



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 7

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

September 2024

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 [Ric Kienzle](#). Thank you!



God's Work, Our Hands Project – Sunday, September 8!

Join the fun in Sunday School September 8 at 11:00 am when we will assemble PERSONAL CARE KITS for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and learn more about LWR. These kits help individuals who are fleeing conflict, disaster, and other challenges, maintain good hygiene and provide dignity and hope in the direst conditions around the world. Social Justice Ministry will provide the towels and are asking the congregation to donate combs, nail clippers, toothbrushes, and bars of soap. Check the [Signup Genius link](#) to see what is needed. Or contact [Jennifer Maloney](#) for more information. Our goal is to make 30 kits. This is a family project, so please plan to join in.



NOTE: This is, also, the start of **Adult Coffee and Conversation Hour** for this year. Join us weekly after services during the Sunday School hour. We will meet in the sanctuary with a few possible exceptions.

PoP Fall Festival Coming on Saturday, September 14 from 10am-3pm! Mark your calendars now for PoP's 2nd annual fall festival, to be held on the church grounds on Saturday, 9/14 from 10am-3pm. Start your holiday shopping early with some of the beautiful home decor, jewelry, and pottery on offer from our vendors - and pick up some fresh produce and baked goods as well. We have space for lots of vendors, so please spread the word, and bring your friends and neighbors to shop and enjoy the day. Help is also needed the day of the event to work the food stand, coordinate with vendors, greet visitors, and help with kids' games (SSL hours available!) - please [sign up online](#) if you can take part. Questions? Contact [Pamela Cook](#).



PB & J Collection

Please join the Sunday School for the annual collection of PB & J! We'll collect those back-to-school staples through October for the clients of Gaithersburg Help. Look for the collection bin in the narthex. Thank you!



Congregational Meeting



A Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, September 22 to approve funds to address our HVAC issues! Please plan to attend!

Posaunenchor, our German Band friends, will be visiting us again on the weekend of October 11-13. Among other events, they will play at our service on October 13. Mark your calendars and be sure to be here! Right now, we are looking for hosts to house 2-4 band members on those days. If you can be a host, sign up on the list in the narthex!



From Pastor Steve...

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

Summer is now officially over, and the fall has begun. Often, we hope that summer will be a more quiet, restful time when things go slower and we can get some rest and relaxation. But frequently, our summers are busy. And if you're like me, when you get to the end of summer, it seems like summer has whizzed by and it's all been a blur of activities! Sometimes, I feel like I still need to catch my breath before the flurry of fall activities begin.

The fall, also, is usually a time when there's a flurry of activities. This is particularly true as school begins and work schedules gear up again after the summer. At Prince of Peace, September is also a busy time, as we begin with the Interfaith 5K, start up Sunday School and Confirmation programs again, and even have a special Congregational Meeting on September 22! (Full disclosure - October will be another exciting, but busy month around here!)

And sometimes, the most important thing in these busy times is to be aware of what God is doing in our lives in the midst of our busyness and even through the many things we're doing when it's tempting to get caught up in the weeds of the details. And yet, as we read through the Gospels, this is precisely how Jesus acts. Jesus doesn't usually find a nice, quiet peaceful time to act in people's lives (and if he does - as when he and the disciples get in a boat and go to a deserted place - it quickly becomes not so quiet and peaceful as people find him!) Instead, Jesus acts in the midst of the lives of people who are on the move; in the chaos and pain of people's personal lives; and in the midst of people who are just trying to keep up with their daily chores.

That is, Jesus acts in the midst of our real and busy schedules. And often, our challenge isn't to find a quiet, peaceful time to experience God, but to be open to how God is acting even and especially in the midst of our busyness and our hectic schedules.

Yours in Christ,

September Highlights

Every Sunday

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

11:00 am Sunday School* (pp 4-5)

*Sunday School starts September 15.

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., September 21. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed. **NOTE:** The Saturday service for September and October will be held on the 3rd Saturday due to other events on the calendar.

