

GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 6

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

July / August 2024

VBS for Kid and Adults is back from Sunday, July 21 through Thursday, July 25, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Dinner is provided before the classes start (6:00 - 6:30 pm). Pr. Steve will lead the adults in a Bible study based on the same lessons the children are learning. Kids, come visit and participate in various activities at Camp Firelight. Adults, come whether you have kids or not! Keep your eyes open for information concerning registration which opens soon.



Help make our VBS dinners a tasty success by signing up for food donations!

Please use the <u>signup link</u> to sign up to bring beverages, sides, or paper products to help support the meals. Cash donations to support the dinners can also be made <u>here</u> or by writing "VBS Donations" in the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support of VBS!

Here's the Event announcement that is currently on our website: https://poplutheran.org/event/all-ages-evening-vbs/

The Interfaith 5k walk/run sign up is open for Labor Day, September 2!

Register Here! PoP continues to be a sponsor and supporter of this event and we are hoping to have our largest turnout yet this year. Can we have the largest team?! Please sign up! When you do, please select to join the Prince of Peace team. More information is available at

https://mocointerfaith5k.org/.

Any questions please reach out to <u>Ric Kienzle</u>. Thank you!



Check out our new look!

For the "long green" season of the Sundays after Pentecost, also known as "the time of the church", we have for several years now enjoyed the beautiful quilted altar paraments and altar cloths made by Becky Carr. Now Becky has made two brand new stunning banners to complement them! Please check out Becky's amazing artistry the next time you are in the sanctuary.







From Pastor Steve...

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

July and August are brutal months in the DC area! It's hot. It's humid. You need water! But sometimes, I forget that! I'm hot and tired, but not particularly thirsty, so I sit in air conditioning and generally feel better. But I still need water. And if I go too long without drinking more water, eventually I realize I'm getting dehydrated.

Phoenix has been great at reminding me of my need for water! From early in the spring, as the humidity starts to rise, Phoenix drinks copious amounts of water. And I've been realizing that, as I refill his water bowl, it's a good reminder for me to have a glass of water as well, even if I don't feel particularly thirsty. After all, the best time to drink water is before you get dehydrated. Remembering water is important in the summer!

And actually, remembering water is a good thing at all times of the year. And it's not just the water we drink. For Christians, remembering the water of baptism is important as well. When we remember the water of our baptisms, we remember God's claim on us. We remember God's constant promise of love and forgiveness. We remember Jesus' promise to walk with us in the heat of life.

And sometimes, when life gets hot and tiring, we forget that water of baptism. We start to feel like we have to keep going it alone. And we become spiritually dehydrated without even realizing it. This is one reason the baptismal font always has water in it during worship services, and why it's always sort of in your way as you walk into the sanctuary. It's there to remind you of the water of your baptism. It's there to allow you to touch the water as a physical sign of the promise and presence of God in your life. And it's there as you leave to remind you not to go out into the heat of life without remembering that water.

So, in this heat of summer, remember to drink water! But also, whether it's summer or winter, remember the water of your baptism, and your need for both waters each and every day.

Yours in Christ,



July/August Highlights

Every Sunday

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

Every Monday

6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

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 services will be on Saturday, July 13 and August 10. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

COMING UP...

July

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9 Church Council Meeting

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August

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15 Youth Sunday School starts (pg 5)

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER June 2024

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

Here are the updates from the June Church Council meeting.

<u>Finances:</u> Giving continues to be okay. (Council notes).

<u>Feast Fund:</u> While not as visually appealing as the patio or the bathroom refresh, we need to invest in the heating system for the main building and BYC. In addition, we had some landscaping performed to approve the outside appearance of our facilities.

<u>Besecker:</u> BYC would benefit greatly from a painting party.

Native Plants/Trees: We have received a grant for a native plant /rainscape garden and for some native trees. Meetings and discussions are ongoing and the planting area has been prepared.

VIEWS

Juneteenth at Darnestown Presbyterian was a shared event with the other highway 28 churches. There were over 180 people in attendance and there have been nearly 200 hundred views on YouTube. It was awesome.

