



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 44 Iss. 2

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

March 2025

Lent at Prince of Peace

Come join us in person or [livestream on our Facebook page](#) as we begin [our Lenten journey each Wednesday in Lent](#).

March 5; 7:15 pm - Ash Wednesday
service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

March 12, 26 & April 9; 6:15 pm
A time of fellowship with wine, cheese, and finger foods.

March 19 & April 2; 6:15 pm
Social Justice Ministry will lead a time of focus on Afghan and South American refugee needs.

March 12, 19, 26 & April 2, 9; 7:15 pm
Holden Evening Prayer



Now is a great time to recognize all the blessings we have been given! See the insert at church or [click here to find out ways to share your blessings with PoP!](#)

Yard Sale & Vacation Bible School



The first organizational meetings are being held soon. Yard Sale is on Friday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. VBS is on Sunday, March 23 at noon. All interested persons are welcome to one or both of these meetings. Contact [Lisa Conary](#) for more information.



This year, our Lenten Sharing Bags are going to our littlest New Neighbors through NNIA.

Bring your items to PoP between Ash Wednesday, March 5 and Palm Sunday, April 13.

We are collecting new, unopened:

- Baby wipes
- Diaper cream
- Onesies, all sizes
- Training pants, toddler sizes

*The families already receive diapers through a grant. *

Special Quilting Hour

There will be a Quilting Hour on Sunday, March 9 in the Fellowship Hall at noon for Lutheran World Relief (SSL hours are available). We will be setting up quilt tops, that is, arranging 63 squares of cloth into a pattern to be sewn together later for a quilt top.



Daylight Saving Time



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday, March 8 for the start of Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 9.

Inclement Weather



During the winter months, if inclement weather requires us to cancel services or activities, a notice will appear on the [website homepage \(poplutheran.org\)](#).



From Pastor Steve...

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

Limits. We hate them! And perhaps that's why we're so often marketed to by slogans that tell us "There are no limits on what you can do [with our product]"; or "you can do anything you can imagine!" But, in fact, there are always limits we have to live with. There really are only 24 hours in a day, and no matter how much time we may "save", we still have that time limit. We can try to push ourselves to exhaustion, but there is a limit to how much energy we have. And even though I've had dreams in which I imagined I could fly, I really can't. Limits are a part of life, even if we don't like to admit them.

On Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent with a very unpopular and even counter-cultural statement: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) It's a reminder of perhaps the most basic limit - the limit that our mortal life doesn't go on forever, even if we'd like not to think about it most of the time!

And in fact, as the season of Lent goes on, it reminds us of other limits we often don't like to think about. As we read the biblical stories, we're reminded that, like all other humans, we're not immune to sickness and disease that often limit us. We're reminded that, like all other humans, we mess things up even when we try to do what's right. And we're reminded that, like all other humans, we fail to be as brave and faithful as we want to be, even when we're trying our best. We're limited.

And yet, Lent doesn't leave us in our limits. Rather, Lent confronts us with limits to remind us that the prescription for limits is neither to deny them nor even to try to overcome them. Rather, the remedy is to rely on God's love and help in Jesus which never fails to save in spite of our limits. That is, rather than deny the limits of our faults, we're supposed to look to Jesus for forgiveness. Rather than trying to overcome the limitations of our faith and courage, we're supposed to look for God's help and strength. And rather than deny the limit of death, we're called each day to look to the promise of the

Resurrection, which is God's final answer to all the limits of our lives.

May this season of Lent be for you a time to not only reflect on your limits, but even more to remember the promises of Jesus which are stronger and more lasting than any limit you'll ever face.

Yours in Christ,

March 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 (pg 6)

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters (pg 6)

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 5)

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., March 8.** This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

COMING UP...

March

5 Ash Wednesday (pp 1, 3)

7 Yard Sale Meeting (pg 1)

8 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)

9 Daylight Saving Time Starts (pg 1)

9 Special Quilting Hour (pg 1)

11 Church Council Meeting

12 Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 3-4)

13 Women's Book Group (pg 7)

16 CERT Training (pp 5, 6)

16 Confirmation Meets

17 St. Patrick's Day

19 Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 3-4)

20 Ladies' Dinner (pg 7)

23 VBS Meeting (pg 1)

26 Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 3-4)

28 Euchre/Game Night (pg 7)

April

- 2 Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 3-4)
- 8 Church Council Meeting
- 9 Holden Evening Prayer (pp 1, 3-4)
- 10 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Maundy Thursday
- 18 Good Friday
- 19 Easter Vigil
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 20 Easter Egg Hunt
- 21 Easter Monday
- 22 Earth Day

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

February 2025

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the February Church Council meeting.

