



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 44 Iss. 7

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

September 2025

Interfaith 5K

The Interfaith 5k walk/run sign up is open for Labor Day, September 1! [Register Here!](#) PoP continues to be a sponsor and supporter of this event and we are hoping to have our largest turnout yet this year. Can we have the largest team?! Please sign up! When you do, please select to join the Prince of Peace team. More information is available at <https://mocointerfaith5k.org/>.



Any questions please reach out to [Ric Kienzle](#).

"God's Work-Our Hands"

Now that the weather is cooler, Fall is a great time to really make our building shine and get it ready for all the great events coming up. We need lots of hands to help on **Sunday, September 7 after the worship service**. We will provide the equipment to wash windows, paint the picnic tables, clean carpets etc. - you bring the muscle! Please sign up for a spot [here](#) to help refresh our church home. Pizza will be provided for all participants post-clean.



Hope to see you there!

Euchre/Game Night

There will be a Euchre/Game Night held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 5 from 6:00-9:00pm. Join the Euchre competition or bring a different game to share! (Other games will also be available.) Pizza and drinks will be provided - everyone is welcome to bring a snack or dessert to share. Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle with questions.



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.



Quilt Raffle

Have you ever looked at the quilts made by our quilters and thought how beautiful they were? Or how nice it might look in your home? Well now you have a chance to take one home. The quilters are raffling off one quilt - the quilt of your choice. Funds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief to pay for the cost of sending the quilts around the world. (It costs just under \$3 to package and send each quilt). Raffle tickets (\$5 per ticket, 5 for \$20) will be on sale Sunday, September 7th and 14th and the winner will be announced Sunday, September 21st. Contact Jennifer Maloney or [Lisa Conary](#) for information.



Name Tag

Do you have a name tag? They are hanging on the windows on either side of the back entrance to the Narthex, hopefully in alphabetical order by last name. When you wear it, people can put a face with a name helping them to remember who you are.



Do you need a name tag? There is a clipboard hanging on the wall over the table where the After Service Snacks are usually served. Members and active visitors of all ages can have a name tag. Please sign up and one will be made for you.



From Pastor Steve...

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

As we move into the fall, the second summer of my new vegetable garden is soon going to be coming to a close. A couple of years ago, as a result of having to take down a big tree in my backyard that had been killed by a lightning strike, I found myself having a big sunny area where I could finally grow things like tomatoes and beans. And so, I started out with a small plot, and I got some good things from my garden last season! But I also realized I made a number of mistakes. I planted some things too close together. I didn't properly support some of the plants. And I really needed to do some pruning that I never did.

So, this summer, I adapted from what I did last year, and things have been much better! Still, though, I've learned some things I'll need to do differently next year. I still haven't pruned enough. And as a result of doing a much better job with growing beans, they lived long enough for the bunnies to figure out how to overcome my "bunnie barriers", so I'll have to find a new system for next year!

Whenever we come to a seasonal transition - whether it's the growing season, the season of the church year, or a season in our lives - it's good to reflect not only on where we've been, but on what we can learn for the next season. After all, new seasons are coming, and another season like the one we've just been through may be coming again, so it's not enough to just celebrate our victories or complain about our failures. It's important to see all kinds of seasonal transitions as opportunities God gives us to learn and grow and live more boldly into the next seasons of our lives.

In the last few years, I think we've done this well at Prince of Peace. As we came out of Covid, a lot of things had been shut down, and as we started them up again, we didn't do them just as we had done them before. But we also didn't get stuck in a rut and simply do them each year as we did them that first year after Covid. Instead, we asked what worked and what didn't; what went well and what needed to stop; and we kept looking forward and

asking ourselves how we could do better in the seasons ahead.

Especially as we begin September, and we come out of summer and resume a "normal" church schedule with a lot of classes and activities that are different from the summer, we're not just supposed to be getting back in the old routine. Instead, this is a transitional opportunity God gives us to reflect on what's worked well before and how we might make things better. It's an opportunity to give thanks for God's help in the past and to look forward to God's guidance in the future. And perhaps most importantly, to use this seasonal transition to prepare for the seasons that lie ahead.

