



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2023



## All Saints' Sunday

On All Saints' Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate one of the oldest festivals of the Church. During worship there will be a time to remember family and friends who have gone before us.



## Parents: Bible Presentation

If your child is between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has not yet been presented a Bible, please get in touch with [Janet Levine](#) soon so we have an inscribed Bible ready. Bibles will be presented during the worship service on November 12.



## Sunday School to Help with Thanksgiving Holiday Giving Program

### Program

Following the worship service and during the Sunday School hour on November 19, the Middle School and High School classes will help pack the holiday meals. The PreK and Elementary classes will make Thanksgiving cards and decorations for the families receiving Thanksgiving dinners. After the meal is eaten, the families will still have these reminders of our care.



## No Sunday School Thanksgiving Weekend

We won't have Sunday School on November 26. Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!



## Christmas Pageant



Interested in being a part of the 2023 Christmas Pageant this year? We need actors, coaches, costume person, set manager, photographer, prop manager, song leader, instrumentalist for Away in the Manger, etc. If you are interested, we can find a job for you!

### Dates and Times:

- Sunday, November 5, Noon (pizza) - 2:00 pm, Read through and casting
- Sunday, November 19, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Rehearsal and costuming
- Sunday, December 3, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Rehearsal in costume with pictures
- Saturday, December 9, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Dress Rehearsal
- Sunday, December 10, 3:30 pm, The Christmas Pageant

For more info and/or to sign up, contact Jon or Lisa Conary at 301-461-2697, e-mail [lconary@prodigy.net](mailto:lconary@prodigy.net) or sign up in the narthex.



## From Pastor Steve...

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

Most of us look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving. It's a great opportunity to gather with family and friends; it's a great excuse to feast on great food; and it's a wonderful time to relax, watch games and parades, and remember all that we should rightly be thankful for.

But it's also a time of sharing. After all, the first Thanksgiving story was about Native peoples and early English settlers sharing a meal together. This was important for many reasons. First, of course, without Native peoples sharing of food and the knowledge of how to adapt farming in an unfamiliar place, many of the Pilgrims might have starved. But coming together to share a meal was more than simply utilitarian. Sharing a meal strengthened connections between peoples. It built friendships. And it helped people who were different to understand one another.

At Prince of Peace, we focus a lot of energy on sharing with our neighbors, and rightly so. And during this Thanksgiving season, we'll again be "adopting" six families to whom we'll provide Thanksgiving dinner. Like last year, many of these are large and extended families identified by the City of Gaithersburg as particularly in need. Last year, we had a great response to providing the meals, and I'm sure we will this year as well.

But last year, we not only provided a meal. People from PoP also met the folks we were serving. We learned more about the issues they were facing. And we showed them that there were people in the community who cared. And those are all important parts of sharing. Sharing is really about building connections, not just meeting physical needs.

After all, God doesn't just provide for our physical needs. Instead, God enters into relationship with us each day and connects us to his love and strength. And when we share, we become people who connect that love and strength to others. And that's important to remember, whether we're sharing at Thanksgiving or any other time of year.

Yours in Christ,

## November Highlights

### Every Sunday

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

11:00 am Sunday School

### Every Monday

6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal (pg 6)

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters (pg 6)

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 6)

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

## COMING UP...

### November

5 Daylight Saving Time Ends (pg 1)

5 All Saints' Sunday (pg 1)

5 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (pg 1)

7 Election Day

7 Church Council Meeting

9 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

11 Veteran's Day

11 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)

12 Bible Presentation Sunday (pg 1)

17 - 19 Middle School Retreat

19 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (pg 1)

23 Thanksgiving Day

26 No Sunday School (pg 1)

### December

3 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (pg 1)

6 Holden Evening Prayer

7 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

9 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (pg 1)

10 Christmas Pageant (pg 1)

12 Church Council Meeting

13 Holden Evening Prayer

14 PoP Ladies Christmas Event

20 Holden Evening Prayer

24 Christmas Eve

24 No Sunday School

25 Christmas Day

31 New Year's Eve

31 No Sunday School

For a current calendar, see:

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

October 2023

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

### NEWS

Here are the updates from the October Church Council meeting.

**Finances:** Giving continues to be okay; although, we are still a bit behind expenses. ([Council notes](#)).

**Solar panel project:** Permitting on going.

**Feast Fund:** Meetings and discussions are in progress for a bathroom refresh.

**Fall Festival:** The first ever Fall Festival was successful despite the wet weather. We had a number of vendors with beautiful, handcrafted items and the children that came had a wonderful time with the games and balloon animals. Thanks to Pamela Cook, the Fall Festival Committee, and the many hands that helped to set the sanctuary up for Sunday church.

