



# GLAD TIDINGS



Volume 29, Issue 1 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD February 2010

## Annual Potluck Lunch and Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday February 7** immediately following a potluck lunch at noon. This is our annual meeting at which we'll elect new Council members, hear reports, and approve the 2010 budget. All confirmed members are urged to attend!

We need people to: 1) prepare a tasty food item (i.e. Main Dish, Side Dish/Vegetable, Salad with Bread, or Dessert); 2) setup; 3) serve; and 4) clean up. You may volunteer for any of the four volunteer opportunities. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Lesa Sullivan at 301.330.3686; [stevesullivan@comcast.net](mailto:stevesullivan@comcast.net).



## First-ever Movie Night at Prince of Peace!

Come join this historic first and have a fun, relaxing evening at Prince of Peace. After the Saturday service on **February 20**, at 6:00 come see the movie *March of the Penguins*, which was the 2005 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Feature. The film depicts the yearly journey of the Emperor penguins of Antarctica and is captivating to watch. Bring the whole family. Refreshments will be available throughout the movie. Running time is 1 hour and 20 minutes.



## Special Lenten Events

In Lent, God renews our spirits through the miraculous journey of repentance and forgiveness. It is a special time to grow in your connection with God and one another.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: 5 - 7:30 pm** (and we'll burn palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday!)

**Ash Wednesday:** February 17 at 7:30 pm, Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

**Wednesdays in Lent:** February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Soup Suppers 6:15 - 7:15  
Vespers with Faith statements 7:15-7:45

Is this the year for you to share your faith story? If so, please let Pastor Sarah know.



## February Highlights

### Every Sunday

- 8:30 am Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- Baby-sitter available during Services

### Every Tuesday

- 10:00 am Quilters

### Every Wednesday

- 8:45 am Prayer Time in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Bible Study
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir

### Every Thursday

- 5:00 pm Youth Choir
- 7:30 pm Grace Notes

### Every Saturday

- 7:45 am Men's Group
- 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



## From Pastor Sarah...

*Pastor Sarah Scherschligt*  
*([pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)*

As I write this, we're only four days out from the earthquake that

devastated Haiti. We have no idea how many have died but clearly, an entire generation in Haiti will live in the wake of this suffering for their whole lives.

The news generated instant response, proving again that people are generous in the face of need. The Red Cross has already raised over five million dollars, \$10 at a time through their text-donation. Everyone's contribution adds up to a huge difference.

Prince of Peace also responded. Our church had a link to the Lutheran Disaster Response on its website within 48 hours of the tragedy, and as a denomination we've firmed up our reputation as efficient, effective, and in for the long haul when it comes to crisis response. We are praying especially for Haiti and coming together in scripture study around the topic of human tragedy.

Thinking about the situation in Haiti, I asked myself this question: If I had an extra \$100, would I give it to Haiti or the church right now?

I thought about all the infrastructure that's necessary to make good on people's donations and recalled the incredible work of Lutheran organizations like Lutheran World Relief (who we support). I considered the generosity of spirit and pocketbook that are hallmarks of disciples of Jesus and this congregation, and I considered that such generosity is learned in the midst of a community. It doesn't just spring up from nowhere. I realized how much in a time of disaster, people need to come together in worship. I recalled that we learn to connect in empathy to the suffering of our fellow humans through the suffering of Jesus. I thought of the faith questions a disaster like this raises. Where is God when tragedy strikes? Why is such suffering allowed? And as I heard other people ask such questions, I felt blessed to be able to pull together a study group on the book of Job

and God's response to tragedy.

It dawned on me: There's no separating the response to Haiti from our connections to the Body of Christ, the church.

In 2010, the people of Prince of Peace's mission is to grow as modern disciples of Jesus by deepening our connections to God and to one another. To reach our mission, we're going to focus on five goals this year:

- Hope-filled worship
- Faith formation
- Building our community
- Serving our neighbors
- Intentionally inviting others to connect with God and with us

Each of these has something to do with how we respond to tragedy. Through worship we gather in prayer and hear again God's compassionate hope for the world. Through faith formation, we are equipped to listen to God's voice help us make meaning of the uncertainties in our lives. Through community-building, we ensure that no one is so isolated that if tragedy were to strike, they'd be left in need. Through service to people through programs like Gaithersburg Help, our local food shelf, we respond to the local tragedies of poverty and hunger. Through invitation, we welcome others to experience God's healing grace. These are all part of the human response to what happened in Haiti.