Yours in Christ,

September Highlights

Every Sunday

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

11:00 am Sunday School

Every Monday

7:00 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., Sept 13. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.



COMING UP...

September

- 1 Labor Day
- 1 Interfaith 5K (pg 1)
- 5 Euchre/Game Night (pg 1)
- 7 "God's Work-Our Hands" (pg 1)
- 7 Sunday School Starts (pg 5)
- 9 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 13 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)
- 14 Confirmation Meets
- 14 Confirmand Banners
- 16 Confirmand Banners
- 18 Men's Book Group (pg 7)
- 21 Honduras Mission Presentation (pg 6)

October

- 4 Fall Festival (pg 4)
- 5 Confirmation Meets
- 9 Women's Book Group (pg 7)
- 11 Saturday Worship Service
- 13 Columbus Day
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 31 Halloween

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

July 2025 Meeting

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the Church Council meeting.

Finances: We have a 2025 budget that slightly exceeds estimated giving. Year to Date giving is about the same as 2024. (Council notes).

Feast Fund: The kitchen refresh is complete.

VBS: Evening VBS was successful once again. The Youth made crafts, acted out a Bible story, played a game, sang some songs and had a great opening with Scout and Emma.

Maintenance: The parking lot has had the cracks filled, been sealed and restriped. We do have a few places that should be repaved, but the work done this summer should allow us to go a few years before repaving the bad spots.

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 July 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 Baur, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel

Thanksgiving

Honduras Mission Team: Chris Michel; Roxana Homayoun; Sean, Laura, and Luke Dillon; Ric, Sherry, and Sydney Kienzle

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 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.

We also appreciate all who regularly pray for those on the PoP Prayer List! This is a flexible way to support the Prayer Ministry. Download a copy of the Prayer List from the Thursday Weekly Email or pick one up from the bulletin board in the narthex. All of us praying makes a difference!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PoP Fall Festival Coming on

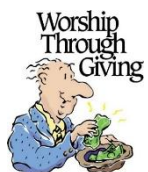
Saturday, 10/4 from 10am-3pm!

Mark your calendars now for PoP's 3rd annual Fall Festival, to be held on the church grounds on **Saturday, 10/4 from 10am-3pm**. Start your holiday shopping early with some of the beautiful home decor, jewelry, and pottery on offer from our vendors - and pick up some fresh produce and baked goods as well. We have space for lots of vendors, so please spread the word, and bring your friends and neighbors to shop and enjoy the day. Questions/Interested in reserving a space? Contact [Pamela Cook](#).



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!



Time and Talent

As we recognize all the blessings we have been given, we have the privilege of being a blessing to our church and others in our community!

We are grateful for our church members who have given their talents to duties during Sunday services, social justice efforts, administrative and building tasks, service projects, Sunday school.....the list goes on! We are encouraging ALL members of Prince of Peace to share that talent you have to contribute in some way to our church community. ***It takes every member to make a church!*** 📖 Take a look below for various ways you can help.

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
1 Peter 4:10

Prince of Peace is also grateful for the additional monetary contributions to replenish our General Operating fund. **Council is encouraging each household to increase their giving by \$20/mo to fund our operating budget.** We are prayerful that we will look back and see that members rallied together and the church ended the year with a surplus!

Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your thoughtful commitment of ***time and talent*** this year!

We Need You!

Please consider contributing your talent - many hands make light work! Contact these coordinators with interest or for more information.

Facebook Greeter (backup) Martha Rogers
Sunday Service office@poplutheran.org
Be a presence/host online during Sunday morning service. Greet the online participant group and be on standby for any audio/visual streaming issues.

Snow Removal Coordinator
Coordinates with third-party vendor on removal of snow from church parking lot and walking areas (as needed/seasonal)

Snacks Pamela Cook
Sunday Service cook1082@verizon.net
Bring snacks (cookies, etc.) for coffee hour held after Sunday service, (approx. 50-count.)

Sound Board Jon Canary
Sunday Service drjon2018@gmail.com
Manage the church sound/audio board during Sunday service, ensuring audio is functioning successfully and camera is focused on appropriate sections of the sanctuary.