Finances: We have a 2025 budget that slightly exceeds estimated giving. January was a good month for giving and hopefully this trend will continue. (Council notes).

Feast Fund: We would like to do a kitchen refresh in 2025.

Council Officers: The Church Council Officers for 2025 are:

Jon Conary-President
Laura Dillon-Vice President
Sherry Kienzle- Secretary

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 February 13. You can read notes from that meeting (including the 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

Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Zena Huen, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson

Sympathy

Family of Ruslan Ganushak
(uncle of Sasha Yanevskyy)
Family of Bill 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

Midweek Lenten Services - Special SJM Interactive Experiences on 3/19 and 4/2

With the start of Lent nearly upon us (the Ash Wednesday service will be **on March 5th at 7:15pm**), we also welcome the return of Wednesday Holden evening prayer services starting **on March 12th at 7:15pm** preceded by fellowship time at **6:15pm**. In addition to the Fellowship receptions with wine and cheese, there will also be two special evenings sponsored by Social Justice Ministry, with interactive experiences focusing on Afghan and South American immigration, as well as the work by [Global Refuge](#) (formerly LIRS, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and [NNIA, New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance](#), a grassroots interfaith group here in Montgomery County (Prince of Peace is a member church), that focuses on welcoming and settling new neighbors.

Have you ever thought about what it might be like to try and navigate the immigration process, to apply for asylum and legal entry? If you needed to

take refuge in another country, what would your family choose to bring? Try out some fun and thought-provoking activities (all ages welcome!) as we enjoy fellowship time together. Activities on **Wednesday, March 19th at 6:15pm** will focus on the Afghan experience with Afghan appetizers to share, and **Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:15pm** will focus on the South American experience, with Latin American finger foods. We look forward to seeing you there.

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):

March 15

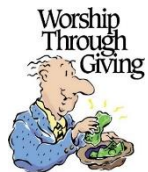
April 5

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 for 2025 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 Helps with Souper Bowl



Every year, our learners make and distribute handouts to remind folks to donate soup, stew, and chili to Gaithersburg HELP. Then, they count and bag the donations for delivery to Gaithersburg HELP. This year, PoP members donated 163 cans of soup, stew, and chili!



PreK-K and Elementary Classes

PreK-K learners completed their lessons about the Israelites reaching the Promised Land by taking on the role of priests in the Battle of Jericho. They blew their shofars as they walked around the city walls each day, slept, and walked around again the next day. Finally, on the seventh day, the priests blew shofars, the people shouted, and the walls fell down! Our Bible verse was from Joshua: "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



We have begun our lessons about Jesus! While sharing little flashlights and enjoying Christmas lights, we learned that Jesus is the light of the world who brings light to the darkness. The light that Jesus brings is love, and our class included two ways to share that love. First, we counted and packed soup for donation to Gaithersburg Help. Next, we made valentines for the people we love.



Then we learned that God sent John the Baptist to prepare people for Jesus. We discovered that John followed God's command to baptize Jesus. We had fun acting out the story with little stick puppets during Sunday School and at home.

In March, we will have lessons about Jesus teaching us how to pray and teaching us by telling parables. We will also begin studying the events of Holy Week.

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.

March

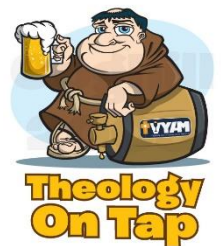
- 2 Bible Study, led by Sherry Kienzle
- 9 Bible Study, led by Emma Yanevskyy
- 16 12:00-2:30 pm Special Event - Emergency Response Training (See CERT Training on page 6.)
- 23
- 30 Melissa Blackstone - TVAR - 7 Dimensions of Wellness

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/PoPAdultEd2024> 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 on 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

The POP 205 pounds of good soups and stews were much appreciated, from Souper Bowl Sunday. In general, good nutritious stuff, like beans, proteins, peanut butter and cereal are always needed. Thanks for your ongoing support.



