



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 8

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

October 2024

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, [please sign up here!](#)

## Blessing of Animals

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. 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.

## 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!



## Holiday Giving Program

As the season of gratitude and giving approaches, Prince of Peace will once again be participating in the City of Gaithersburg's Holiday Giving Program for Thanksgiving.



The City is hoping to serve over 500 families in November. The City works in conjunction with the entire County to ensure there are no duplications in services being provided.

This is a massive undertaking for the County and local jurisdictions, so we don't usually get our families assigned to us until the first week in November. For the past two years, we have sponsored six families providing all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner and gifts cards to grocery stores so the families can purchase some of their own items.

This year we hope to sponsor six to eight families. Please watch the weekly emails to see how you can be a part of and contribute to this wonderful Thanksgiving project.



## From Pastor Steve...

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

This month, we're looking forward to welcoming back our German band friends from Posauenchor in Hamm, Germany! The German word "Posauenchor" actually means "trombone choir", but they're a complete brass ensemble and have been in existence with the Lutheran Church in Hamm since 1913. We got to know them first through Sam Besecker, the first Pastor at Prince of Peace who had met the Pastor from Hamm at a World Council of Churches event in Geneva, Switzerland. So, on Posauenchor's first American trip in 1989, they played for Prince of Peace's worship service when we were still worshipping in the school.

Since then, we've welcomed them back about once every 5-6 years since 2002, and it's always a great experience to both get to know the band members and to hear them play! I hope that as many people as possible will plan to be here for the weekend of October 11-13. Posauenchor will **play a concert for at the church at 7:30 pm on Saturday, October 12** and they'll **play for our Sunday service at 10 am on October 13**. In addition, they're also playing a concert at the Village at Rockville on Saturday at 3:00 pm, so there will be lots of opportunities to meet them and listen to them play!

As of this writing, we also still need help! We are in need of people to host 2-4 band members in their homes for that weekend. And, we still need help in driving the rental vans as we move the band around! **If you can help host, [please sign up here](#). And if you can help drive, please let me know!**

Above all, don't miss this great opportunity, and invite friends and family to come and be here as we welcome Posauenchor!

Yours in Christ,

## October 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

### 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 service will be on Sat., October 19. This service will include Blessing the Animals.** This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed. **NOTE: This Saturday service is being held on the 3rd Saturday** due to another event on the calendar.

## COMING UP...

### October

8 Church Council Meeting

10 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

11-13 Posauenchor visit (pg 1)

19 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)

19 Blessing of Animals (pg 4)

20 Sacred Grounds Planting (pg 4)

20 Confirmation Meets

27 Reformation Day / Confirmation Sunday

31 Halloween

### November

3 Daylight Saving Time ends

5 Election Day

9 Saturday Worship Service

11 Veterans Day

12 Church Council Meeting

14 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

15-17 ELCA Middle & High School Retreat

28 Thanksgiving Day

For a current calendar, see:

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

September 2024  
News and Views from the PoP Church Council

### NEWS

Here are the updates from the September 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.

Called Congregational Meeting: A Called Congregational Meeting on September 22 approved funds for upgrading/replacing heating and air conditioning for both buildings.

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.

Annual Meeting: The 2025 annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 26 at 11:00am (after the service).

### VIEWS

FALL FESTIVAL: was a successful event with great weather and a good flow of people.

We are fortunate that we have a solid cash reserve in the Building Fund so that we are able to afford the heating and air conditioning upgrades. We do need to prayerfully consider increasing our giving to replenish the Building Fund.

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

Respectfully,  
Jon Conary

**Council met on September 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, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Lisa Conary, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Zena Huen, 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, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Sharon Wahl, Susan Weiner, Laura Wilson

### Sympathy

Family of Connie Hutchinson (friend of Gerry Pfaff)  
Family of Juliette Kragh  
(mother of Kathryn Brower)  
Family of Benzena Lewis  
(mother of Clara Ely's friend)

### Thanksgiving

Baptism of Elaina Florence Nist  
Birth of Eli Von Wald (son of Greg & Meghan Von Wald; grandson of Donna & Steve Von Wald)

### 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.

## OTHER EVENTS

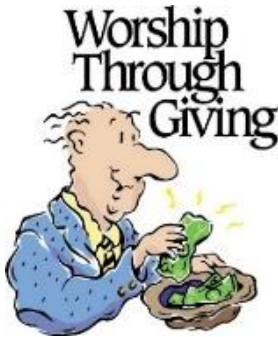
### **Free ESL Fall Classes Happening Now at Lutheran Church of the Cross**

Free English classes (especially suited for native Spanish speakers) are currently running on Tuesdays from 7pm - 8:15pm from 9/24 - 12/17 at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, located at 12801 Falls Rd in Rockville. These classes are great for anyone learning to speak English, wanting to improve their English conversational skills, or preparing for the citizenship / naturalization test. For questions, please contact [amagarino62@gmail.com](mailto:amagarino62@gmail.com) (240-603-3371) or [jcvasconez@verizon.net](mailto:jcvasconez@verizon.net) (240-418-3777)

# 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](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

Sunday School Rally Day was September 15. We are looking forward to welcoming learners of all ages every Sunday following the conclusion of worship service at 11.

For Pre-K and Elementary learners, the curriculum for coming weeks will be focused on the life and times of Moses. The first lesson focused on how God is there for us by providing for Moses and his family when he was a baby.



Sunday school continued with the story of Moses, as he received God's call to tell Pharaoh to "let my people go!" Preschool learners created a burning bush, while elementary learners created sandals that reminded them that God is with us wherever we go, even during difficult times.