You may have heard the good news that the church met the budget last year. We celebrate. But the really wonderful news is that we were able to accomplish the mission we set out to do. Back to my initial question: Should I give my extra \$100 to Haiti or the church? The answer is Yes. There's no either/or because it is the wrong question. The right question is: In giving what I have away, am I growing in discipleship? If so, you are doing just fine.

We talk about giving money *to* the church. But that's wrong, too. We give money, and a whole lot more, to the world *through* the church. However we respond to a tragedy like Haiti, we ask God to help us be the body of Christ in the world, growing as disciples of Jesus by deepening our connections to God and one another.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

## You Made a Difference in November at PoP

- Average Weekend Worship Attendance: 183
- Our Cookie Brigade “cookied” 5 first-time visitor households!

### Financial Snapshot

#### Giving & Spending Update:

November 2009:                      Year to Date:

Actual		Actual	
Income	\$45,018.00	Income	\$371,109.00

Actual		Actual	
Expenses	\$31,685.00	Expenses	\$391,908.00

Budgeted		Budgeted	
Expenses	\$37,709.66	Expenses	\$414,806.26

Actual		Actual	
Difference	\$13,397.00	Difference	<b>-\$20,799.00</b>

(Note: This reflects actual income and expenses towards our approved budget. It does not include income and expenses for special funds, such as Workcamp and Building Fund.)

In November, we reduced our overall deficit from \$34K to just under \$21K!

## You Made a Difference in December at PoP

- Average Weekend Worship Attendance: 124
- Our Cookie Brigade “cookied” 7 first-time visitor households!

### Financial Snapshot

#### Giving & Spending Update:

December 2009:                      Year to Date:

Actual		Actual	
Income	\$67,302.00	Income	\$438,412.00

Actual		Actual	
Expenses	\$40,851.00	Expenses	\$432,759.00

Budgeted		Budgeted	
Expenses	\$37,709.66	Expenses	\$453,016.00

Actual		Actual	
Difference	\$26,452.00	Difference	\$5,653.00

(Note: This reflects actual income and expenses towards our approved budget. It does not include income and expenses for special funds, such as Workcamp and Building Fund.)

Thank you! Because of your commitment and generosity, we were able to completely eliminate our deficit, and in fact, we ended the year with a slight surplus in our general fund! This makes it possible for us to begin the year in a strong financial position, and focus on the new and exciting possibilities for ministry that God is giving us in 2010!

## Council Corner

The PoP Church Council met on December 8 and January 12. This article describes highlights of the meetings. For more details see the meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the front door.

**December Council Meeting** - David Yaney began the meeting with a toast to 2009. Pastor Sarah led a devotion based on the “Mary meets Gabriel” story and the point of why we seem to focus on what we do not have rather than all the gifts and blessings we do have.

Pastor Steve used his report time to have a “Vision Conversation” with the Council. He said that he plans to spend more time doing fewer things, specifically scaling back his attendance at every committee meeting. Pastor Steve plans to focus more on witness and outreach, worship, growing stewardship, and supporting finance in 2010. He plans to proofread documents and not originate them. He plans to work one-on-one to encourage faith formation. He plans to start a New Members Class in February 2010.

Pastor Sarah has decided to focus on faith formation for adults, education, small groups, and prayer for fostering faith. Her plan for this is being developed. She plans to back off from heavy participation in our Social Ministry and will continue with youth and “go to where the people are.”

During review of the Treasurer’s Report, we happily noted that we had chopped \$13,400 from our budget deficit during November. The remaining deficit is \$20,800. Tim reported that the Audit Committee report will be completed by the Annual Meeting in February. Greg VonWald will make a temple talk about the budget deficit at all three worship services on the weekend of December 12-13. Bertha Carreras, our Treasurer, also noted that we had received a \$1400 property tax refund. This windfall will surely help in our battle against the deficit.

