



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2024



All Saints' Sunday



On All Saints' Sunday, November 3, we will celebrate one of the oldest festivals of the Church. During worship there will be a time to remember family and friends who have gone before us.

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.

Christmas Pageant



Interested in being a part of the Christmas Pageant this year? We need actors, coaches, photographer, lighting controller, sound person, microphone manager, costumer, prop person, music director, projector person, pianist, etc. We can find a job for you!

Dates and Times:

Sunday, Nov. 3, Noon (pizza) - 3:00 pm

Read through and casting

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Rehearsal and costuming

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Rehearsal with props & finish costuming

Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 8, 4 pm

Christmas Pageant & Sing Along

For more info and/or to sign up, contact Jon or Lisa Conary at 301-461-2697, e-mail Lisa Conary or sign up in the narthex.

Christmas drive for TVAR



This Christmas, PoP hopes to help low-income residents at The Village at Rockville by presenting each of them with a new fleece or other plush twin-bed

blanket. This year we partner with a small group of Bible Study women from Rockville to spread a little cheer with something soft and warm. Note that blankets remain on autumn sales at Macy's and JC Penney's right now. Also requested have been bags of candy to share and lotions for hands and body. If you'd like to help sign up here. [PoP - Holiday Collection for Village at Rockville Residents](#). Due date is Sunday, December 8.



From Pastor Steve...

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

The heat is on! Literally! As a result of our special congregational meeting on September 22, work began immediately to upgrade and replace all of the HVAC systems in both the main building and the Youth Center. And while often an HVAC upgrade is invisible, in our case you'll immediately notice that all the old, ugly baseboard radiator units throughout the main building are gone!

This upgrade provides several enormous advantages to us, including:

- The heat (and A/C) now work! You may remember that in the past couple of years, we've had several breakdowns, and even when the old boiler was working, most of the radiator knobs failed to function. So, parts of the building were cold even when the heat was on.
- The new heat pumps (and mini splits on the BYC) are orders of magnitude more efficient than the old heat pumps (some of which dated to the late 90s). And all of our units are now on Wi-Fi enabled programmable thermostats which will allow us to ensure that heat and A/C are running according to plan (instead of being left on full blast in the middle of the night). Combined with the ability to use the energy being supplied by our solar panels, these things should result in significant energy savings.
- Because the old boiler is gone from the room formerly called "the furnace room" (and also radiators from closets where they did no good anyway), we now have storage space we've never had before. While we'll still need to carefully plan what gets stored there and how it's arranged, this will also make it possible to have nicer gathering areas since stuff that should be put away somewhere won't need to be left out in the Fellowship Hall.

I'm looking forward to enjoying all of these things beginning this fall! I hope you will also! I also hope that you'll join me in making a donation to our Building Fund to help replenish the funds we used to do this upgrade. It was well worth the money, and we were blessed to have had the funds to do

it, but we also should ensure that funds will still be available for future needs. You can [donate directly to the Building Fund by clicking here](#) or by marking your check "Building Fund."

Yours in Christ,

November Highlights

Every Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page
- 11:00 am Sunday School

Every Monday

- 6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

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., November 9. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

COMING UP...

November

- 3 Daylight Saving Time ends (pg 1)
- 3 Christmas Pageant Casting (pg1)
- 5 Election Day
- 9 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)
- 10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal/Costuming (pg 1)
- 11 Veterans Day
- 12 Church Council Meeting
- 14 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 15-17 ELCA Middle & High School Retreat
- 17 Confirmation Meets
- 21 Men's Book Club (pg 7)
- 24 Christmas Pageant w/Props & Costuming (pg 1)
- 28 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 4 Advent Evening Prayer
- 7 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal (pg 1)
- 8 Christmas Pageant & Sing Along (pg 1)
- 11 Advent Evening Prayer
- 12 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 14 Saturday Worship Service
- 15 Confirmation Meets
- 18 Advent Evening Prayer

- 24 Christmas Eve
- 24 Christmas Eve Children's Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Carols & Communion
- 25 Christmas Day
- 25 Christmas Carols & Communion
- 31 New Year's Eve

For a current calendar, see:
<https://poplutheran.org/church-calendars/>

COUNCIL CORNER

October 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 (a pollinator garden of native plants) has been planted.

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

Heating and air conditioning upgrade: The work on the heating and cooling system at church is underway. The BYC should be completed the week of October 20, and the church is complete except for some parts for the Sanctuary unit.