### VIEWS

There are a lot of activities in the works for the remainder of the year. Confirmation is Sunday, Oct.29. We will have Holden Evening prayer during Advent and a Christmas Pageant on December 10 coupled with hot cocoa and a Christmas carol sing-a-long.

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

Respectfully,  
Jon Conary



**Council met on October 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, Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer William Bolek, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Sydney Kienzle, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Kathy Mellott, John Miltzer, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Cynthia Watter, Laura Wilson, John Zobel

### Sympathy

Family of Gerhard Eifel (father of Trish Taylor)  
Family of Pauline Shumaker (mother of Lisa Canary)  
Family of Steve Sullivan

### Thanksgiving

**Confirmation Class:** Kate Bardill, Jason Cobb, Avery Hillman, Kieran McKnight, Nyla Mensah, Brody Meyer, Claire Spivak, Grady Webb, and Noah Wooldridge

### 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 from the bulletin board in the narthex and in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.



## 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 welcome on the following dates from 4:00-7:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): **November 18, December 16.** 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 2024!** We are gearing up to coordinate a team of missionaries for the 2024 mission trip to Honduras! The dates of the trip will be June 6-16, 2024. Thanks to those who were able to join the discussion and ask questions about the summer 2023 trip. If you were unable to attend the discussion and/or would like more information regarding the 2024 trip, an interest meeting will be held at the Haven Universe “headquarters” on **Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8:00am** in Potomac. Information will be distributed at the meeting on the general scope of next year’s trip/logistics, and there will be an opportunity to ask more questions of the trip coordinators. If you are interested in attending this mission trip interest meeting, please contact [Ric Kienzle](#) for more information, including the address for the meeting.

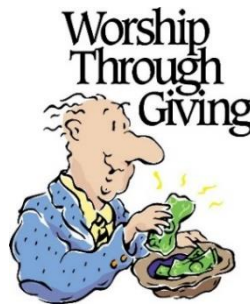
[Fairhaven Methodist Church](#), one of the Juneteenth congregations, invites Prince of Peace members to their Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service on Monday, January 15 (a federal and school holiday) at 10:30am. The featured speaker worked directly with Dr. King and was the woman who typed up the [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#). Fairhaven UMC is located at 12801 Darnestown Rd.

## SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Tuesday evening, February 27 from 6:30-7:30pm in the sanctuary, for an evening with the Anti-Defamation League. Social Justice Ministry and Fairhaven Methodist will be hosting a speaker from the [Anti-Defamation League](#), which is a recognized leader in fighting all forms of antisemitism and bias, and combating extremism. Hate incidents have been on the rise in our [schools](#) and our [community](#). Please join us and learn how to identify and address harmful tropes and stereotypes, and also how to advocate and be an ally for our Jewish neighbors at work, school, and within our churches. The event will be appropriate for pre-teens, teens, and adults.

## STEWARDSHIP

Church Giving envelopes for 2023 are still



available to all who would like them. Boxes are available in the church office if you want to pick them up. Simply write the Box # on the paper with your Name so we can add you to the Donations spreadsheet. We are also interested to know which of you would like to continue

getting Giving Envelopes for next year. **Please contact [Helen Griffith](#) if you are interested in Envelopes for 2024.** Email or call 301-518-4320 with questions regarding pickup.

## Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage](#) ([poplutheran.org](http://poplutheran.org)) and click the green Donate Online button. Giving online can help all of us easily provide consistent support for the church. Signup today! Online giving is a win for the church and for the congregation. Please contact Chris Michel ([michel\\_christian@yahoo.com](mailto:michel_christian@yahoo.com)) or Kwame Mensah ([mensahkn@gmail.com](mailto:mensahkn@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Electronic Giving

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





# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Sunday School

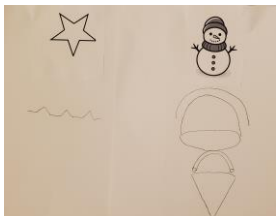
### PreK and Elementary Classes

Our Opening this year begins with a devotion and breakfast. We've had a variety of yummy foods, such as yogurt with a choice of toppings, a peanut butter sandwich taste test (winners: Peter Pan and Jif), cornbread muffins with chocolate milk, and star fruit with cheese.

In our classrooms, we use Group's Simply Loved curriculum. Our first Bible point was that God always loves us, as illustrated by four Bible stories. In the PreK class, Lisa Conary made pipe cleaner people with the learners for the story of God's creation of people.