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

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



CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training on Sunday, 3/16 from noon - 2:30PM
Do you know how to assist

your neighbors and co-workers in an emergency situation? Will you be able to help if Emergency Services are delayed? If your answer was not a resounding yes, then consider taking the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training being offered by Montgomery County, right here at Prince of Peace! Training will be held after Sunday school on **Sunday, 3/16 from noon - 2:30pm in the sanctuary**, and lunch (pizza/subs) will be available for participants. SSL hours will be given to teens who complete the training. Topics covered will include rescuer safety, hands-only CPR and AED, and stopping life-threatening bleeding. To learn more, visit

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

Seeking volunteers for a FREE 9'x9' native plant garden, to provide feedback to the National Wildlife Federation

The National Wildlife Federation is seeking volunteers who would be willing to plant a 9'x9' Bringing Nature Home Garden Kit, to replace a section of lawn with a native plant garden and then provide feedback about their experience (either a brief survey or follow-up call). The kits are FREE and contain 5 different species and 20 total plug-sized plants. Kits for sun and shade are available and include planting plans for various shapes / locations (including underneath a shade tree). If you are interested, please contact [Jamie Pflasterer](#)



GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

or [Tonya Meyer](#) - we will draw names to determine the 8 lucky recipients! (Please note whether you would be willing to plant a garden in the sun, shade, or whether either would work.)

Mar-Lu-Ridge

Summer Camp 2025 Registration is OPEN now. Please visit our website and choose your favorite camp or camps before the sessions sell out. We can't wait to see you on the Ridge! Scholarships are available for anyone in need of assistance. We are committed to providing a safe, enjoyable camp experience for everyone, regardless of your ability to pay.



CAMP DAY: Join us **Sunday, March 23, 1-4 pm** for this **free** event. You'll have a chance to tour camp, meet some staff, try activities, and enjoy the view! No RSVP necessary.

[View the Schedule](#) (note: Middler Horseback is closed)

[Register today!](#)

FELLOWSHIP

Ladies' Dinner Announcement

Calling all ladies! Join us for an evening of fellowship, laughter, and delicious dining at our upcoming Ladies' Dinner!

Date: March 20th

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Bota Nero,
800 Pleasant Drive,
Rockville MD - Kings Farm.

Please **RSVP by March 17th** to ensure we have enough seats reserved. Please use [the link to signup](#) genius in weekly email or email [Cherie](#) to RSVP.

Let's come together and enjoy a memorable evening! We look forward to seeing you there!

For more details, contact [Cherie DeGeorge](#) or [Wendy Dinova-Wimmer](#).

Euchre/Game Night

There will be a Euchre/Game Night held in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, March 28, from 6:00-9:00 pm**. Join the Euchre competition or bring your own game to enjoy. Drinks will be provided - bring finger food or a dessert to share. Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle with questions.

Women's Book Group

On **March 13 at 7:30 pm**, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel. Kathy Mellott will host.

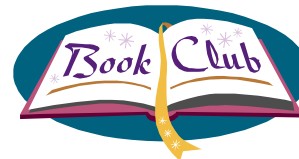
Future Book Selections and Hosts

April 10 *The House of Doors*

by Tan Twon Eng
host Alice Benson

May 8 *Ordinary Grace*

by William Kent Krueger
host Becky Carr



RECENT EVENTS

In December 2024, the church gathered blankets and bags of candy to donate to the The Village at Rockville Christmas drive for low-income residents. With the help of a local Bible study group, we raised a whopping 40 blankets and 40 bags of candy. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation the drive was a great success. This year we warmed the beds and hearts of those who are less fortunate at Christmas time. Many thanks are due to the participation of the congregation.

Pictures from the Village at Rockville Christmas drive



Souper Bowl success!

PoP members donated 163 cans of soup, stew, and chili to Sunday School's annual drive. We continued our tradition of rooting for the losing team, but this time, the margin was only one can. Thanks to everyone for your contributions, and to Hope Walker for delivering all those cans.

POP Shares the Warmth

It's not fun to run around the playground if you're cold.

POP collected more than fifteen jackets, six boots/winter shoes and a bagful of gloves, socks, and scarves for students at Brown Station Elementary School. As a community school, Brown Station serves many families with needs. The school counselor has provided shoes, coats, and other items for students during the chilly weather, but needed more. Social Justice Ministry collected the coats, shoes, mittens and other cold weather items to add to the counselor's closet. Many thanks to all who donated and to Jennifer Maloney and Kathy Mellott for coordinating the effort.



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

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. *(Zechariah 10:1)*

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Articles for the April issue of *Glad Tidings* are due March 16. 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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