Pastor Sarah presented a draft of a Narrative Budget. The Narrative Budget is organized by ministry areas. It presents a spending plan in words and graphics (as opposed to spreadsheet line items) for how we intend to spend offerings contributed.

Pastor Steve began preliminary discussions on the 2010 budget which will be considered in full by the Council in January. His current plan is that the 2010 budget will be the same as the 2009 budget plus about \$3000. Committees have sub-mitted their "bare-bones" budget requests. He thought that in 2010 that ministry teams would come to Council if they had a specific need that wasn't budgeted. Pastor Steve said that we don't want to undermine our critical mission efforts.

The council agreed to participate as a group in the Living Nativity on Sunday December 20.

A motion was made by Pastor Sarah to endorse Interfaith Power and Light on our web site. After much discussion pro and con, we realized that PoP needs to create a policy on endorsements. Pastor Sarah withdrew her motion. A link to Interfaith Power and Light is currently on the Prince of Peace web site.

**January Council Meeting** - Pastor Steve began the meeting with a discussion of an article in the most recent issue of *The Lutheran* entitled "Tending the Tsunami of Anxiety." The point of the article was that chronic anxiety can feed on itself and become destructive, but temporary anxiety can be overcome. This lesson seemed pertinent given all the Council effort in discussion of budgetary items and dealing with the deficit in the last half of 2009. Council members then discussed recent activities at PoP that addressed the four key goals for 2009: Intentional Invitation, Worship, Congregational Community, and Direct Help to Neighbors. Council all felt good after this review and especially after the good news that a huge outpouring of offerings had come in during December, erasing the deficit we had for most of 2009. This allowed us to end the year in the black by \$5653. Hallelujah!

Our Treasurer's reports showed that we ended 2009 with \$5653 on the General Fund, \$137,935 in the Building Fund and \$22,774 in various Restricted Funds for a total of \$166,085.

Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah's reports were fairly

routine. Pastor Steve noted that Kay O'Hara has requested a letter of transfer to Desert Hills Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Green Valley, AZ. Pastor Sarah noted that she attended the recent Together in Mission event sponsored by our synod where she heard a presentation about issues related to integrating young adults into the congregation. She also noted that Mary Delaney had designed a logo for the DC Young Adults group. Pastor Sarah also presented a session on Creation Care highlighting our efforts at PoP. Pastor Sarah also mentioned that next to the Community Walk at the Rio, Prince of Peace had the highest group total raised for Gaithersburg HELP. Gaithersburg HELP netted \$49,000 in the overall effort.

The majority of the meeting was taken up by financial matters and preparation of the proposed budget for 2010 to be presented for congregation review and approval at the February 7 congregation meeting. Bertha Carreras, our Treasurer, and Paul Marmillion, our Financial Secretary, were both present to help Council in the discussion. Paul presented three different estimates for expected income in 2010. Based on the 84 pledges received from the 177 member families, other pledges which he hopes to receive, an estimate of unpledged offerings from members, plus rental income and an estimate of loose offerings, Paul estimated \$399,833 in total income for 2010. Another way of estimating future income was simply by trending the past history of actual income. Using this method and a conservative historical trend of 3% annual increases and discounting special appeals offerings over the past several years, Paul came up with \$403,742 as the estimated 2010 income. A third method of estimating offerings used the average giving per week per family (\$40) and an estimate of the number of giving families we expect to have in 2010 (200). This yielded an estimate of \$416,000 for income in 2010.

Pastor Steve presented a proposed budget for 2010 based on \$405,000 in expected income, the same as the actual income in 2009. This proposed budget included rental income estimated at \$15,000. This is up from \$13,083 actual in 2009 because we will be asking our renters to pay more based on their actual usage of our facilities. The proposed budget also included income from reimbursable activities (flowers, VBS, Confirmation, etc.) of \$6000 compared in the actual \$6210 in 2009. The new feature on the contribution side of the 2010 proposed budget is a

program called “\$20.10 for 2010.” In this program each member family will be asked to commit to give \$20.10 per month above and beyond their normal offering. If every member family participated, we would realize additional offerings of \$45,828 per year, based on Pastor Steve’s assumption of 190 member families.

