



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 44 Iss. 3

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

April 2025

Holy Week Schedule



Join us (and invite friends and family!) for [Holy Week](#) and [Easter](#) worship! Check out the signup sheet in the narthex to help with worship.

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 am
Worship (in person and [live stream on Facebook](#))

April 17 at 7:15 pm
Maundy Thursday Service (in person and [live stream on Facebook](#))

April 18 at 7:15 pm
Good Friday Service (in person and [live stream on Facebook](#))

April 19 at 5:00 pm
Easter Vigil (in person only) This is our Second Saturday service; however, it is a different service from Sunday this month.

April 20 at 10:00 am
Easter Sunday service (in person and [live stream on Facebook](#))

Holy Week: <https://poplutheran.org/worship-and-music/holy-week-at-prince-of-peace/>

Lenten Wednesday Services

Come join us in person or livestream as we continue our Lenten journey! Each Wednesday in Lent, we will have a service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm. On April 9, the service will be preceded at 6:15 pm by a time of fellowship with wine, cheese and finger foods. On April 2, Social Justice Ministry will lead a time of focus on Central and North America refugee needs beginning at 6:15 pm.



Easter Flowers and Easter Eggs



If you would like to donate flowers for Easter Sunday, please fill out the form at church or [email the office](#) by Sunday, April 13. The color this year is only white. Lilies are \$15.00. Hyacinths are \$11.

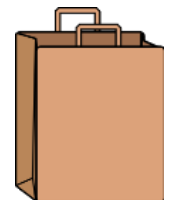


The Easter season wouldn't be complete without the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! This year's

Easter Egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday morning, April 20, beginning at 11:00 am. Children are encouraged to bring a basket or bag to collect the eggs. Eggs to be filled can be found in the Narthex. If you would like to donate filled eggs for the hunt, please bring eggs filled with goodies on or before 10 am on Easter morning. Thank you for your continued support of the annual Easter egg hunt. If you have questions or need additional information, please email [Laura Hurst](#).

Lenten Sharing Bags

This year, our Lenten Sharing Bags are going to our littlest New Neighbors through NNIA. Bring your items to PoP through Palm Sunday, April 13. We are collecting new, unopened:



- Baby wipes
- Diaper cream
- Onesies, all sizes
- Training pants (not Pull-Ups), toddler sizes

the families already receive diapers through a grant



From Pastor Steve...

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

It's spring and the signs of spring are everywhere! Some of those signs: crocus and daffodils are blooming; crabgrass is coming up in the lawn; pollen is in the air. Also signs of spring: ice on the deck; cold winds; grey skies.

I often enjoy the winter season and opportunities to ski in the snow. But as soon as the first warm breezes of spring arrive, and I see the flowers coming up, I'm ready for spring. But it comes in fits and starts. If I can open the windows one day, the next I need to turn the heat back on. I see the lawn getting greener at the same time that the ground is still frozen in my garden patches. And every year, I wonder how there can be so much pollen in the air when it's too cold for those stupid buds to even be open!

Yet, this is the way it is every year. Spring isn't so much a season as it is a process of something bigger happening. Lent has also been called the "springtime" of the church year, not only because it occurs during the spring, but because Lent is also a process. It's the process of following Jesus to the Cross. It's the process of learning from Jesus the way of service and sacrifice. And it's God's process of bringing us through death into new life.

And like any process, it's not one continual, gentle process upward. Lent reminds us that growing into the new life of Jesus, while sometimes beautiful, also involves pain. Lent reminds us that growing into the new life of Jesus, while sometimes exciting, also is often challenging. Lent reminds us that growing into the new life of Jesus, while sometimes comforting, also involves confusion and fear. All of these things that we'd rather not have, like the ice on the deck, are not signs that we're not "getting it right" or that God has abandoned us. Rather, they're simply signs that the process is moving along, and we're called to keep our eyes open for the next things God is doing and not lose heart.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve

April Highlights

Every Sunday

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

11:00 am Sunday School*

*No Sunday School 4/13 & 4/20

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 one Saturday of each month. Our next service will be on Saturday, April 19. This service this month will be the Easter Vigil.



COMING UP...