VIEWS

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 October 8. 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, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, 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, Rainer Sahmel, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson, Chet Wolejsza

Sympathy

Family of Michael Baughman
 (relative of Dave Molchany)
 Family of James McMillen
 (cousin of Dave Molchany)
 Family of Bill Ely (father-in-law of Clara Ely)
 Family of Andy McNamara (uncle of Lauren Gibson)

Thanksgiving

Confirmation of Lili Acheson, Carly Michel, Libby Michel, Ethan Mills, Taylor Mills, Erik Sander & AJ Taylor
 Gail Kengor (cousin of Linda Prueter)

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.

SPOTLIGHT

The Giving Tree

Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PoP members have the opportunity to select a child's name from the Giving Tree and purchase a special Christmas gift for him/her. This year we are working with Brown Station Elementary School to provide a happy Christmas for selected students and their siblings. If you are interested in participating, use the Sign-Up Genius link that will be provided in the



next few weeks. Please return your wrapped gift(s) with the identification information found on the link securely attached with a sticky note or a ribbon. Please do not tape it to the gift. **Bring the gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 15th and place them in the large box in the Narthex. We plan on delivering them Monday, December 16th.** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com.

OTHER EVENTS

Honduras Mission 2025

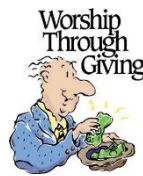
We are already planning for the next Honduras Mission Trip scheduled for **June 26-July 5, 2025!** An interest meeting/breakfast to hear more details/Q&A will be held on **November 16, 2024 at 8:00am.** Please contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for the meeting location, or if you cannot make the interest meeting and would like more information.

See the following to view a slide show of the 2024 trip: [Honduras Mission Trip Slides 2024](#)



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 has continued with the story of Moses, going over the story of the parting of the Red Sea and the Israelites' escape from Egypt. Preschool learners enjoyed songs together and learning the Bible point with this quarter's Bible buddy. Then they used a blue paper plate for the Red Sea and made a path through it for their Moses and Israelite stickers to safely get from one side to the other!



After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, we learned how they wandered through the desert for 40 years, and there was much grumbling. But God hadn't forgotten them - he continued to love and care for them. We learned how God provided manna for His people every morning (just enough for each family and just enough for the day), and quail to eat. PreK/K learners picked up cotton ball "manna" in their baskets when acting out the story, and then used the manna as part of our craft. Elementary learners used cupcake liners to make cute quails, to help us remember how God provides for all our needs.



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.

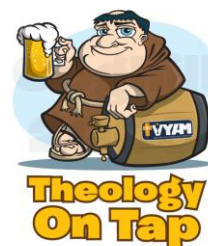
To be added to the email list and get notifications of upcoming programs, please send an email to pop_adult_sunday_school+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

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.

- 11/3 Adult Bible Study
- 11/10 Adult Bible Study
- 11/17 Adult Bible Study
- 11/24 SJM - Packing Thanksgiving Boxes
- 12/1 TBD
- 12/8 TBD
- 12/15 TBD
- 12/22 No Sunday School
- 12/29 No Sunday School

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 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



All of that PBJ from the Sunday School Fall food drive is very appreciated. Please be thinking of other non-perishable foods as we move into winter. The protein things (tuna, stew), beans, fruit, are all in constant need.

If you would like a tour of the Pantry on Muddy Branch Road, that can easily be arranged. The website is GaithersburgHelp.org for lots of great information.

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

[SharePower™ by Groundswell](#) Encourages Solar Energy Equity

Thank you to Groundswell for coming out to the Fall Festival and the Adult Coffee and Conversation hour on 10/6 to promote their new solar energy equity program, [SharePower](#). In this program, individuals purchase clean energy from a local community solar project (Paddington Square Apts in Silver Spring:

<https://groundswell.org/project/paddington/>) and share the solar power and savings with lower income-qualified neighbors – allowing everyone to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without installing solar panels on their home. Both renters and homeowners can participate! [This video includes powerful testimony](#), showing how sharing solar energy credits can provide a critical lifeline to neighbors.

Enrollees pay a quarterly fee to get solar energy credits back on their Pepco bill, and to cover the enrollment costs for a low-income household,

allowing them to also get solar energy credits back on their bill and reduce their energy costs. SharePower enrollees will "on average" (depending on how much energy is generated by the panels) pay about \$148 more in fees than they receive in bill credits. However, the overage is a tax-deductible donation (enrollees receive a donation letter from Groundswell). In addition to the tax deduction, enrollees get the benefits of using cleaner energy and helping neighbors with burdensome energy costs.