<u>VBS</u>: VBS is about a month away. It will be in the evening with a meal before and once again there is an adult class. It has been rumored that there will be a campfire and S'mores.

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

Respectfully, Jon Conary

Council met on June 11. Due to various difficulties, notes from that council meeting are not available at this time.

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-Militzer, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Lisa Conary, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Nettie Horne, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Janet Levine, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Kathy Mellott, Dick Moore, Steve & Jan Plewes, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Susan Weiner, Laura Wilson

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Jason Robert Gouker (son of Allison Bostrom & Mike Gouker)

Missions & Thanksgiving

Honduras Mission Team: Ric, Sherry, & Sydney Kienzle

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

All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers

All those impacted by nature

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.

SPOTLIGHT

Join a July discussion group and help the National Wildlife Federation improve their programs!

Do you want to help people and wildlife here at PoP? Would you like to see butterflies and birds in your yard? How can we put our faith and values into action to protect creation? What do you think about replacing a small part of your lawn with native plants? Our congregation has joined Sacred Grounds, an interfaith program to help us plant native plants to protect nearby streams and rivers that flow into Chesapeake Bay. The National Wildlife Federation (administrator of the Sacred Grounds grant that will be used for the new native pollinator garden at PoP) is looking for you to share your views on these questions.

Please sign up at <u>here</u> to register for an evening discussion group on Wednesday 7/10, Thursday 7/11, or Sunday 7/14, all at 7:30pm.

The discussion group will be held online and be facilitated by an expert from Sacred Grounds. Your views will help our team of volunteers to shape NWF programs so that it works for you and Prince of Peace. Thank you!

Native Plant Garden Tours with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake at Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center



Join Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake on a tour of native plant gardens in our area at Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center, located at 852 Avery Rd in Rockville. By planting native plants at home, we can care for creation/nature/Earth, helping our neighbors - both the

people and the wildlife. Native plants help prevent flooding and provide food for local wildlife. On **Sunday, September 15, 2-4 PM** local native plant expert Kit Gage will show us examples of the beauty of native plants in local neighborhood gardens. Together, by caring for creation, we can ensure our children have a clean and safe community well into the future. Go here to register or use the QR code on the flyer.

Planting Plan for the Sacred Grounds Native Pollinator Garden Unveiled

On June 13th, Kit Gage from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) met with members of the PoP Sacred Grounds team to review the planting plan for the new native pollinator garden, coming to Prince of Peace this fall. (Prince of Peace, along with five other local faith communities, was awarded a Sacred Grounds grant to beautify our grounds with native plantings that will also slow the flow of runoff and support native pollinators.)

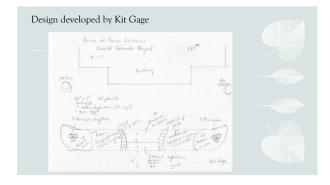
The garden site will be located in the outside area behind the stained-glass windows and altar, in a "smile" shape, extending the entire width of the building, and following the shape of the curb. It will be located 6 ft in from the curb, and be 7ft wide, allowing for easy access from both sides for weeding and giving us 350 sq ft of planting space. All of the plants for the garden will be provided for free by NWF, using grant funds. The site is currently "under construction" with a deep layer of mulch that will stay on the site through summer and until the planting time in the fall. The mulch will help eliminate any weeds or grass in the planting area, and the lower layers will break down into compost that will help enrich the soil over time.

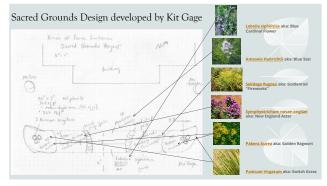
The planting plan below shows the approximate number of plants and plant species that we'll

receive in the fall. Although the new plants will be "plug sized", they will be a little larger than usual, since they will have had the entire summer to grow. The plants selected are hardy (often used for "hellstrip planting"), provide color at different times of the year, and are deer resistant / lower maintenance. Planting in the fall will also give the garden a good chance to get established before the heat of next summer, minimizing the need for initial watering.

