



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 44 Iss. 8

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

October 2025

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](#).



Blessing of Animals



Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take place at our **5 pm Saturday service on October 11!** Come and bring your pets!

October 26 is
Confirmation and
Reformation Sunday.



All Saints' Day



On All Saints' Day, November 2, 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. If there are some special people you would like to remember on this day, please submit their names to the [Church Office](#) and their names will be spoken during the service. Please include your name, their name(s), relationship to you, and whether the passing occurred in the past year. Please submit names by **Monday, October 27**.

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.



Holiday Giving Program

As the season of gratitude and giving approaches, Prince of Peace is once again honored to participate in the City of Gaithersburg's Holiday Giving Program. This Thanksgiving, our congregation will support six families by providing all the traditional fixings for a festive meal, along with grocery store gift cards so they can purchase additional items of their choosing.

The City of Gaithersburg coordinates this effort in partnership with Montgomery County to ensure all families in need have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Because of the scale of the program, we typically don't receive our assigned families until the first week of November.

There will be many meaningful ways to contribute. Our first opportunity to help is for volunteers to serve as family contacts—reaching out to learn about any special dietary needs or requests. We will have a need for Spanish speaking individuals to contact some of our families. Please let [Cherie DeGeorge](#) know if you would like to be a point of contact with a family.

Please watch the bulletin and the November Glad Tidings for updates and opportunities to get involved. Together, we can make this Thanksgiving truly special for our six families.





From Pastor Steve...

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

Like many Lutheran congregations, we at Prince of Peace celebrate Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October. This is sort of the “Lutheran Birthday” because it’s the Sunday closest to October 31 - the day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. That was really the precipitating event of the Protestant Reformation.

However, what Luther was really trying to do was simply to debate church practices which weren’t furthering the cause of the Gospel. He wanted to use the opportunity to reform the church, not split the church. That is, he called the whole church to think, pray and consider whether the way we were doing things helped people experience the Good News of Jesus or drove people away.

And that’s actually why we still celebrate Reformation Sunday. It’s not really about a “Lutheran Birthday” or our denomination. It’s about remembering that in every age, and in every group of Christians, we’re called to think, pray and consider what we’re doing to share the Good News of Jesus with others and to ask, “what’s helping and what’s getting in the way?” Those aren’t always easy questions to answer, and they certainly can’t be figured out on one Sunday! Indeed, the “95 Theses” were actually 95 individual questions and statements, each of which required debate and thought. And that debate was intended to go on for a long time.

But on Reformation Sunday, we remember our need to keep asking questions; we remember again that sharing the Good News of Jesus is the most important thing the Church is called to do; and we commit ourselves again to the task of thinking, praying and being open to the inspiration of the Spirit to continue to guide and direct us into the future.

Yours in Christ,

October Highlights

Every Sunday

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

11:00 am Sunday School

Every Monday

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., October 11. This service will include Blessing the Animals. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

COMING UP...

October

4 Fall Festival

5 Confirmation Meets

9 Women’s Book Group

11 Saturday Worship Service

11 Blessing of the Animals

13 Columbus Day

14 Church Council Meeting

28 Reformation Sunday

28 Confirmation Sunday

31 Halloween

November

2 All Saints Sunday

2 Daylight Savings Time Ends

4 Election Day

8 Saturday Worship Service

11 Church Council Meeting

11 Veterans Day

13 Women’s Book Group

16 Confirmation Meets

27 Thanksgiving Day

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

September 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).

FALL FESTIVAL IS HAPPENING SAT. OCT 4.

Maintenance: The leaky sink in Besecker has been repaired.

WE HAVE A HANDBELL CHOIR.

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 September 9. 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, Nancy Swanson

Sympathy

Family of Will Fisher (friend of Richard Farrar)
Family of Lutz Sahmel (brother of Rainer Sahmel)

Ongoing

The people of Ukraine and all those who are suffering due to hatred, war, and acts of violence

For racial justice and equality
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their
Caregivers
All those impacted by nature

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.

OTHER EVENTS

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 3:00-5:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School (1200 Main St, Gaithersburg): Oct 11, Nov 22, Dec 20. Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, 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!

Zoom Bible Study!

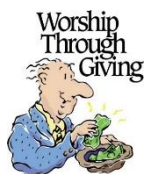
Relax from the comfort of your own home while listening in on a Zoom Bible study hosted by Haven Universe! This will occur online on the following Friday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm: 10/3, 10/10, (you need not to attend them all - come as you can!) Our Honduras co-missionaries will also be joining us online, so the lesson will be conducted in English with Spanish translation. Feel free to follow along with the lesson at [Lesson - 9/19](#).