Groundswell will also make a \$50 donation to PoP for new enrollments at [SharePower.Groundswell.org](#) - just enter the code "POPROCKS" in the Other field under the "How did you hear about us" question during enrollment.

New Plantings at PoP!

Next time you are at church, please check out the beautiful new dogwood that's been planted near the back door of the sanctuary. Thank you to Susan Holdsworth for this lovely addition to the PoP gardens!



NNIA News

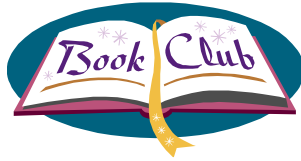
PoP is a member congregation of New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), serving families who have come to this country seeking a better life. In September, we were happy to host NNIA families as vendors at our Fall Fest. One of the women was overjoyed to have a way to make a little money and had stayed up nights painting while her baby slept. Several families participated, selling handmade rugs and other crafts. In October, NNIA director Chris King spoke at Coffee and Conversation, telling us more about the families, and the impact that congregations like ours can make.

NNIA has an ongoing need for volunteers to tutor adults in English. Their abilities range from beginner to almost fluent. All are eligible for free ESOL classes, so this one-on-one tutoring supplements those classes. We ask tutors to commit to 12 weekly sessions with a student. To learn more, please visit [\(NNIA\) New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance \(nnia-maryland.com\)](#) or contact [Sony Waidler](#).

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet to discuss *Gardens In The Midst Of War* by Karen Kaiser on **Thursday November 21 at 7:00 pm**. Chet Wolejsza will be our host.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group has chosen *One For The Blackbird, One For The Crow* by Olivia Hawker for discussion on **November 14 at 7:30 pm**. Jennifer Maloney will be hosting.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

December 12 *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*

by Mitch Albom
host Laura Dillon

January 9 *None of This Is True*

by Lisa Jewel
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

May 8 *The House of Doors*

by Tan Twon Eng
host Alice Benson

June 12 *Ordinary Grace*

by William Kent Krueger
host Becky Carr

RECENT NEWS

Prince of Peace Green Efforts

Recognized by Montgomery County

Good news! Prince of Peace was recently recognized at the 10/13 Montgomery County Interfaith Climate Solutions for Congregations conference, for the church's efforts in environmental sustainability, including the installation of our solar panels, work with the National Wildlife Federation on the installation of the Sacred Grounds native plant garden, and

installation of efficient heat pumps for heating and cooling. At the conference, attendees learned about county resources and partnerships available to faith communities in the areas of Emergency Preparedness, Energy, Food, Sustainable Landscaping, and Transportation. Interested in Creation Care efforts at Prince of Peace? Please contact Jamie Pflasterer or Tonya Meyer to get involved!



RECENT EVENTS/THANK YOU!

Sacred Grounds Thank You

A huge THANK YOU to all the members of the congregation, this year's confirmation class, youth Sunday school, Interfaith Power and Light, and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for all the work on Sunday, 10/20 during the planting of the Sacred Grounds garden. We had over 30 volunteers after church with rakes, spades, trowels, wheelbarrows, watering cans, and plant markers who put in over 180 new native plants in the new semi-circular garden bed on the south side of the church.

Pastor Steve kicked us off with a blessing of the soil and the native plants before we began, and Kit Gage from NWF provided helpful tips on how deep to dig for planting, watering the soil before placing the plants, and also how to gently loosen the roots. Then it was time to dig! We had lots of people popping the plants out of their containers, moving mulch so that the ground was ready to go, digging holes, watering the dirt, and placing the plants. Youth Sunday School joined us outside with a special paper flower, and flower pot decoration craft. Some of the species planted included [New York Ironweed](#), [Threadleaf Coreopsis](#), [New England Aster](#), [Blue Star](#), [Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod](#), and [Blue Cardinal Flower](#).

We had so many plants that we were able to place some in the existing bed against the south wall of the church building as well. After planting, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved break with lemonade and pizza. Please stop by and take a look! A sign-up to receive more information from NWF about using native plants in gardening is available in the narthex, and if you are interested in helping care for the garden, please check out the [Weedbusters signup online](#).



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>) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

THINK ABOUT IT

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!
(Psalms 118:1)

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
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Articles for the December/January issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **November 17**. 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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