April

2 Holden Evening Prayer
8 Church Council Meeting
9 Holden Evening Prayer
10 Women's Book Group
13 Palm Sunday
13 No Sunday School
17 Maundy Thursday
18 Good Friday
19 Easter Vigil
20 Easter Sunday
20 Easter Egg Hunt
20 No Sunday School
21 Easter Monday
22 Earth Day

May

4 Confirmation Meets
8 Women's Book Group
10 Saturday Worship Service
11 Mother's Day
13 Church Council Meeting
25-30 Yard Sale Prep
26 Memorial Day
31 Yard Sale!

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

March 2025

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the March Church Council meeting.

Finances: We have a 2025 budget that slightly exceeds estimated giving. February was not a good month for giving. Hopefully, giving will improve in March (Council notes).

Feast Fund: The Feast Fund will be used to do a kitchen refresh in 2025.

VIEWS

If we increase giving by \$5.00 a week per family, we will eliminate the budget deficit by year end.

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on March 11. 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 Baur, Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson, Chet Wolejsza

Sympathy

Family of Paula Jones

(Pat Ward was her life partner of 48 years;
friends of Joan Kowalik and Susan Victor)

Family of Ivan Mirkovich

(family friend of Dave Molchany)

Family of Tamara Shutelock
(family friend of Dave Molchany)
Family of Candi Watkins' father

Thanksgiving

Baptism of Eli James Von Wald
(son of Meghan & Greg 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.

PRAYER MINISTRY

After nearly 20 years of initiating and leading the PoP Prayer Ministry, Nancy Swanson is transitioning leadership to her co-leader, Donna Von Wald. Additions to the Prayer List should still be directed to Martha in the Office (office@poplutheran.org) or you can contact Donna (dlhsjvw@rcn.com) if you have any special prayer concerns. Lucky for us, Nancy will still serve on the Prayer Team along with Cherie DeGeorge, Gerry Pfaff, Nancy Wolejsza, and Donna. [We're always recruiting, if you want to join us!] And watch for an upcoming article on the history of the Prayer Ministry. We are so grateful to Nancy for creating and enhancing it over the years to turn it into the robust program that it is today. The PoP Prayer List and the prayers that result from it give great comfort to many. Thank you, Nancy!

Prayer Ministry Volunteers Needed - Help keep the PoP Prayer List up-to-date by contacting 5-7 PoP members (thru email, text, or phone) for the status of their ongoing Prayer List requests; 3 times a year. If you are interested in a fulfilling opportunity with limited commitment, please contact [Donna Von Wald](#) for more details.

SAVE THE DATE

YARD SALE

Saturday, May 31, 8 am - 1 pm

Our annual opportunity to grow closer while reaching out to the surrounding community will be here before we know it. Watch for more information, including an updated Yard Sale Handbook for 2025, and sign-ups.



VBS & Adult Bible Study



VBS for Kids and Adults is back from Sunday, July 20 through Thursday July 24, 6:30 to 8:30pm. Dinner is provided before the classes start (6:00 to 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 with a Road Trip on the Go With God. Adults, come whether you have kids or not! Keep your eyes open for information concerning registration which opens soon.

OTHER EVENTS

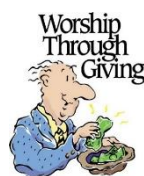
Haven Universe "Saturday Night Alive!" Non-profit, Haven Universe has been partnering with Prince of Peace for several years and invites you to volunteer (or be a guest!) at HU "Saturday Night Alive."

These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. "Saturday Night Alive" events will occur on the following dates from 4:00-6:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): April 5, May 3. Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, gym setup/takedown, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. This is a chance to see God's work through our hands. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact Ric or Sherry Kienzle for questions. We hope you can join us to be a witness of Christ to others!



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](mailto:Helen.Griffith@poplutheran.org) if you have any questions.

Online Giving

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

We won't have Sunday School on Palm Sunday (4/13) or Easter Sunday (4/20). We look forward to seeing you at these special services!

Helping the Babies

PreK-K and Elementary learners made "gift tags" for baby kits for NNIA, New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance, to support Social Justice Ministry's Lenten collection. The learners thought about refugees and the needs of their babies.



PreK-K and Elementary Lessons

PreK-K and Elementary classes have been learning about the miracles of Jesus. Here, learners reenact people bringing their (balloon) friend to Jesus for healing, where they lower him through the roof. Then, they made envelope houses.