Currently, our Bible stories show us that we can trust God. In the story of God calling Abram, the Elementary class talked about the difficulty of keeping trust when we don't understand the big picture. We had a big picture challenge, where a "director" described to an "artist" how to draw a shape without saying what it was. The pictures did not look very much like what was described!



Although Abram didn't understand how God's promises would be fulfilled, he followed him. We can trust God even when we don't understand!



### High School

The High School Sunday school class is watching and discussing films that present opportunities to discuss faith and life challenges. The next film will be "The Overcomer," which looks at using faith to overcome adversity.

# ADULT EDUCATION

## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School welcomes guest speaker Joshua Long on Sunday, 11/5 at 11am. After services on Sunday 11/5, [Joshua Long](#) from [Interfaith Power and Light](#) will join the Adult Education hour to talk about IPL's creation care efforts on the local and national level, and discuss how individuals can effectively advocate for issues they are passionate about. Joshua will also be demonstrating an induction cooktop (which can be used in place of gas appliances) and will have a yummy treat to share! Please come join us for this fun and educational talk.

### Adult Education Hour - Bible Study and Speakers - Sundays at 11am

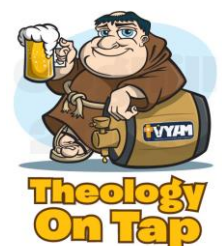
Adult education is now available regularly in the sanctuary on Sundays at 11am after services! We will primarily focus on the [SparkHouse - Animate:Bible](#) Adult Bible Study series, but are also planning to bring in outside speakers and have additional activities once a month. We still need facilitators for some study sessions, so please sign up to lead at <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2023>. Each session will kick off with a video introduction, includes journal pages for attendees to reference, and provides easy-to-use discussion prompts for the facilitator. Since each module is independent, it's possible to drop into the Bible study and participate any week that you are able. A Google group has been set up for those interested in participating and receiving more in-depth information. To join the group, just send an email [here](#).

### Adult Sunday School crafting hour

Please join visual artist (and PoP member) [Carmen Hooks-Hill](#) during the adult Sunday School hour at 11 am on Sunday, November 12 for a fun, interactive craft. Each participant will make a Scripture-themed decorative tag! No prior art or crafting experience necessary. After this class, you'll bring home a beautiful reminder of God's enduring love.

### 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 the Fellowship Hall. We are currently discussing *Exodus*. 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



This month's writeup is a bit more serious than usual. Unless Gaithersburg HELP is able to recoup most of the 2023 Year-to-date deficit of \$108,000 by year end, 2024

will require very major cuts in services to clients - cuts that are not pleasant to contemplate. Donations during early Covid were overwhelmingly generous, enabling services to the hugely increasing client base. Need still continues to increase, about 33% higher than in 2022, while donations and financial reserves have dropped to alarming levels. If you normally make year-end charitable donations, please consider Gaithersburg HELP as part of your giving plan to help the large local population in need.

Diapers sizes 4 & 5 and formula are in greatly increased demand coupled with high cost. All of the usual non-perishable foods of course are still needed. For questions or to volunteer, please contact your POP Delegate, [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

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works around the globe, promoting sustainable development and meeting critical needs in time of disaster and strife. **One way**

**that we can help is to assemble PERSONAL CARE**

**KITS** for individuals, who are coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more.

Each kit contains a bath towel (52" x 27" to 20" x 40"), a sturdy comb, metal nail clippers, an adult-size toothbrush (in packaging), and 2 or 3 bars of soap (8-9 oz. in the original packaging). We hope to create 25 kits. Please sign up for items on [signupgenius](#) and check out this [link](#) for more details. **All items are due by November 5th.** For more information, contact [Jennifer Maloney](#).



Mats, Merlot, and More is coming Saturday November 11th from 6-8 pm!! We have several service projects - personal care kits, mats for the homeless, and more - to complete. Join the Social Ministry team for fellowship and service. Questions- contact [Jennifer Maloney](#).

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The Village at Rockville wants to thank volunteer partners like PoP. They're offering a Gratitude Brunch on November 18 at 11 a.m. A speaker on keeping good health as we age will be featured. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP by November 3 to (240) 686-6002 or to [Mission@nationallutheran.org](mailto:Mission@nationallutheran.org). Brunch will be served at Glenmere Enrichment Center, 9803 Veirs Dr, Rockville. Any questions, ask [Susan](#).

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Please drop off your new and gently used coats to be donated to Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. A drop off box is in the Narthex. Any questions please reach out to [Christian Michel](#) or [Bill Harral](#). Collections will continue through November 21.