COMING UP...

September

2 Labor Day

2 Interfaith 5K (pg 1)

8 God's Work, Our Hands (pg 1)

8 Coffee and Conversation starts (pg 5)

8 Confirmation Meets

10 Church Council Meeting

12 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

14 Fall Festival (pg 1)

15 Rally Sunday (pg 4)

15 Youth Sunday School starts (pg 4-5)

19 Theology on Tap (pg 6)

21 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)

22 Special Congregational Meeting (pg 1)

29 Confirmation Meets

October

8 Church Council Meeting

10 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

11-13 Posaunenchor visit (pg 1)

19 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)

19 Blessing of the Animals (pg 4)

20 Sacred Grounds Planting (pg 4)

20 Confirmation Meets

27 Reformation Day / Confirmation Sunday

31 Halloween

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

August 2024

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the July Church Council meeting.

Finances: Giving continues to be equal to 2023 but a little behind this year's expenses. (Council notes).

Feast Fund: The Sacred Garden is on track for October planting.

Besecker: BYC currently has no working heat or air conditioning.

FALL FESTIVAL: is happening Sep 14, 10-3 at the church.

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.

Called Congregational Meeting: We currently have an AC system down in the main building (nursery) and issues with the heating system. BYC does not have working heat or cooling.

VIEWS

VBS: VBS was successful with 18 Youth and 37 Adults teaching, leading, learning and making s'mores.

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on July 9. 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, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Lisa Canary, Barney Cook, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Janet Levine, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Jim McNerney, Dick Moore, Steve & Jan Plewes, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Denny Tritinger, Sharon Wahl, Susan Weiner, Laura Wilson

Sympathy

Family of Cathy Auton

(mother of Richard Farrar's partner, Linda)

Family of Mike Franklin (friend of Richard Farrar)

Family of Juliette Kragh

(mother of Kathryn Brower)

Family of Carol Stano (friend of Sherry Schiebel)

Thanksgiving

Maria Chang (mother of Victoria Wong)

- wonderful medical report

Birth of Anthony Alan Zirpoli

(Son of Rachel Carr & Christopher Zirpoli;

Grandson of Becky & Peter Carr)

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 in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.



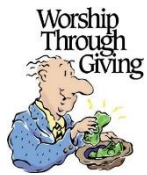
UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take place at our 5 pm Saturday service on October 19! Come and bring your pets!

Sacred Grounds Planting Date is Coming! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 20 at 11am after worship! All summer, the future site of the [Sacred Grounds](#) garden, located on the other side of the stained glass windows near the parking lot entrance, has been mulched and patiently waiting for fall to arrive. The time is almost here! On Sunday, 10/20 at 11am after services the [National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF) will be here with "plug-sized" native plants that support pollinators for our garden! Kit Gage from NWF has put together a lovely garden design that will provide lots of color and interest in the garden throughout the seasons. We hope you can join us to help beautify our grounds and support native wildlife - please bring gardening gloves or trowels if you have them.

STEWARDSHIP

Giving Update and Reminder!



For the first six months of 2024, our regular giving has been virtually matching our giving for last year. A number of us have stepped up and increased giving over last year, which is helping. Thank you! As a reminder, second quarter statements were recently sent out so that you can review your giving. If you haven't yet increased your giving over last year, we ask that you do so if at all possible so that we can continue our regular work together without having to worry about an end of year shortfall.

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.

We are starting later so everyone can participate in the **Day of Service on Sept. 8** - Social Justice Ministries has a family project for you: assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief! (Look for the Social Justice Ministries article on page 1 in this issue for more information and to learn how you can help.)

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 [Janet Levine](#) 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. Descriptions of the upcoming "lessons" follow.