They've also been learning the teachings of Jesus, including the parable of the Good Samaritan. Here, Ms. Anne reads the Bible story and the learners show their helping hands along with the Bible verse, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).



April will begin with the Resurrection of Jesus! Then we'll take a break for Palm Sunday and Easter. When we resume, our Bible stories will focus on God's patience with us.

Confirmation

PoP Confirmation Class Service Project - Food Distribution at So What Else Food Bank

The PoP confirmation class gathered at [So What Else](#), a food bank located in North Bethesda, on a windy Saturday March morning to help sort produce and distribute boxes of food to clients. (So What Else also provides diapers, formula, clothing, and youth programs to clients both locally and in Baltimore.) Church youth pitched right in with

lifting flats of bananas, preparing donated produce for distribution, and helping break down boxes for recycling. So What Else estimates that all the food distributed each Saturday feeds as many as 6000 people in our community. Thank you PoP confirmands!



Sunday School is Cool



Youth and Adult Sunday School will meet on 4/6 and 4/27. Special services are on 4/13 (Palm Sunday) and 4/20 (Easter morning service followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt).

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.

April

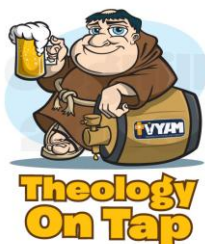
- 6 Bible Study, led by Sherry Kienzle
- 13 No Sunday School
- 20 No Sunday School
- 27 NWF Native Plant Distribution

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.

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. If

you have questions or need to join by Zoom, please 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

Gaithersburg HELP's number of clients is holding pretty steady, so at least at this point, fear of ICE raids is not keeping hungry people hiding out at home. Annual grants from FEMA have ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and those have now been cancelled.

A major, ongoing need is for drivers to take clients who are elderly or disabled to local doctor appointments during business hours. If you have the availability and willingness to take one or more assignments a month at times of your choice, please fill out a volunteer application on the HELP website. Cab rides are booked when no volunteer driver is available, but the personal touch of a HELP driver is deeply appreciated by clients.

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. The website is GaithersburgHelp.org for lots of great information.



Prince of Peace has always been dedicated to supporting our community, and we need your help! We have an ongoing food collection project for Gaithersburg Help. Your generous donations of non-perishable food items can bring hope and nourishment to families who rely on the pantry for support.

How You Can Help:

What to Donate: Cereal, tuna, peanut butter and jelly

When to Donate: Donations will be accepted 365 days a year

Where to Donate: Please bring your donations to the collection bins located at the entrances to the Church

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Quilters



the world one quilt at a time!

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**

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](#).

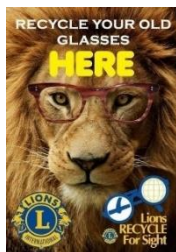
Social Justice Ministry News

Refugee Resettlement Needs – Ways to Help Now

Prince of Peace is partnering with New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance to support newly arrived refugee families. NNIA currently supports 27 families, mostly Afghan. The federal government has pulled funds for refugee resettlement. Refugee families in Montgomery County have lost services and financial support. NNIA is looking to faith partners to help. Without federal funds, the newly arrived refugees cannot pay rent; donations to help pay rent are needed. Go to <https://nnia-maryland.org/serve/> to donate online. Lastly, NNIA invites everyone to volunteer; there are opportunities - great and small, working directly with refugees or supporting them indirectly. Go to <https://nnia-maryland.org/sample-page/> to sign up. Or contact [Jennifer Maloney](#) or [Sonvy Waidler](#) with questions.



Lions Club Eyeglass Collection Drive



Have you found old eyeglasses lying around your home while looking for donations for the Yard Sale? Give them a new purpose by donating them to the Lions Club Eyeglass Collection Drive!

Your gently used eyeglasses can make a world of difference to someone in need. Simply bring your donations to the designated collection box in the church Narthex. Every pair collected will be refurbished and distributed to individuals who can't afford the vision care they need.

Village At Rockville (National Lutheran Home) - Annual Spring Sale

Come visit the Village At Rockville's Annual Spring Sale on **Saturday, May 3rd from 10am-2pm** and shop until you drop! Lots of great gift ideas for Mother's Day including Vintage Items, Jewelry, Baked goods, Books, Plants, Handmade items, and the Specialty Shoppe. Proceeds are used for the Benevolent Care Fund and benefit residents of the Village. The Village at Rockville is located at 9701 Veirs Drive in Rockville.