You'll also see the location of some new native trees on the plan ("Mo Trees") that will be planted for free by the county in late October / early November by the Tree Montgomery program (also available to homeowners, businesses, and non-profits in Montgomery County for free).

Stay tuned for the dates and times for garden planting later this fall, and help our Sacred Grounds Garden spring to life!







Work is being done around the property in preparation for our new Sacred Grounds Garden!



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 (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

Sunday School leaders look forward to welcoming learners back on **Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 15!**Note this is two weeks after the Labor Day weekend.

Preschool and Elementary School



We will use Group's Simply Loved curriculum, which incorporates popular VBS elements such as Bible buddies, videos, and games. This fall, our stories will revolve around the captivating journey of Moses

and the Israelites, with a focus on God's unwavering care and guidance.

Our time together will begin with a devotion and a beverage, and learners will be welcome to eat their after-church snack. Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten will be our workshop leaders. Trish Taylor will be our elementary shepherd, and Debbie Chan and Cherie

DeGeorge will be our preschool shepherds. We want your learners to feel comfortable, so remember that parents are always welcome in class.

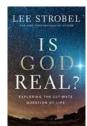
Middle School



The Middle School class will use the Sparkhouse Re:form curriculum, which brings Bible stories alive using animated short videos that combine fun and theology to

get young people thinking. Once a month, we will join the High School class to work on SSL-eligible service projects during class. Lauren Gibson will lead our Middle School class.

High School



We will start the Sunday School year by exploring Lee Strobel's book "Is God Real?" According to Amazon, Strobel "weaves together the latest evidence from a range of brilliant scientific and philosophical minds." We will also team up with the Middle School class to do a monthly service

project (SSL hours will be available). Jon Conary is our high school leader.

Please contact <u>Janet Levine</u> or your learner's Sunday School leader with any questions or concerns.

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.

Please mark your calendars for the first Adult Coffee and Conversation Hour of the fall on **Sunday, September 8**th. We are very pleased to host Melissa Blackstone, the Resident Experience Director at the Village at Rockville. Melissa will be sharing a presentation with us on the <u>dimensions of wellness</u> (including physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual) and how volunteering and helping others can boost your own well-being at every age.

In addition to hosting speakers approximately once per month, we'll be bringing back regular Bible study and discussion sessions as well. Have some thoughts about speakers you'd like to hear, or thinking about hosting a session? Let us know your thoughts in the <u>survey for the fall sessions</u>.

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. For July, Theology on Tap will be over the five evenings of VBS. Adults will look at the scripture/lessons the kids will be learning. Remember, you do not have to have children to attend



the Adult VBS! Check Weekly Email and the online worship notice for the August date and join us!

PoP Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are currently reading and discussing Women of the Bible: 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups by Jean E. Syswerda.

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

Please join the VBS in collecting food items for Gaithersburg Help.
PB&J, fruit cups, cereal, tuna, and macaroni & cheese are needed.
Donations will be collected July
21th through August 25th. The collection box will be on the VBS stage



collection box will be on the VBS stage the week of July 21st and in the narthex once VBS has concluded.

For questions or information, please contact <u>Hope</u> 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 <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.

Volunteer Opportunities 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 one hour or so, with 10 to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to make deliveries in their own car an average of once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please leave a message at 301-216-4200 if interested in serving.

Volunteer English Tutors Needed

Can you help an adult immigrant improve their English? New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) helps families who have fled their home countries. These new neighbors need to learn English to get jobs here. Contact Sonvy Waidler for more information.



Online Tutoring Opportunity

Engin is a nonprofit organization that connects English-speaking volunteers with Ukrainians for online speaking practice, friendship, and cross-cultural exchange. Tutors receive training and resources and are asked to make a one-hour commitment for a minimum of 10-12 weeks. The organization hopes that this project will catalyze Ukraine's postwar reconstruction and longer-term economic development. Visit enginprogram.org for more information.

