



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2024

## Coin box collection!

Have you been collecting loose change all year? Put that change to good use by picking up a barn (coinbox) and bring the barn back jingling and jangling with your loose change. The proceeds will support the following ELCA World Hunger projects. Last year we collected over \$1,000 and purchased cows, a piglet, goats, chicks, and honeybees. These gifts provide both food and income for farming families around the world. **Barns should be returned by Sunday, February 4.**

## Souper Bowl of Caring Collection



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Sunday School is heading up the Souper Bowl Sunday collection to benefit clients of Gaithersburg HELP. Please donate hearty soup, stew, and chili **now through February 11!** The collection bins are in the narthex. Show support for your team by placing your donations in the bin with your team's label.

Sunday School will count and bag the donations and give you the results in the next issue of Glad Tidings. Please join us in this annual campaign and support a cause important to our young people.

**Our next Saturday Service will be held on Saturday, February 17 at 5 pm!**

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



Church Photo Directory



The updated PoP Photo Directory is available. If you want an electronic version, please contact the [office](#). Paper copies can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.

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



## Congratulations to Our Church Council Members!



Newly elected: Meredith Kuykendall, Sherry Schiebel, Kieran McKnight (youth position).

Re-elected: Rainer Sahmel

Continuing: Jon Conary, Pamela Cook, Bill Harral, Chuck Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, Chet Wolejsza

Thank you for your service on council: Lauren Gibson, Laura Dillon, Yasya Yanevskyy (youth member).

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

**Council met on January 9.** You can read notes from that meeting (including the Pastor's and Treasurer's report) [by clicking here](#).

## Ash Wednesday

Come join us in person or [livestreamed](#) as we begin [our Lenten journey](#) at our **Ash Wednesday service** on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:15 pm.



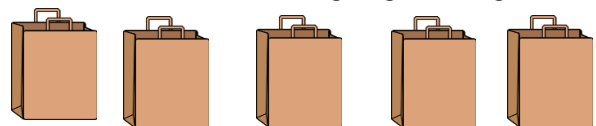
## Lenten Wednesday Services

During the [other Wednesdays in Lent](#) beginning **February 21**, we will have a time of Fellowship at **6:15 pm** (in person) and the service of **Holden Evening Prayer** at **7:15pm**, in-person and [livestreamed](#).



## Lenten Sharing Bags

Watch for the Lenten Sharing Bags coming soon!





## From Pastor Steve...

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

It's still dark outside! Yes, I know we passed the winter solstice a few weeks ago, and now we do have SLIGHTLY more daylight than at Christmas, but it still feels dark. It's dark when I wake up. It's dark before supper time. And it just feels like long, sunny days are still far in the future.

And yet, this is the time of year when the church calendar focuses us on "epiphany" - which means "revelation" or "enlightenment." It's all about light, and people recognizing the light of Christ coming into their lives. But it still feels dark around us. It seems like an odd time to focus on the brightness of God's light.

And yet, as we read the various biblical stories in this "enlightenment" season, it often occurs to me that the light of Jesus' presence was often experienced in "dark" times - people were sick or oppressed or alone. But more than that, the "light" they experienced wasn't always a big, beaming spotlight of God's love and presence. Often, it might have seemed like just a flicker - a small beam of hope, or even a just a hint that God could actually be taking notice of them in this particular moment.

And frequently, when people do think they've had a bright moment of revelation ("Wow! I perfectly see and understand now!"), Jesus makes it clear that they're only just beginning to get it. They're not as "enlightened" as they think they are. And like others, they'll need to keep watching and waiting for the light to be fully revealed to them.

And so maybe this is a good time of the year to think about "enlightenment." For like many of those folks who first encountered Jesus, God's light in our lives often comes at moments of our lives that seem kind of dark. Often, God's "enlightenment" begins as just a glimmer, beckoning us towards something more. And frequently, as we do in February, we'll have to wait a bit longer before the fullest "enlightenment" gets to us!

So, in this Epiphany season, be aware of how God's "enlightenment" in Jesus may be reaching out to you, even in dark moments and even in small flickers.