Team Lead Pastor Steve
Sunday Service pastor@poplutheran.org
Ensure each member of the Sunday serving team (or their substitute) is present for their role. Usher attendees to the altar at communion time.

Greeters Pastor Steve
Sunday Service pastor@poplutheran.org
Greet incoming members/visitors at the door for Sunday service. Suggest a name tag for visitors and/or have them sign the visitor book.

Other Sherry Kienzle
skienzle1@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

A New Sunday School Year

Sunday School leaders look forward to welcoming learners back on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 7! On our first day back, we will contribute to the ELCA Day of



Service. PreK-K and Elementary classes will create cards and artwork for people who would appreciate an expression of care and love. Middle and High School classes will join the congregation in church cleanup projects.

Classes are held from 11 - 11:50 am. Everyone is welcome any week they can attend!

PreK-K and Elementary School Classes

This year, our time together will begin with some lively, VBS-style music. Once in our classes, we will use Group's Simply Loved curriculum, which incorporates popular VBS elements such as Bible buddies, videos, and games. Our first stories will highlight children and women, emphasizing God's knowledge of us and the assistance he provides.

Our music leader is Sonvy Waidler. Workshop leaders are Lisa Canary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten. PreK-K shepherds are Debbie Chan, Cherie DeGeorge, Roxana Homayoun, and Theresa Register. We want your learners to feel comfortable, so remember that parents are always welcome in the classroom.

Middle School

We will use the Sparkhouse Re:form Ancestors curriculum, which brings Bible stories to life using animated short videos. The curriculum combines fun and theology to engage young people in thought-provoking discussions. It focuses on the idea that God chooses unlikely people to do extraordinary things and recognizes the humanity and flaws of these ancestors. Once a month, we will join the High School class to work on SSL-eligible service projects during class. Lauren Gibson and Emma Yanevskyy are our Middle School leaders.

High School

We will decide what to cover at our first meeting. We will also team up with the Middle School class to do a monthly service project, and remember, SSL hours are available for your participation. Jon Canary is our High School leader.

Please contact [Janet Levine](#) or your learner's Sunday School leader with any questions or concerns.

ADULT EDUCATION

Coffee and Conversation



Coffee and Conversation is the adult version of Sunday School. It is held at 11:00 am, after the service. Descriptions of the upcoming "lessons" follow.

Adult Coffee and Conversation Hour returns in the fall after Sunday services, starting in September! Join us weekly after services for the Coffee and Conversation hour at 11am in the sanctuary. Throughout the year, we will include service activities at the church, welcome speakers from outside organizations, and host group Bible study and conversation. To view the schedule, or to sign up to lead a Bible study session this fall, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2025>. We look forward to having you!

Honduras Mission 2025 - Come after service on **September 21st at 11:00am** in the sanctuary to hear from the PoP members who attended the 2025 Honduras Mission Trip and learn about the projects and outreach which took place in June. See pictures of all the places where God's hands and feet were at work. This will also be an opportunity for those potentially interested in the June 2026 mission trip to ask questions and learn about how you can be part of the next mission! Questions can be directed to [Ric or Sherry Kienzle](#).

PoP Community Volunteers

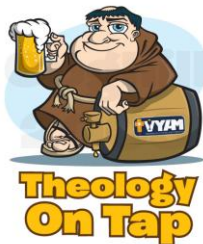
Do you volunteer outside of church? Do you deliver food, teach computer skills, pick up trash, or conduct health screenings? We want to hear from you! **Sunday November 9 in our Coffee & Conversation time**, we'll highlight community volunteering. Help to spread the word about organizations and opportunities.

Ways to get involved: plan to talk for five minutes about your experience; or send photos, answer questions, or let me interview you on-camera for our presentation. Contact [Sonvy Waidler](#) (or text 301-795-8020).



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 *Seeking the Hiding God: A Personal Theological Essay* by Arnold Eisen. 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 7:00 to 8:30pm 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

URGENT NEED



Despite some client fear and staying home due to ICE agents parked in apartment parking lots, the Gaithersburg HELP numbers are staying high. And as is typical at this time of

year, spending is higher than income, but financial donations usually pick up toward year end.

