on June 19, 1865, the Army formally declared all slaves freed in Galveston, Texas, the African-American community has celebrated the date ever since. Made a federal holiday by President Biden in 2021, Juneteenth, as it has come to be known, has historically been a day of food and fellowship for communities longing for freedom and equal rights under the law.

Join POP for an all-ages interfaith Juneteenth celebration on Monday, June 19 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, along with Fairhaven Methodist and Shaare Torah Synagogue. Also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. The event will include music, education, and fellowship - light refreshments will served. Come and meet members of our neighboring faith communities, and also learn more about the Pleasant View historical site next door.

Gaithersburg Meals On Wheels, Inc.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED: Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has a continuing need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with eight to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call 301-216-4200, or Lisa Koenig at 301-869-0190 or lisamkoenig1@gmail.com.

Though we may not see it on the news anymore, conditions on the ground after the earthquake in Turkey remain grave. In Antakya (Antioch from the Bible) at least 80% of buildings left standing must be razed to the ground. Even seven weeks after the earthquake almost two million people remain homeless. Lutheran World Relief continues to provide meaningful services and goods. You can help Turkish victims of this natural disaster by donating directly to [LWR](#).

FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Service Snacks

Snacks after Sunday Service are back! 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 has selected *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus for May 11 at 7:30 pm. Judy Bruening will be hosting. Please RSVP to [Judy](#) no later than Monday, May 8.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

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

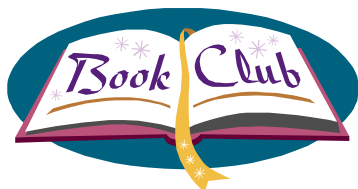
October 12 *The Four Winds*

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.



RECENT EVENTS

POP CARES: Thanks to everyone who responded to the Lenten appeals. POP donated 502 books to programs for kids with special needs at Seneca Valley High School, 105.1 pounds of food to Gaithersburg HELP, and countless garbage bags, paper towels and more to Interfaith Works. Your generosity makes a difference.



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

Food for Thought:

To tithe or not to tithe.....God is challenging you to trust Him.

Malachi 3:10

Seen on a church sign: If evolution is true, how come mothers still have only two hands?

- Donna Waldeyer

What is most rewarding is doing something that really matters with congenial colleagues who share with us the firm conviction that it needs to be done.

- Elton Trueblood

I always prefer to believe the best of everybody - it saves so much trouble.

- Rudyard Kipling

The church is the glue that keeps us together when we disagree. It is the gasoline that keeps us going during the tough times. It is the guts that enables us to take risks when we need to.

- Mary Nelson

None of us is as smart as all of us.

- Unknown

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210
Email: office@poplutheran.org
Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler
Council President Jon Conary
Glad Tidings Editor Martha Rogers
Production Martha Rogers
Photography TBD

Articles for the June issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **May 14**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

© 2023 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church