Zoom ID: 856 1657 9851
Passcode: 693239

Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions. Hope to “see” you online!

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 Conary
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

Sunday School

A Look Ahead for Sunday School

High School

When we meet next, we will decide our focus for the fall. Until now, we have been engaged in special activities - the ELCA Day of Service, reviewing faith statements with Pastor Steve, and attending the Honduras Mission Trip presentation. We will team up with the Middle School class to do a monthly service project - remember that SSL hours are available for your participation. Jon Conary is our High School leader.

Middle School

Lauren Gibson and Emma Yanevskyy are our Middle School leaders, and they are very excited to be teaming up with your kiddos for a student-initiated religious education curriculum. Drawing on their experience writing curricula for religious education programs back in Illinois (Emma) and a lifetime of Lutheran studies (Lauren), they have a list of topics for the students to choose from, covering Biblical studies, church history, Christian morality, and everything God related. By giving the students ownership of their class, they will be more invested in their spiritual growth. Once a month, we will join the High School class to work on SSL-eligible service projects during class.

PreK-K and Elementary School Classes

This year, our time together begins with music, which incorporates singing, rhythm instruments, and movement. Once in our classes, we use Group's Simply Loved curriculum, which includes popular VBS elements, such as Bible buddies, videos, and games. October's stories will be about David with a focus on the help God provides us.

Our music leader is Sonvy Waidler. Workshop leaders are Lisa Conary, 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.

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

Questions or concerns? Contact [Janet Levine](#) or your learner's Sunday School leader.

PreK-K Update



Our class has been enjoying music time, with singing, movement, and rhythm instruments.

Our stories have emphasized that God knows what we need. In conjunction with the story of Naomi and Ruth, learners made watercolor paintings for and wrote messages to folks who would appreciate an expression of care and love.



We learned that Hannah faithfully prayed for a baby, and we did crafts to help us pray. We used our five fingers to remind us of groups of people we can pray for and made "fortune tellers" to give us ideas for prayers we can say.



We learned that God spoke to Hannah's baby, Samuel, while he was still a boy. Here, the learners help Samuel wake up and listen to God.



Calling all Middle and High School Students!

Registration is now open for the DC-Metro and Maryland Synods' joint Middle School/High School Event at Skycroft Conference Center in Myersville, MD on November 21 - 23, 2025. Cost is \$180 before October 5 or \$200 from October 6 - November 9. For more info and to register, go to <https://www.youngfaithmatters.com/events-retreats/middle-schoolhigh-school-event>. Please contact Laura Dillon (laldillon@yahoo.com or 410-562-6942) with any questions and let her know if you register.



ADULT EDUCATION Coffee and Conversation



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 schedule updates, or to sign up to lead a Bible study session this fall, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2025>. We look forward to having you! Descriptions of the current upcoming "lessons" follow.

October

- 5 Adult Bible Study, Sherry Kienzle
- 12 TBD
- 19 Fall Garden Planting Date!, Jamie Pflasterer
- 26 Adult Bible Study, Sherry Kienzle

November

- 2 TBD
- 9 TBD
- 16 PoP Volunteers in Our Community, Sonvy Waidler
- 23 Adult Bible Study, Jamie Pflasterer

December

- 7 TBD
- 14 TBD

PoP Community Volunteers

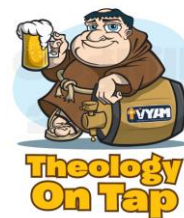
Do you volunteer outside of church? Do you deliver food, teach computer skills, pick up trash, or conduct health screenings? We want to hear from you! **Sunday November 9 in our Coffee & Conversation time**, we'll highlight community volunteering. Help to spread the word about organizations and opportunities.

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 these events. 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

The Interfaith 5K was a big success, with the highest ever number of participants, around 4,250. Special thanks to POP for all of the volunteers helping run the event and also to the team of runners and walkers.

One of the excellent things about Gaithersburg HELP, as opposed to many other food assistance organizations, is that clients receive an amount of food packed according to their family size and any special dietary needs. The photo shows the non-perishables that get packed for a family of 4, plus milk, eggs, cheese, bread, frozen ground turkey and also some amount of fresh produce which varies from week to week depending on availability. This amount of food is expected to last 3 - 4 days for that family. A huge amount of food is handed out each day to the 30 or so families ranging in size from one to 12 people.