The POP back to school peanut butter and jelly drive will be starting in September, and your support with other non-perishable food donations is very appreciated.

There is a pressing new volunteer need. The Tech Support position is about to become vacant. If you know anyone, yourself included, please think about taking on the very critical role. Here is the job description from the HELP website:

On-call position with highly variable hours (0-10/week), depending on need. Responsive and good communicator, comfortable with providing basic programming and technical support to others. Knowledge of or willingness to learn Excel formulas, VBA, Google Apps Script, Git, Google Maps API, ArcGIS, as well as basic networking, remote computer management, and voicemail mailbox management.

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 or to see the evening Pantry in action, 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.

Please do not donate items decorated with religious symbols, or any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

If you have questions, please contact [Lisa Conary](#).

Social Justice Ministry News

Alzheimer's Awareness Walk - Please join us on **Saturday, 9/20** at the [Village at Rockville](#) (located at 9701 Veirs Drive) for their third annual Alzheimer's Awareness Walk. All proceeds will benefit the [National Capital Area Alzheimer's Association](#). In person registration starts at 10am and the walk begins at 11am. You can also donate and register online at www.thevillageatrockville.org/walk.

Hope to see you there!

Help New Neighbors Learn English

New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) helps refugee families build new lives in our neighborhoods. Learning English is the key to employment for these men and women. Can you

help tutor a new immigrant? As the tutor coordinator for NNIA, I can tell you that you are needed and your time will be well-spent. Tutors meet with their students once a week. No experience needed. Contact Sonvy Waidler to learn more: sonvy@yahoo.com or text 301-795-8020.

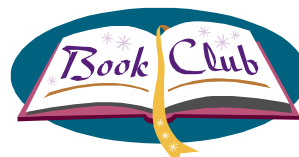
SharePower by Groundswell

A few months ago SharePower by Groundswell gave a presentation on their community solar program at Prince of Peace. The program recruits individuals to contribute to the cost of solar panels. The energy generated provides energy savings to low-to moderate-income families. If there is excess solar energy, it shows up as a credit on the contributor's electricity bill. I joined the program six months ago. To date, I have saved \$208 on my electricity bill while contributing \$270 to the program. For just a few dollars, I am helping a family save on their electricity bill and supporting renewable energy. Email [Jennifer Maloney](#) for more information.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

The next Men's Book Club meeting is **Thursday, September 18 at 7 pm**. We will meet at Dick Moore's house. The book is *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group September book is *Mornings in Jenin* by Susan Abulhawa. We'll be meeting at the home of Hope Walker on **Thursday, September 11 at 7:30 pm**. If any POP women would like more information about this group, contact [Kathy Mellott](#).

Future Book Selections and Hosts 2025

October 9 The Small and The Mighty
by Sharon McMahon
host Wendy Dinova-Wimmer
November 13 The Berry Pickers
by Amanda Peters
host Cherie DeGeorge
December 12 The First Christmas
by Marcus J. Borg
host Laura Dillon

GROUNDSKEEPING

Sacred Ground Program Graduation

As of June, Prince of Peace is now a proud graduate of the National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds program! Along with the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Fairhaven United Methodist, Shaare Torah, and other local churches and synagogues, Prince of Peace followed the nearly two-year program to spread the word about the benefits of using native plants, support giveaways of native plants to church members and neighbors, and to plant a native pollinator garden. Tonya Meyer attended the graduation ceremony (pictured below with Ethan Lucas from Interfaith Power and Light and Naomi Edelson from the National Wildlife Federation). The plaque we received is now on display in the Narthex. Thanks to everyone's help to plant the native garden in the fall, care for the garden with watering/weeding/fencing/plant markers, and especially Pastor Steve's blessing to bring the plants to life, the garden has filled out and bloomed beautifully over the summer. You may even spot some bees and butterflies enjoying the Coreopsis, Sneezeweed, Blue & Red cardinal flowers, Black-Eyed Susans, and Blazing Star. Please stop by and take a look!