Yours in Christ,

## February Highlights

### Every Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page
- 11:00 am Sunday school (pp 5-6)

### Every Monday

- 6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal (pg 6)

### Every Tuesday

- 10:00 am Quilters (pg 7)
- 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 6)

## COMING UP...

### February

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 8 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 13 Church Council Meeting
- 14 Ash Wednesday (pg 1)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Saturday Worship Service (pg 1)
- 21 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 25 Sacred Grounds introduction (pg 3)
- 25 Confirmation Meeting
- 27 Anti-Defamation League Speaker (pg 4)
- 28 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)

### March

- 6 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 10 Daylight Saving Time
- 13 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 14 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 20 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 30 Easter Vigil Service
- 31 Easter Sunday

For a current calendar, see:

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

## 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,  
Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge)  
Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo,  
Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi  
Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her  
family, Kathy Mellott, Meyer family, Dick Moore,  
Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry  
Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Cynthia Watter, Laura  
Wilson, Chet Wolejsza

### Sympathy

Family of Randolph Wimmer (father of Robert  
Wimmer)

### Thanksgiving

8 New members joined on 12/17/2023

### Ongoing

The people of Ukraine and all those who are  
suffering due to hatred, war, and acts of violence  
For racial justice and equality  
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their  
Caregivers  
All those impacted by nature

The complete Prayer List is available on the  
bulletin board in the narthex and in the Weekly  
Email sent on Thursdays.

## SPOTLIGHT

Hey, Kids! Spotlight is directed to you this month.

Have you noticed the little table that is near the  
closets when you are going into the sanctuary? If  
you see the sign on the wall, it says "Kid Corner."  
Everything there is for you, especially if you get  
antsy during the service: books for all kid ages;  
coloring books; extra paper for coloring, drawing,  
or taking notes; crayons and pencils; puppets and  
stuffed animals; Bibles for your age (and the  
teenagers!); and bulletins just for you. Those  
bulletins let you draw, color, and play word games  
that are related to the special lessons the adults  
are learning.

Take time to explore what is on, under, and around  
the table. Grab something to do. Enjoy the service  
with your family and friends.

## PRINCE OF PEACE AWARDED A SACRED GROUNDS GRANT FOR NATIVE PLANTINGS

Good news! Prince of Peace, along with five other  
local faith communities, was just awarded a [Sacred  
Grounds grant](#) to beautify our grounds with native  
plantings that will also slow the flow of runoff and  
support pollinators. The grant will also provide  
FREE native plants that will be given away to  
members and our local community, for planting at  
home. The Sacred Grounds grant is administered by  
the [National Wildlife Federation](#), with assistance  
from [Interfaith Power and Light](#) and [Interfaith  
Partners for the Chesapeake](#). Grant funds are  
provided in part by the cities of Gaithersburg and  
Rockville, as well as the [Chesapeake Bay  
Foundation](#). The other faith communities that are  
part of the grant are: Episcopal Church of the  
Ascension in Gaithersburg, St. Martin of Tours  
Church in Gaithersburg, Shaare Torah Synagogue in  
the Kentlands, Fairhaven United Methodist Church  
in Darnestown, and Christ Episcopal Church in  
Rockville.

### *How can I get involved?*

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) will be  
coming to Prince of Peace **on Sunday, February  
25<sup>th</sup> at 11am** as part of our Adult Coffee and  
Conversation hour after Sunday services, to talk  
about the benefits of having native plants in yards  
and container gardens at home. NWF will also host  
a "How to Garden with Native Plants" presentation  
for all the participating faith communities **on April  
16, 2024; from 7-8:30 pm on Zoom**, to give the  
specifics on how to successfully incorporate native  
plantings into your individual lawn, garden, or  
container garden at home. More information and  
the zoom link will be sent out closer to the  
presentation date. We will also be hosting a native  
plant giveaway at Prince of Peace **on Sunday, May  
12<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) after services**. Show some love  
to mother earth on Mother's Day this year, by  
bringing home some beautiful native plants for  
your home! You can be a key part of making these  
events successful by attending the presentations  
and learning more about native plants,  
volunteering to help with the native plant  
giveaways later this year (and taking plants  
home!), and by helping with a pollinator garden  
installation at the church this fall. The Sacred  
Grounds grant provides the materials and funds for



these activities - we just need to bring the people power!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us on Tuesday evening, 2/27 from 6:30-7:30pm in the sanctuary, for an evening with the **Anti-Defamation League** - Social Justice Ministry, Shaare Torah, 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](#), most [recently](#) in the [Kentlands](#). Please join us and learn how to counter harmful antisemitic 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.

[ELCA Youth Gathering](#) in New Orleans - July 16-20, 2024! Are you interested in going? Please [check out the website](#) or [check out this flyer](#)! Youth participants must be in eighth to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Adult leaders accompanying youth to the Gathering must be at least 21 years old at the time of the Gathering. If you are interested, please contact [Jon Conary](#).