September

- 8 God's Work. Our Hands. LWR Kits of Care Service Project
- 15 Rally Sunday - Sherry Kienzle leads Adult Bible study
- 22 Special Congregational Meeting / Honduras Mission 2024 Presentation
- 29 NWF Focus Group conversations - all welcome to come and give feedback on working with native plants and the Sacred Grounds program

October

- 6 Groundswell Community Solar presentation
- 13 Posanunchor / Speaker from NNIA, the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance Speaker
- 20 Sacred Grounds Planting - come help us
- 27 Confirmation Sunday - Adult Bible study, facilitator TBD

To be added to the email list and get notifications of upcoming programs, please send an email [here](#).

To sign up to lead a session or activity on an upcoming Sunday, please visit this [website](#). Throughout the year, AdultEd will include service activities at the church, welcome speakers from outside organizations, and host group Bible study and conversation. We look forward to having you!

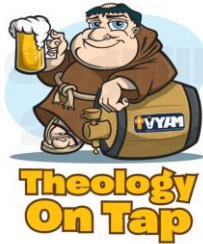
Honduras Mission 2024 Presentation!

Come enjoy a presentation of the 2024 Honduras mission trip after service on **Sunday, September 22 during the Sunday School hour**. The congregation's donations and prayers went a *long* way! A summary and photos of the trip will be shared, followed by a Q&A session. Additional information about the 2025 trip will also be introduced for those thinking about joining us next year. We look forward to continuing to serve these communities in need and bonding with our international mission team!

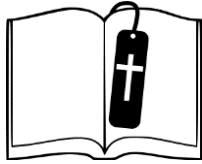


Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session on **Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm**, when we will study angels in the Bible. We will meet on the patio or in the Fellowship Hall depending on the weather! Pastor Steve leads one of these events each month. BYO food and drinks and come 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



It's back to school time, so the Youth Sunday School will be collecting peanut butter and jelly. Tuna and the little containers of fruit are other popular items for lunch bags. Any nonperishable, nutritious foods are in constant need, with stew and cereal also high on the list. Donations to our buckets are so deeply appreciated.

For questions or to volunteer, please contact your POP Delegate, [Hope Walker](#). If you would like a tour of the Pantry on Muddy Branch Road, that can easily be arranged. Visit the [Gaithersburg Help website](#) for lots of great information.

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

Join the [Village at Rockville](#) on Saturday, September 14 at 9:30am for their second annual [Alzheimer's Association 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. 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.

Register for the walk [here](#) and visit the [website](#) for more information.

FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

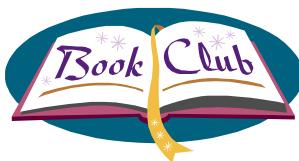
The Women's Book Group will be meeting on **Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. They will also be choosing books for December through much of 2025. Debbie Chan will host.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

October 10 *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*
by Christy Lefter
host Judy Bruening

November 14 *One For The Blackbird, One For The Crow*
by Olivia Hawker
host Jennifer Maloney



RECENT EVENTS

Lots of Memories Made at VBS 2024 - Camp Firelight - by Our Campers, Crew Leaders, and Adult Attendees!

It was a busy week in July as Camp Firelight VBS was held each night from Sunday, July 21st through Thursday, July 25th. Fun was had by all ages (including adults!) as we gathered together to share a meal each night at 6pm, before splitting into an adult Bible study, led by Pastor Steve, and VBS fun for preK to rising 5th graders (with our rising middle-school and high-school youth serving as crew leaders.)

Thank you to the fabulous Fellowship Team (Pamela, Melanie, Meredith, Lidia, Victoria) for all the dinners they provided, as well as everyone in the congregation who helped with donations



towards meals. The team was there early each night so that



VBS volunteers could eat right at 6pm and be ready to start the fun with campers promptly at 6:30pm. We enjoyed roasted chicken, homemade picnic salads, Taco Tuesday with all the toppings, grill nights with hamburgers and hotdogs, lots of homemade desserts and goodies (including gluten free options), and pizza on the last day.