FELLOWSHIP

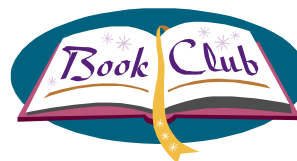
Women's Book Group

On Thursday, April 10th at 7:30 pm, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *The House of Doors* by Tan Twon Eng. Susan Victor will be hosting.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

May 8 *Ordinary Grace*
by William Kent Krueger
host Becky Carr

NOTE: We will be picking out books for the several months after May.



MEMBER NEWS



Susan Weiner, leader of the Card Ministry and more, has just released her latest book. Entitled *ALL THIS AND MORE*, Susan's book is meant to appeal to adolescents and adults with poetry ranging from the glory of God to charming poems about pirates and octopuses! Sure to encourage faith and to simply delight all ages, Susan's book is available on [Amazon](#) and Barnes and Noble. If interested, help support our congregation's artistic endeavors, and get your copy today.

RECENT EVENTS

SSL - laying out quilt tops for the quilting group



CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training at PoP in March

Thank you to the Montgomery County CERT volunteers who came to Prince of Peace on Sunday, March 16th after services to conduct hands-on first aid training. Members who attended the workshop learned about rescuer safety, hands-only CPR and AED, and stopping life-threatening bleeding. The training included lots of practical tips to "be the help" in an emergency situation until first responders arrive - what happens in the (on average) 9 minutes in between a call to 911 and the arrival of first responders can save a life! To learn more about other first aid trainings available from the county, visit

<https://montgomerycert.org/cert-training/>



Lenten Midweek Fellowship and Prayer - Welcoming Afghan New Neighbors

Walking into Prince of Peace for the March 19th midweek Lenten fellowship felt a little different than usual. Attendees were greeted with multiple stations set up in the narthex, walking them through the Lenten journey that a new immigrant to the US might encounter. Social Justice Ministry provided everyone with a card as they entered, detailing common scenarios for families and individuals seeking to emigrate. Attendees also experienced what it might feel like to try and fill out a bureaucratic form in another language, and learned specifically about the experiences of Afghan immigrants (one of the largest groups currently being served by the [New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance](#)). Finally there were reflections on the meaning of welcome and how it feels to be welcomed to a new place. Special thanks to Lida Molkara for bringing delicious homemade Afghan food for us all to enjoy! *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,* Matthew 25:35



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

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1:3)

I cannot give in to the devil's principle, deceitful tactic which makes so many Christians satisfied with an "Easter celebration" instead of experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection. It is the devil's business to keep Christians mourning and weeping with pity beside the cross instead of demonstrating that Jesus Christ is risen indeed.

--A.W. Tozer

It's easiest to see the cross on Jesus' shoulders. It's a bit harder to see it with our neighbor's cross. Most difficult of all is seeing our own cross.

--Mieczyslaw Malinski

Woman--last at the cross, and earliest at the grave.

--E.S. Barrett

My Sunday school class of kindergarteners was studying the creation story. After several weeks, we were ready to review.

"What did God make the first day?" I quizzed. "The second day?" They answered both questions correctly.

"And what happened on the third day?" I asked. One little child, face shining with enthusiasm, exclaimed, "He rose from the dead!"

--Michele L. Hardie

The resurrection is not only the Good News, it is the best news imaginable.

--Ray C. Stedman

If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything.

--T.J. Bach

The accounting department of a large insurance company was working on year-end reports when the computers went down. An emergency call was put in to the systems analyst. Busy with other troubleshooting, the man didn't appear until three hours later. Yet even then several clerks cheered, "He's here! Our savior!"

Without a word, the systems analyst turned to leave. Panicked, the accounting manager cried in alarm, "Where are you going?"

"I'm leaving," the analyst said with a smile. "I remember what they did to the last savior."

--Marla J. Kiley

Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

--John Wooden

Jesus' resurrection makes it impossible for man's story to end in chaos - it has to move inexorably towards light, towards life, towards love.

--Carolo Carretto

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Articles for the May issue of *Glad Tidings* are due April 13. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

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