The expense side of the proposed budget for 2010 initially totaled about \$444,000. This included slight reductions in some utilities based on historical data, a reduction in worker’s comp costs and other insurances based on 2009 actuals, a reduction in office expenses based on 2009 actuals, 2% salary increases for the pastors, increases in pension and benefits, reductions in travel, and an increase in the office administrator hours to cover Fridays. Budgets for our ministry teams were also reviewed. Education was reduced from the 2009 budget amount to \$7300, but this is more than the actual expenses in 2009. Property was reduced primarily in the areas of maintenance and repairs where the \$6000 budget in 2009 was reduced to \$4000 in 2010. Our Witness ministry budget was reduced substantially by eliminating the every family subscription to *The Lutheran* and moving *Glad Tidings* costs to office postage. Youth ministry budget was reduced by slightly reducing discretionary, Cradle Roll, and ELCA National Youth Gathering line items. The small Workcamp line item in the Youth budget (\$500) was unchanged. Worship and Music was reduced slightly from the 2009 budget (\$5200 to \$4700), but is still above the 2009 actual. Small increases in music licenses and instrument maintenance expenses were offset by a large reduction in budget for the sound system.

Social ministry benevolence line items including our Synod Share were continued at the 2009 levels (\$38,800) for no change. During the discussion Pastor Sarah made a motion to add \$5000 to Social Ministry to avoid a “floor fight” during the annual meeting and to express an explicit congregational commitment to our Social Ministry budget being 10% of the overall budget. This would take the sum of the Social Ministry line items to \$43,800 which is 9.76% of the new budget total (which would increase to approximately \$449,000). Neil asked what our total benevolence giving was including all of the Social Ministry monthly appeals such as food donations, Walk for the Homeless, Giving Tree, Adopted Families, Gifts of Hope, World Hunger

Appeal, Casseroles for N Street Ministries, Souper Bowl Sunday, Lenten Sharing Bags, the United Lutheran Appeal, the National Lutheran Home Auxiliary, school supply donations, benevolence donations from Yard Sale income, and various other similar benevolent contributions. Pastor Steve reported that our total benevolence offerings were \$66,000 in a recent annual report he made to the synod. Considering unbudgeted benevolence giving mentioned above, our total benevolence giving becomes 14.5% or more of the proposed 2010 budget.

The proposed 2010 budget, revised to a total of \$449,000 by Pastor Sarah’s motion, was voted on and approved by a vote of 10-2 with Neil Howard and David Yaney opposing. The \$23,000 difference between anticipated income and budgeted expenses will be made up by contributions to the “\$20.10 in 2010” program to achieve a balanced budget. If this program does not meet our expectations to balance the budget, then Yard Sale income from 2008, 2009 and 2010 and a 2010 Silent Auction will be used to achieve the desired balance. Pastor Steve estimated that \$30,500 was available from these four sources if needed.

If you would like to join in and see firsthand what goes on at a PoP Church Council meeting, please come! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30-9:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

- These notes were written by Neil Howard,  
[nhoward@comcast.net](mailto:nhoward@comcast.net).

## Recent Events

### Thanksgiving





## December 20

Lots of snow was on the ground and our average attendance suffered in December because of it, but it didn't dampen our spirits! On Sunday morning we had 21" of snow on the ground, but thanks to **Gordon Gipe, the Wimmers, and several other dedicated members**, we were plowed out and open for worship. 26 people attended our 8:30 service and 34 attended our 11:00 service. Later that evening many hardy members of our congregation even enacted our first night of the Living Nativity!



## Christmas Eve

Christmas worship was a highlight of the year, as nearly 500 people attended our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We had a great celebration of Jesus' birth, which included our Adult and Youth choirs, our High School band, a liturgical dance, and many special instrumentalists and singers. Thanks to all!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cookoff

Over \$800 was raised to benefit PoP youth attending this summer's workcamp in Mifflinburg, PA. Those in attendance on Saturday January 23 enjoyed a variety of chilis, cornbreads, and desserts, and were treated to once-in-a-lifetime entertainment. Many thanks to our youth, adult volunteers, and all the generous patrons for a great evening of laughter (learning teenage slang!), fellowship, and delicious chili!