In the Garden

Thank you, Summer! For sunshine, for rain, for a little bit of flooding and fixing (yes, the rocks!), for lots of weeding (thank you Jamie, Tonya and Joan!), for a new dogwood (thank you, Susan!), for so many new blooms in the Sacred Gardens, for keeping things alive (please stop by and see the tiny azaleas!), for Jose 1 and 2 and Martine (the best landscapers ever!), for the church council (the best listeners ever), for a beautiful parking lot free of cracks and weeds (say it again! Thank you, Jose and the crew!), a fun weed-free playground (just ask the kids and their parents!) and for inspiration (thanks to all who supported, listened and shared ideas!) and for our much-appreciated mulch. Crazy to think that just looking at the church flowerbeds could give us so much to be thankful for. And there's more to come

(hint: thank you, Stella 🌸)

God's creation! Our efforts!

POP WEEDBUSTERS 2025!

Help us keep the beds around the church neat and clean, and weed free! Sign up [here](#) for a slot to help weed and water over a week during the growing season. Students - SSL hours are available for watering, weeding, and helping with garden maintenance.

RECENT NEWS

Living Lutheran

Living Lutheran (formerly *The Lutheran*) magazine is back in print with quarterly issues after switching to online only. Check out the free online version (<https://www.livinglutheran.org/>). Then visit <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/> to purchase a print magazine subscription or to sign up for *LL Stories*, a free email digest sending news and stories straight to your inbox. Choose the frequency (weekly, biweekly or monthly) and the topics you're interested in. Extra copies of past *Living Lutheran* magazines are available to borrow on the credenza in the church narthex.

[Our Journey of Faith Together - A brief video message from our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.](#)

New Bishop-Elect for Metro DC Synod

The Metro DC Synod of the ELCA is pleased [to announce the election of the Rev. Dr. Philip Hirsch as its next bishop](#). Pastor Hirsch returns to the synod following years of local, national, and international leadership within the ELCA, bringing deep pastoral experience, a passion for justice, and a vision for a vibrant and welcoming church. He will begin his work as Bishop on September 1.

RECENT EVENTS

August 2025 Service Sunday Event

Sunday, after church, we met in the Fellowship hall to count and pack up the Comfort Cases donations from our generous **congregation**. **This was our mission project** during VBS. "A Comfort Case is a backpack filled with comfort and personal care items for children entering foster care." We received 5 backpacks, 9 sets of pajamas, 1 pr of socks, 42 blankets, a whole bag of stuffed animals (dogs), 2 rabbits and a bear, 8 coloring books, 31 journals, 17 boxes of crayons and colored pencils, and 26 books. Thank you!!

We also made a no-sew blanket for Kits to Heart. Their mission is "To bring smiles and solidarity to those affected by cancer, one kit at a time."

And, because we had a few minutes left, we set up a quilt top for Lutheran World Relief!

A very productive hour and a half. Thank you to the families that participated! PoP Rocks!



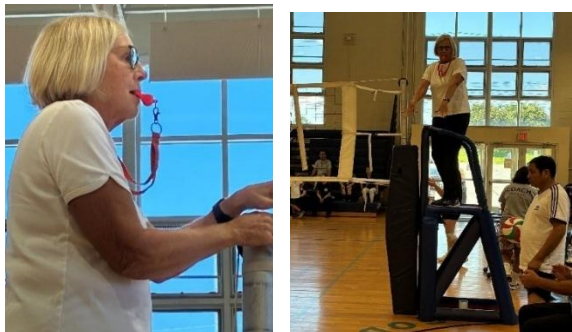
SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The second Set Them Up For Success Volleyball Tournament, benefitting the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), is in the history books. The Tournament raised about three times as much as the year before, making it a true success. NNIA (<https://nnia-maryland.org/>) helps refugees gain access to medical care, food assistance, enrolls children in school, provides tutoring, helps refugees find employment, and more. Undergirding this work is financial assistance. Reaching financial security and independence takes time, and many refugees struggle to pay rent for the first few months in the country. The proceeds of the tournament, of all this effort and fun, will help keep families in the home and enable them to reach self-sufficiency even sooner.