Social Justice Ministry News Casseroles for a Cause



In conjunction with Darnestown Presbyterian Church, we will be baking casseroles for Shepherds Table and Stepping Stones Shelter this July. Pans and recipes were provided. Look for

them at church, June 30th and July 7th. Please bake the casserole and freeze it. The casseroles will be collected July 14th and delivered to Darnestown Presbyterian. They will take them to the shelters during August and September when need is greatest. Contact <u>Jennifer Maloney</u> for more information. This is another opportunity to make a difference for those suffering homelessness right now.

New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance



The Social Justice Committee was so grateful for Pop's enthusiasm to help a refugee family last year, through Lutheran Social Services. By grace we have connected with a local organization helping

families in Montgomery County: New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA).

About seven years ago, NNIA began helping immigrant families in every way possible: furnishing apartments, providing food and clothing, tutoring, transportation, connecting families with jobs, schools, and community resources. These families may not have official refugee status, but they are fleeing their home countries and arriving with next to nothing.

Last month, Council approved our new relationship with NNIA, as a "partner faith community." Partner faith communities include Protestant and Catholic churches, Jewish and Muslim groups, and others. I've met their representatives virtually, and they are a wonderful ecumenical group working together. Through NNIA, a single congregation does not need to take on a huge project. We can help in bite-sized ways, like tutoring, or delivering donations.

It's my honor to tell you that PoP will make our first gift of \$500 to NNIA this month. Can you give a gift of time to help a new neighbor? To know more, please email Sonvy Waidler. You'll be hearing much more from me in the coming months!

Coming September 8th

God's Work. Our Hands.



God's Work Our Hands

Sunday Schoolers and families are invited to learn more about refugees and their needs - and help. We'll be assembling personal care kits during the Sunday School hour on September 8th. Donations of soap, towels, and toothbrushes are welcome. Look for more details as September

approaches. Contact <u>Jennifer Maloney</u> for information or to offer help.

Join the <u>Village at Rockville</u> on Saturday, September 14th at 9:30am for their 2nd annual <u>Alzheimer's Association</u> Walk

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, held annually in 600 communities worldwide, is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease. While there is no fee to register for Walk, all participants are encouraged to raise critical funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support, and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure.

The Village at Rockville is located at 9701 Veirs Dr in Rockville, near Robert Frost Middle School. Registration for the walk begins at 9:30am on Saturday, September 14th with event opening festivities and guest speakers from the Village and the Alzheimer's Association following. The walk will begin promptly at 11am, and will take place outside, around the Village campus. Come join us and help raise awareness of the need for additional research funding, to help those affected by Alzheimer's - all walk proceeds will benefit the National Capital Area Alzheimer's Association. Register for the walk at

https://www.thevillageatrockville.org/walk

ALZHEIMER'S \\\ \ ASSOCIATION°

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet on Thursday, July 11 at 7:00 pm at the church. They will be discussing The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom. Jon Conary will host.

Check Weekly Email and the online worship notice for the August date, book title, and host.



Women's Book Group

On Thursday, July 11, 7:30 pm, the Women's Book Group will be discussing A Woman Is No Man by Etaf Rum at the home of Nancy Wolejsza. Please RSVP to Nancy W. no later than July 8.

The selection for Thursday, August 8, 7:30 pm is The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. The group will meet at the home of Nancy Morton. Please RSVP to Nancy M no later than August 5th.



A few members of the Book Group working hard selling books at the Yard Sale!

Future Book Selections and Hosts

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

Juneteenth Celebration, "Lift up Freedom, Joy, and Justice in Words and Song", Rocked the House!

On June 19th, the Route 28 Ouince Orchard Interfaith Team (of which Prince of Peace is a founding member congregation!) held their 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration at Darnestown Presbyterian Church (DPC), along with Shaare Torah Synagogue, Fairhaven United Methodist, Poplar Grove Baptist, St. Nicholas Episcopal, and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints - Kentlands Ward. The program was held in DPC's beautifully renovated historic church, with combined choirs and bands from Fairhaven, DPC, and PoP, and mixed historical readings and meditations with music. Shaare Torah's rabbis sang an original composition called "Unafraid", we learned about (and sang) code songs including "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Follow the Drinking Gourd", and the full combined band and choirs brought the house down at the end with a rollicking rendition of "Every Praise". After the program we all enjoyed fellowship together in DPC's fellowship hall with ice cream, cupcakes, fruit, and lemonade. More events are planned in the future with the Route 28 Ouince Orchard Interfaith Team, including an interfaith art project with the City of Gaithersburg, and a 2025 Juneteenth event that will also help celebrate the reopening of the Pleasant View historic site next door to PoP. To learn more or get involved, please contact Jamie Pflasterer.