At the VBS camp opening each night. Ms. Emma and our Camp Firelight mascot Sparky led us off with the camp callout, as well as an introduction to the



night's theme and Bible story. (Sparky's Ukrainian cousin came to visit on the last night!) Then we had energetic songs led by Ms. Sonyv along with lots of rhythm instruments and ribbons, to get us moving. We always ended the session with the camp callout, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You." Psalms 56:3. During the week, campers learned about many times in the Bible where people learned to put their trust in God: Jacob's journeys and dreams, Ruth & Naomi's lasting friendship, Jesus sharing wisdom in the temple, Jesus calming the storm, and Phillip's call to share Good News.

After opening, campers then made their way to Ms.



Martha's science and arts & crafts station where everyone had a chance to unleash their creativity. During the week, campers decorated bandanas with the camp callout, made mosaic crosses, and camp

journals. After craft time, elementary campers visited Dr. Jon and Ms. Lisa's Drama station, where they had a chance to really "get into the story" by acting it out. Favorites were the boat from when Jesus



calmed the storm, and the chariot where Phillip talked with a man from Ethiopia about the book of Isaiah. They then visited Ms. Emma's Games station for all kinds of fun ways to incorporate movement with the day's theme. PreK/K campers have their own special Camp Firelight location in the nursery



with Ms. Jamie where they listened to the Bible story each day in a tent, tried their hand at gathering and grinding the grain like Ruth and Naomi (it's harder than you think!) and shaking up cream to make butter to take home (it takes longer than you think, but the

shaking is a lot of fun).

Adults and campers all ended the evening together with more songs outside and s'mores around the campfire - as well as a little too much excitement the second night. We had some campers get stung by yellow jackets while leaving the campfire area at the end of the day. Lucky Ms. Lisa and Dr. Jon came to the rescue with Sting Relief from the first aid kit, and Pastor Steve followed up with some wasp spray outside by the fire ring. The rest of the



closing campfires were held around the firepit on the church patio with no other surprises, just good fun and lots of sticky marshmallows! A good time was had by all, and



we are already looking forward to VBS again next summer.

we are already looking forward to VBS again next summer.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who participated in Casseroles for a Cause.



POP donated 18 casseroles which will be dinner for the residents of Shepherd's Table and Stepping Stones Shelter. Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring provides three meals a day five days a week and two meals on weekends to people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty; the

organization has provided over 41,000 meals already this year, a significant increase over 2023. Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville provides food, shelter, and case management to families experiencing homelessness. 95% of the families served move on to stable housing within 90 days. Thank you for providing nutritious meals to help our neighbors.

Jennifer

The generosity of this congregation is amazing. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Your donations to the school supplies drive was overwhelming. We were able to donate 15 completed backpacks, 5 for grades K - 2nd, 6 for grades 3rd - 5th and 4 for grades 6th - 12th.



In addition, we collected: 14 packs of paper, 39 composition books, 45 packs of dividers, 16 spiral notebooks, 13 folders including some really cool 3-D ones, 10 rulers, 19 pairs of scissors, 38 erasers, 126 pencils, 25 highlighters, 24 glue sticks, 10 packs of index cards, 212 pens, 16 packs of colored pencils, 26 boxes of crayons and 8 boxes of markers.



Once again, the kids at the InterFaith Center are going back to school with a mountain of supplies and carrying stylish back packs.

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

The harvest is great, but the laborers are few.
(*Matthew 9:37-38*)

He who labors diligently need never despair; for all things are accomplished by diligence and labor.
--Menander

I use not only all the brains I have, but all I can borrow.
--Woodrow Wilson

You will never be satisfied just to know *about* God. Really knowing God only comes through experience as he reveals himself to you.
--Henry Blackaby

Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.
--Theodore Isaac Rubin, MD

If you wish to enrich days, plant flowers; If you wish to enrich years, plant trees, If you wish to enrich Eternity, plant ideals in the lives of others.
--S. Truett Cathy

O God, help us to be masters of ourselves that we may be servants of others.
--Sir Alec Paterson

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Articles for the October issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **September 15**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

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