So, thanks to all who bought raffle tickets and congratulations to our winners - Jon and Lisa Conary won the Bellini Basket, and Dick Moore went home with a basket of original Afghan art. Also, thanks to Jennifer Maloney, Kathy Mellott, Melanie Zobel, Diana Jonas, Sonvy Waidler, Bevin Maloney, Ric, Sherry and Sydney Kienzle, Sean, Laura, Luke and Juliet Dillon, Jamie Pflasterer and Joan Kowalik (referee extraordinaire) who all played a part in making the Tournament great!

PS Rumor has it - POP may field a team next year! Any volleyball players out there??





Quilts for LWR

Our quilters outdid themselves again making 43 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts were displayed in the sanctuary during most of August with the Blessing of the Quilts occurring on Sunday, August 24 during the worship service.

Thank you, Quilters, for your work and dedication in making these quilts.



VBS

Take a look at the fun had by all during Vacation/Adult Bible School in July.







Pictures of Kitchen Refresh



Honduras Mission 2025

Come after service on September 21st at 11:00am in the sanctuary to hear from the PoP members who attended the 2025 Honduras Mission Trip and learn about the projects and outreach which took place in June. See pictures of all the places where God's hands and feet were at work. This will also be an opportunity for those potentially interested in the June 2026 mission trip to ask questions and learn about how you can be part of the next mission! Questions can be directed to [Ric or Sherry Kienzle](#).





Juneteenth publicity via MyMCM - article and YouTube video

The Juneteenth celebration was held on June 19th at Poplar Grove Baptist Church, by the member faith communities of the Route 28 Quince Orchard Interfaith Team. Here are the links to a website article and a YouTube video. Our original article, with pictures, appeared in the July/August 2025 issue of Glad Tidings.

Website article:

<https://www.mymcmedia.org/interfaith-team-gears-up-for-juneteenth-celebration/>

YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCT10_oQ-ks

THANK YOU!

Interfaith School Supplies

Once again, the generosity of this congregation is amazing. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Your donations to the school supplies drive was overwhelming.

We collected:

- 9 backpacks
- 70 packs of dividers
- 76 one-subject note books
- 40 2- pocket folders
-
- 4 - two inch, 2 - one and a half inch and 6 - one inch binders
- 34 composition books
- 14 pack of loose leaf paper
- 14 pencil boxes and 59 pencil cases
- 133 glue sticks
- 97 sharpies
- 32 packs of pens
- 15 expo markers
- 31 boxes of crayons
- 14 boxes of magic markers
- 36 boxes of colored pencils
- 24 rulers
- 25 pairs of scissors
- 17 packs of post it notes
- 10 packs of index cards
- 10 sets of protractors and compasses
- 2 sets of ear buds
- 2 wall chargers
- 2 scientific calculators
- 1 white board
- 45 pink square erasers and 249 cap erasers
- 638 pencils and a pencil sharpener

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

Thank you again for making our school supplies drive a success!!!

Laura Corbin Hurst



Stepping Stones Dinner Deliveries

On August 17 and 18, Prince of Peace delivered dinners to Stepping Stones Family Shelter in Rockville. We brought lasagna and pizza, accompanied by salad, bread and dessert for the 26 mothers and children who live there. They are so appreciative of the meals that we bring. Thank you to all the Prince of Peace members who so

generously donated food and funds to make this happen. We could not have done this without you!



This is what the Stepping Stones house looks like!



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.



Lost and Found

Have you misplaced or lost something after attending a service or event at PoP? We do have a Lost and Found box. It is currently located in the office with a variety of items to be found in it. If you are unable to come check at a time the office is open, send an email to

office@poplutheran.org and the secretary will check to see if the item is there.



Sunday Service Extras



Help make Sundays alive and social! Sign-up sheets are available for fresh flower arrangements (\$40) and after service snacks. If you have

any questions about either list, please 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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

The youth in my church had been studying the Book of Esther. I knew my son had been paying attention when we had brussels sprouts for supper. Spearing one and looking at it distastefully, he placed it in his mouth, saying "If I perish, I perish."

Frankie Roland

I have often learned more in one prayer than I have been able to glean from much reading and reflection.

Martin Luther

Nature is the art of God.

Thomas Brown

Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.

Martin Luther

We are all missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ.

Eric Liddell

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