Food donations are always needed - cereal, 1-pound bags of rice and dried beans, tuna, canned fruit, etc. 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. Go to the website (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

Cookies, Cards, And Community

Everyone (adults, teens, and younger kids) is invited for an evening of fellowship and service after the second Saturday service at 6:00 pm on November 8th. We'll be:

- Decorating cookies for the families receiving Thanksgiving dinners (sampling required);
- Assembling bagged breakfasts for residents of a local homeless shelter; and
- Creating and writing holiday cards to asylum seekers and friends in immigration detention.

Please put the date on your calendar and watch for the bulletin to sign up for breakfast items to bring. Students can earn SSL hours. For more information, contact [Jennifer Maloney](#).

Also coming up in November:

Sunday, November 16th, 11:00 am - Adult Forum spotlighting members and their service to the community

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.



**We're making
sacred haste,
together.**



Some clean energy tax credits are ending. Let's make sacred haste, together: ipldmv.org/now.

Sometimes, being faithful requires us to slow down. But this moment calls us to *move quickly*, so we can shift our homes and congregations to clean energy before federal incentives sunset over the coming year. Even as some of those in power seek to keep burning fossil fuels and damaging our climate, let's be faithful to *our* call: to hurry and not delay in caring for each other and for our common home.

Across our region, congregations are coming together through Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NOVA) to invite everyone in our communities to do something *right now* to choose clean energy and move away from fuel-burning.

Take a moment right now to find programs for folks who live in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia, renters and homeowners, and those who need financial assistance: ipldmv.org/now

Go solar at home:

- Go solar at home through Solar United Neighbors' Switch Together program: bit.ly/faithinsolar

For homeowners in Northern Virginia, DC, Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, and Frederick Counties.

Eligible folks will be connected with [Maryland's Solar Access](#) funds, too.

- Civic Works' solar coop program: civicworks.com/ipl *For homeowners anywhere in Maryland*

- If panels aren't possible but you pay your home energy bill in DC or Maryland, subscribe to community solar through Neighborhood Sun: nsunsolar.com/ipl

Electrify at home:

- Montgomery County is helping homeowners electrify their homes (sign up by Oct. 5 for installation by year-end): bit.ly/electrifymc

- Maryland's EmPOWER energy efficiency program provides incentives for home energy upgrades

Pepco: pepco.com/ways-to-save/for-your-home/maryland

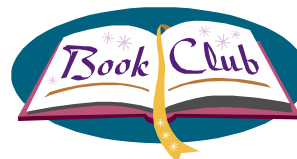
Screening of Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round and panel discussion at Kol Shalom on 12/6

All are invited to a screening of the documentary [Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round](#) on Saturday, 12/6 at 5:30pm by our neighbors at [Kol Shalom](#), located at 9110 Darnestown Rd. The documentary is about the integration of the Glen Echo amusement park by Howard University students, who were joined in protesting by white, largely Jewish middle-aged neighbors - and then the American Nazi Party showed up. The panel discussion afterwards will include the director of the film, as well as one of the Howard University students who led the integration effort. Many of your friends and neighbors who grew up in the DMV area in the 1960s will likely remember when Glen Echo and the Crystal Pool were advertised on local TV as a segregated amusement park.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

Men's Book Club will meet at Dick Moore's house on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss *The Second Sleep* by Robert Harris.



Women's Book Group

On Thursday, October 9 at 7:30 pm, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *The Small and The Mighty* by Sharon McMahon at the home of Judy Bruening. If anyone attending Prince of Peace is interested in The Book Group, please contact [Kathy](#).

Future Book Selections and Hosts

2025

November 13 *The Gown*

by Jennifer Robson

host Cherie DeGeorge

December 11 *The First Christmas*

by Marcus J. Borg

host Laura Dillon

2026

January 8 *Knife River*

by Justine Champine

host TBD

RECENT EVENTS



Interfaith 5K PoP Participants

QUILT RAFFLE

Congratulations to John Goble Jr, winner of the quilt raffle! Thank you to Jennifer Maloney for coming up with the idea and basically running the show! And finally, thank you to the wonderful people at Prince of Peace for buying the tickets! Lutheran World Relief will be receiving a check for \$700 to pay for the cost of sending quilts around the world (it costs just under \$3 to package and send each quilt). We have only sent money for shipping a few times before, so this goes a long way toward making up for that as well. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated eyeglasses to the Lions Club collection box!

We delivered 76 pairs of glasses to a local donation site. Your generosity helps bring clearer vision to those in need. We'll continue collecting eyeglasses in the donation box located in the Narthex. Every pair makes a difference!



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.



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

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
Proverbs 3:9-10

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
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Articles for the November issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **October 19**. 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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