Special thanks to Grace Notes (Sydney Kienzle, Jon Conary, Ian Spielman) for their fantastic music, Chris Michel for his awesome work as emcee, Jennifer Maloney and Joan Kowalik for bringing their signature rapport and humor to their reading, Emma and Sally Yanevskyy for bringing a strong close to the youth acrostic (and especially to Sally for being one of the youth soloists), the PoP Fellowship team - Pamela Cook, Melanie Zobel, Gerry Pfaff - for making sure everyone was well fed with cold ice cream and beautiful cupcakes. and Pastor Steve for taking pictures of the event. A HUGE thank you also to everyone from PoP who attended and helped us celebrate! If you weren't able to make it in person, you can watch the video here.

NOTE: Pictures are on the next page.















Honduras Mission 2024!

The June mission trip to Honduras was a great success! Members of PoP (Ric, Sherry, and Sydney Kienzle) joined non-profit Haven Universe and our Honduran mission team for a life-changing event impacting both native communities and our own hearts! Efforts included helping with construction projects, donating and delivering water cisterns to remote communities, conducting two medical brigades, and supporting the first and only school for special-needs youth in Copan Ruinas. A presentation of the 2024 trip and information about next year's mission details and dates will be forthcoming in September. An enormous THANK YOU is extended to the congregation for your generous donations and much-needed prayers for a safe and successful mission!















THANK YOU!

Thanks, and Save the Date!

A BIG THANKS to all who helped with, and donated to, our Yard Sale - "THE BIG ONE"! Yard Sale was a great success, with great weather and many people attending. Our proceeds this year will go to support the Honduras Mission Trip, Relief efforts in Ukraine, and our Capital Repair Fund.

For over 25 years, we have started setting up over Memorial Day weekend to hold the sale the following Saturday. Next year's Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 31, 2025 - add it to

your calendar now!





I wanted to take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude for all your hard work and dedication at the yard sale snack bar. Barney Cook, Elizabeth Cockerham, Meredith Kuykendall, Melanie Zobel, Luke Dillon and Sam Gibson! Your efforts truly made a difference and contributed to the success of the event.



Your quick service brought smiles to everyone that stopped by!

Thank you for making the snack bar a highlight of the yard sale. I look forward to hopefully working with such a fantastic team next year

Warmest regards, Pamela Cook

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

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, and the war in Ukraine. Visit the ELCA Disaster Response webpage (https://elca.org/disaster) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

THINK ABOUT IT

July

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (*Psalms 33:12*)

August

Choose to love someone who is hard to love. (Luke 6:32-36)

It seems that more than ever the compulsion today is to identify, to reduce someone to what is on the label. To identify is to control, to limit.

To love is to call by name, and so open the wide gates of creativity.

--Madeleine L'Engle

God is more anxious to bestow His blessings upon us than we are to receive them.

--Augustine

Abraham was chosen to be a blessing to the whole earth, but his vocation was to begin to take effect in the simplest way. He was called to teach his own household, who again would hand down the truth to their households. His being a blessing to the world depended on his being a blessing to his own home.

-- James Strachan

The porcupine, whom we must handle gloved, may be respected, but is never loved.

--Arthur Guiterman

No one loves the man whom he fears.

--Aristotle

How do I want to be remembered? Not primarily as a Christian scholar but rather as a loving person. This can be the goal of every individual.

--Elton Trueblood

A man is only as good as what he loves.

--Saul Bellow

If you're going to care about the fall of the sparrow, you can't pick and choose who's going to be the sparrow.

--Madeleine L'Engle

People need love, especially when they don't deserve it.

--Unknown



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Articles for the September issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **August 18**. 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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