## OTHER EVENTS

### Haven Universe "Saturday Night Alive!"

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](#): February 10, March 16, April 13, May 11. 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!

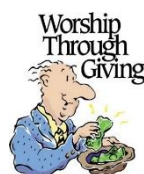
Be part of an inspiring team of missionaries for the 2024 mission trip to Honduras! Prince of Peace will partner with non-profit, Haven Universe to serve various communities in Honduras from **June 6-16, 2024**. The itinerary typically includes planned construction projects, medical brigades, and food

provisions/deliveries to local families. (A visit to a local orphanage is also TBD.) Those who have participated in the past have been impacted and blessed as much as those being helped! If you are interested in learning more about this year's trip, please contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle.



## STEWARDSHIP

### Church Giving Envelopes



Envelopes are available to all who would like them. They are located on the donation table in the Narthex. Please contact [Helen Griffith](#) if you have any questions.

## Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage](http://poplutheran.org) ([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

We meet from 11 - 11:50. Join us any week you are able to attend!

Preschool and Elementary School Classes are learning about the life and miracles of Jesus. We use Group's Simply Loved curriculum, which has popular elements of VBS, such as Bible buddies, videos, and games. A new Bible story each week supports a Bible truth. We are currently promoting the Souper Bowl Sunday drive and look forward to counting and bagging all the hearty soup, stew, and chili. We meet in the Fellowship Hall classrooms. Workshop Leaders are Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten. We want your learners to feel comfortable, so remember that parents are always welcome in class.

The Middle School Class uses the Sparkhouse Re:form curriculum, which empowers youth to explore faith and ask questions about the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, disciples, and Jesus. Using the Re:form Anti-Workbook, the youth interact with topics through doodling, journaling, and illustrating. The class also participates in monthly service projects. We meet in the BYC. Our Middle School Leader is Lauren Gibson.

The High School Class uses movies to open discussions. We are currently finishing *The Overcomer*, which looks at challenges in overcoming adversity, and we will start a new

movie soon. In addition, the high school class participates in monthly service day projects. We meet in the BYC. Our High School Leader is Jon Conary.

For information or questions, contact your learner's Sunday School Leader or Janet Levine ([Lyle1Janet@msn.com](mailto:Lyle1Janet@msn.com)).

Preschool and Elementary Classes joined to make Christmas crafts. After choosing from a beautiful array of fabrics, learners enjoyed donuts holes and chocolate milk while making cheerful ornaments and picture frames.



## ADULT EDUCATION

### Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation is the adult version of Sunday School. It is held at 11:00 am, after the service. Descriptions of the upcoming "lessons" follow.

2/4 - Zachary Heeter, the Mission Advancement Director for National Lutheran Communities, will come speak with us about the [Village at Rockville](http://Village at Rockville) mission and Auxiliary



2/11 - Open, will likely be a session of Animate: Bible

2/18 - Open, will likely be a session of Animate: Bible

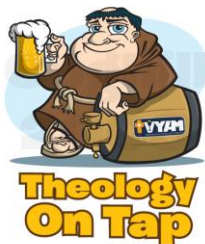
2/25 - On Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am, the [National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF) will be coming to Prince of Peace as part of our Adult Coffee and Conversation hour after Sunday services, to talk about the benefits of having native plants in yards and container gardens at home. This is a great way to get started with your spring garden planning, and to learn how choosing native plants protects our watershed and benefits pollinators and wildlife (especially birds). Did you know that native plants are great choices for challenged areas in your yard that are too dry or too wet? Please join us for this fun and informative presentation - and keep an eye out for other upcoming events related to Prince of Peace's Sacred Grounds grant.

3/3 - **Talk Saves Lives - come learn how!** On Sunday 3/3 at 11am (during the Adult Coffee and Conversation time after services), we'll be hosting a speaker from the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#). They'll provide valuable tips on how to stay aware and connected with the people in our lives at work and home, and how simple conversations can help protect them. Their [Talk Saves Lives](#) presentation will give you the tools you need to help keep others safe in our community. Please come and bring your questions!

To be added to the email list and get notifications of upcoming programs, please send an email to [pop\\_adult\\_sunday\\_school+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:pop_adult_sunday_school+subscribe@googlegroups.com). To sign up to lead a session or activity on an upcoming Sunday, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2023> We are using the [Sparkhouse Animate: Bible](#) series.

## 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. We are currently discussing *Exodus*. Questions? Contact [Pastor Wendy Deeben](#).



Women's Bible Study met for a Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 19.