## Middle School Sunday School

Do your middle schoolers know the story of the bible? Not just the stories, but how they all fit together and lead to the climax of Jesus' death? Over 12 sessions, we'll be exploring the bible as a narrative and discovering the themes and challenges of living as people of God. (This provides a rich background to complement the Confirmation classes for the 7th and 8th graders.) We'll wrestle with the hard questions, like how does animal sacrifice relate to salvation? And what do we do when we are angry at God? Send your kids to BYC at 11 am. I'm looking forward to the conversation. We also have candy.



## ADULT EDUCATION

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.

### October

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

### November

- 3 TBD
- 10 TBD
- 17 TBD
- 24 TBD

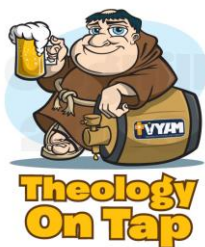
To be added to the email list and get notifications of upcoming programs, please send an email [here](#).

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!

### Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session to talk about issues of faith. We usually meet on the patio or in the Fellowship Hall depending on the weather!

Pastor Steve leads one of these events each month. Check Weekly Email and the worship bulletin for the next date and topic. 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

For questions or information, please contact Hope Walker ([hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org](mailto:hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org))

### 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



We will be delivering the glasses we have collected for the Lions Club at the end of October. Please leave your glasses in the box in the Narthex. Below is the explanation from the Lion's Club

International website as to how they use the glasses:

**The Journey of Recycled Glasses** 1. Lions and Leos collect used eyeglasses at various community locations. 2. The glasses are shipped to the nearest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center where trained volunteers sort, clean and determine the prescription strengths of the glasses. 3. Volunteers at the recycling center carefully package the prepared glasses and store them until they are required for eyeglass dispensing missions. Glasses that are not suitable for reuse are recycled for scrap, with the earnings benefitting local Lions and Leos projects. 4. At the mission site, eye care professionals and trained Lion and Leo volunteers perform vision screenings and **dispense the appropriate recycled glasses, free of charge, to children and adults in need.**

### Sign up to be a Weedbuster in October!

Weedbusters are needed to keep all the garden beds around PoP looking neat and clean! Sign up at [here](#).

## FELLOWSHIP

### Women's Book Group

On October 10, 7:30 pm, the group will discuss *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. Judy Bruening will host.

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

November 14 *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow*

by Olivia Hawker  
host Jennifer Maloney

December 12 *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*

by Mitch Albom  
host Laura Dillon

January 9 *None of This Is True*

by Lisa Jewell  
host Nancy Wolejsza

February 13 *The Women*

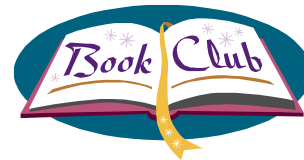
by Kristin Hannah  
host Sharon Wahl

March 13 *The Art Thief...*

by Michael Finkel  
host Nancy Morton

April 10 *The Husband's Secret*

by Liane Moriarty  
host Susan Victor



## RECENT EVENTS

### Yard Sale Donations

Each year part of the yard sale proceeds is donated. This year, POP donated funds (\$1,990 from the yard sale and \$250 budgeted for mission trips) to [Haven Universe](#) to support their mission work in Honduras and serving special needs individuals, families and friends here in the US. See the site for opportunities to volunteer.

In addition financial support (\$1,990 from the yard sale) went to [United Help Ukraine](#) which sends medical aid and equipment to state-run and military hospitals in Ukraine, support and aid to Ukrainian defenders, efforts to rehabilitate emotionally scarred children, and more.

### Interfaith 5K





## Alzheimer's Association Walk

The Village at Rockville had a very successful 2nd annual Alzheimer's Association Walk on September 14th, and more than tripled their fundraising goal! See you next year at this fun and inspiring event.



## POP Helps Ready Students for a Successful School Year

Thank you, thank you to all who donated to the School Supply Drive this summer. Laura Hurst ran the project and reported that she had everything needed for 15 completed backpacks and more - 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.

Heartfelt gratitude to Laura for running this effort each year and helping make a difference for these kids.

Where did the backpacks go? To Interfaith Works (IW). This year, IW provided 4,837 students with backpacks filled with essential school supplies.

## God's Work, Our Hands - Personal Care Kits

Sunday, September 8th, was a day for thinking about being God's hands in this world. Kids and adults gathered in the Fellowship Hall to learn about Lutheran World Relief's work distributing quilts and kits around the world. Last year, LWR provided over 123,000 personal care kits to people fleeing conflict or left homeless by disaster. We compiled 32 personal care kits, with items to help people maintain personal hygiene and dignity. The kits and 44 quilts were delivered to the distribution center Tuesday, September 10th and are already on their way. Many thanks to Jennifer Maloney for coordinating, Kathy Mellott and Jamie Pflasterer for helping, and to the quilters for delivering everything.







## Blessing of the Quilts



From l-r: Victoria Wong, Debbie Forish, Lisa Conary, Dinah Pflasterer, Tonya Meyer, Meredith Kuykendall

Children's sermon participants helped out with displaying the quilts:



From l-r: Gerry Pfaff, Sonvy Waidler, Jim Pflasterer, Susan Potemra, Dinah Pflasterer, JoAnn Percy, Lisa Conary, Debbie Forish, Phoenix

## Fall Festival



There are many more pictures - too many to put in here. Thank you to everyone who participated in ways large and small!



## 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, 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

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

*(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

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Articles for the November issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **October 20**. 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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