PoP is getting an early start collecting Christmas gifts this year for those who are alone and without presents during the holiday at the Village at Rockville Retirement Facility in the Skilled Nursing Unit. Needs are especially for socks and throw blankets, and for Crossword and Word Search Puzzles, colored pencils and adult coloring books, lotions and Chapsticks, and wrapped candies. There will be a box for gifts in the Narthex in the first week of November. Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me. Thank you for always participating so generously. Donations are due Saturday, December 9. [Here](#) is the sign-up list. Any questions ask [Susan](#).

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Bring in your candy wrappers for recycling! Social Justice Ministry is participating in the "Trash or Treasure" program to recycle candy wrappers from October through January, or until the recycling box in the narthex is full! Please bring your plastic, aluminum, and paper wrappers in for recycling. (Putting any other waste in the box can introduce contamination into the recycling process.) The plastic from the candy wrappers will be used to create doggy bags for animal shelters, and any paper or aluminum wrappers are recycled using traditional methods. Thank you for supporting this recycling effort!



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### Holiday Giving Program



The Social Justice Ministry Committee is excited to announce that our Congregation will once again be a part of the City of Gaithersburg's Thanksgiving Holiday Giving Program. Last year we sponsored six families providing them with a complete Thanksgiving dinner, grocery gift cards and cards from our Sunday School classes.

Because this is a massive Countywide undertaking, the City will not be able to provide us with specifics on our families or how many families we will have until after November 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be opportunities for every member of the Congregation to participate. We will be asking for specific food donations and monetary contributions towards purchasing of turkeys and gift cards. Also needed are points of contact between the families and Prince of Peace, volunteers to pick up turkeys, volunteers to assemble the food for delivery and to deliver the food the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.

There will be opportunities for every member of the Congregation to participate. Please watch the Bulletin and weekly emails for links on how you can be a part of this very special activity.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Cherie DeGeorge at 301-520-3504 or [cdegeorge@aol.com](mailto:cdegeorge@aol.com).



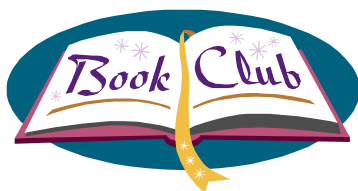
# FELLOWSHIP

## Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group is reading *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki to be discussed on **Thursday, November 9, 7:30 pm** at the home of Judy Bruening. **Anyone planning to attend should contact [Judy](#) no later than Monday, November 6.** If anyone would like to be added to the Book Group's e-mail list, contact [Kathy Mellott](#).

## Future Book Selections and Hosts

- December 14 *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*  
by Judy Blume  
host Sharon Wahl
- January 11 *Exiles*  
by Jane Harper  
host Judy Bruening
- February 8 *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*  
by Amy Tan  
host Hope Walker
- March 14 *West With Giraffes*  
by Lynda Rutledge  
host Jennifer Maloney
- April 11 *The Other Einstein*  
by Marie Benedict  
host Kathy Mellott
- May 9 *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow*  
by Olivia Hawker  
host Alice Benson
- June 13 *The Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece*  
by Tom Hanks  
host Susan Victor
- July 11 *A Woman Is No Man*  
by Etaf Rum  
host Nancy Morton
- August 8 *The Thursday Murder Club*  
by Richard Osman  
host Nancy Wolejsza
- September 12 *Killers of the Flower Moon*  
by David Grann  
host Debbie Chan
- October 10 *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*  
by Christy Lefter  
host TBD



# RECENT EVENTS

Prince of Peace hosted a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 14. Adults shopped at the many independent vendors who had wares for sale while the children enjoyed assorted crafted balloons and a fun room with games and pumpkin painting.





## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Joan and Jennifer for coordinating the clean-up/spruce up at Prince of Peace. What a difference their efforts have made for us all.

### A Note of Appreciation

Our church depends on the volunteer efforts of many talented individuals. One such volunteer is Susan Weiner whose work behind the scenes may be unrecognized unless you are the recipient of one of her beautifully written cards of encouragement and support. A brilliant writer, Susan is responsible for the PoP Card (Prayer) Ministry, whose efforts are truly appreciated by those in need. Card recipients often express their delight and gratitude for the unexpected card that appears in their mailbox. One of our members recently noted the following: "I also received a lovely card and wildlife photo insert from Susan Weiner of the Prayer Team. Much appreciated. A bright spot in my day. Please convey my gratitude." Susan touches the hearts of many, particularly during their times of vulnerability. Thank you, Susan, for participating in God's work!

## 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

We all need quiet time alone with God...to build our relationship with Him and get to know Him better. (Luke 5:16)

*Glad Tidings* is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:  
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Articles for the December/January issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **November 19**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at [GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com). Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

*Glad Tidings* is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org)

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