## 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 eagerly anticipating Souper Bowl Sunday, when many of the member congregations, including POP, add to the competition by contributing soups and stews. Thanks in advance for this special effort, in addition to regular donations. Due to year end giving and a few grants that fortunately came in, HELP ended 2023 with "only" a \$41K deficit rather than the projected \$110K. Not perfect, but vastly better. Thanks again for the wonderful support and enthusiasm from the congregation.



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

### Gifts Delivered to Village at Rockville

Thank you to everyone who helped reach our objective for the Village at Rockville Christmas donations. We received everything on our requested list to donate.



## Winter Coat Drive

Heartfelt thanks to Chris Michel and Bill Harral for coordinating the winter coat drive, a wonderful way to help our new neighbors enjoy the snowy winter. Together, Prince of Peace members donated 50 coats to help those in need!

## Mar-Lu-Ridge

Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp in Jefferson, MD invites you to join us this summer! Family Campers and youth ages 6-17 are welcome. We never turn anyone away for financial reasons, so please ask about our Campership fund if needed. Come experience small-group camping, swimming, hiking, sleep-outs, new friends, and exciting activities that challenge you to grow in confidence and in faith - all in a safe and inclusive community. Our 2024 Theme is "Created To Be!" We are ALL beloved children of God, created, loved, and accepted by God even before we entered this world. Even when we feel alone and unseen, God sees us and knows us, never leaving our side. Registration is open; Early Bird discount through February 18. For more information visit [mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/](http://mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/), call 800.238.9974, or pick up a flier from the credenza in the narthex.

March 17: CAMP DAY is a free event, and a time to see the camp, try some delicious food, and meet our staff. All are welcome!

## FELLOWSHIP

### Women's Book Group

There are two changes to the Women's Book Group schedule.

February 8 *The Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece*

by Tom Hanks

host Jennifer Maloney

March 14 *West With Giraffes*

by Lynda Rutledge

host Hope Walker

Addresses, etc. will be sent out with reminders a few days before the meetings. If any church member is interested in joining us but is not on the email distribution, please contact [Kathy Mellott](#).

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

April 11 *The Other Einstein*

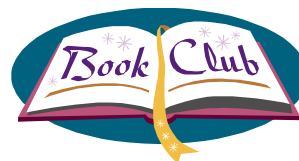
by Marie Benedict

host Kathy Mellott

May 9 *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow*

by Olivia Hawker

host Alice Benson





## RECENT EVENTS

The participants in the Christmas pageant gave us a unique look at putting on a pageant in December 2023. Here are some pictures from the rehearsals.



## 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.



## Sunday Service Extras

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).



Snack after Sunday Service is 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).



## 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, the war in Ukraine, and all others who are suffering due to hatred, war, and acts of violence. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage](https://elca.org/disaster) (<https://elca.org/disaster>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

## Food for Thought

Love one another.  
(John 13:34)

## THINK ABOUT IT

From the Internet, some advice from kids on love and romance:

*How do people in love typically behave?*

"Mooshy . . . like puppy dogs . . . except puppy dogs don't wag their tails so much" (Arnold, age ten).

"When a person gets kissed for the first time, they fall down and don't get up for at least an hour" (Wendy, age eight).

*Why do people in love hold hands?*

"They want to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them" (Gavin, age eight).

"They are just practicing for when they might have to walk down the aisle someday and do the holy matchimony thing" (John, age nine).

*Confidential opinions about love.*

"Love is foolish . . . but I still might try it sometime" (Jill, age six).

"Love will find you even if you're trying to hide from it. I been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me" (Dave, age eight).

"I'm not rushing into love. Fourth grade is hard enough" (Regina, age ten).

*What are some ways to make someone fall in love with you?*

"Tell them that you own a whole bunch of candy stores" (Del, age six).

"Don't do things like have smelly, green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love" (Alonzo, age nine).

*Tell us your thoughts on kissing.*

"You learn it right on the spot when the gooshy feelings get the best of you" (Brian, age seven).

"If it's your mom, you can kiss her anytime. But if it's a new person, you better ask for permission" (Roger, age six).

"I look at it like this: Kissing is fine if you like it, but it's a free country and nobody should be forced to do it" (Billy, age six).

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.

--G. K. Chesterton

During World War II when housing was in short supply, a lady in our church told a five-year-old girl, "It's too bad you don't have a home."

The child quickly replied, "We have a home. We just don't have a house to put it in!"

--Margaret T. Hiscox

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Articles for the March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **February 18**. 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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