## Stewardship

### Creation Care

#### Mission Statement

Our mission statement is “As we are called by God to be stewards of creation, the Creation Care Team shall promote appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources in all aspects of congregational life and in the outside community through:

- Contemplation, prayer, and worship;
- Designing and implementing environmental education programs and activities;
- Regularly assessing and promoting practices that reduce the environmental footprint of our church;
- Advocating for environmental stewardship in the wider community.”

The Creation Care Team has now set the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 10:30 am as a regular meeting time. Our next meeting is Saturday February 6. Please feel free to join us if you are interested in helping out or even just want to see what is going on. Contact Pastor Sarah for more information at [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org).

### Get Involved at the NLH!

Looking for an easy opportunity to get involved at Prince of Peace? Consider becoming our National Lutheran Home Keyperson. The responsibilities include advertising NLH Events at PoP and conducting one Auxiliary Membership Drive at POP each year. If you would like more information, please contact Donna Von Wald (301-330-0404; [DLHSJVW@RCN.com](mailto:DLHSJVW@RCN.com)). Our 2010 Membership Drive will be this spring so that’s a great time to learn the ropes.

The Home is also in need of volunteers to spread joy to the residents. It is conveniently located near Darnestown and Glen Mill Roads. Consider volunteering at the Home:

**The Pal Program**, sponsored by the NLH Auxiliary, is a wonderful opportunity to share your time with a lonely person. The Pal Program is a 1-to-1 visitation program where you’re matched with an elderly resident. Visits are made at any mutually convenient time at least once a month. Bringing your children for a visit makes it even more special. Call 301-424-9560 x250 for

more information. You'll find that the happiness you give others brightens your day as well!

**NLH Visitor Programs** for those who can't make an ongoing commitment: The **Small Fry Visitor Program** is an opportunity to take your small children to the National Lutheran Home to brighten the days of the residents. The **Special Visitor Program** is for you are willing to make occasional visits at the National Lutheran Home. If you have a friendly, calm pet, consider participating in the **Pet Visitor Program**. For more details on these programs, contact the NLH Director of Volunteer Services, Adele Warnke (301-424-9560 x221).

The **E-Pal Program** at the Home is looking for folks to communicate with residents via email. If you would like to participate or get more info, send a note to [resident@nlha.com](mailto:resident@nlha.com).

There are many other volunteer needs such as reading to residents and wheeling around wheelchair-bound residents. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Adele Warnke, at 301-424-9560 x221. There are also opportunities for students to earn SSL hours.

## Fellowship

Lesa Sullivan ([lesasullivan@comcast.net](mailto:lesasullivan@comcast.net); 301-330-3686)

**February 7:** Our Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following a potluck lunch at noon. This is our annual meeting at which we'll elect new Council members, hear reports, and approve the 2010 budget. All confirmed members are urged to attend!



We also need people to: 1) prepare a tasty food item (i.e. Main Dish, Side Dish/Vegetable, Salad with Bread, or Dessert); 2) setup; 3) serve; and 4) clean up. You may volunteer for any of the

four volunteer opportunities. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Lesa Sullivan at 301-330-3686; [stevesullivan@comcast.net](mailto:stevesullivan@comcast.net).

## Interested in Fellowship?

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly Fellowship meetings which are held at the church the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. For more information, please call Lesa Sullivan at 301-330-3686.

## Education

### The Book of Job: Talking with God When Tragedy Strikes

In response to the recent earthquake, people of Prince of Peace will gather on four Thursday evenings: Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, and Feb. 18 to study the book of Job from 7:30 - 9:00. Please RSVP to Pastor Sarah.

### Wednesday Classes During Lent

Join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:45 until 9:15 for a special class on faith and money: "Your Money or Your Life."



"Your Money or Your Life" will look at the complex relationship between money and faith. In addition to studying scripture, we'll have some practical tools to

help you live more abundantly, whatever your financial situation. Topics will include your personal money story and how it impacts your faith; God's economy (there is enough) and the myth of scarcity; personal financial management (debt, savings, investing, spending); Thrivent-why are the Lutherans in the money business and what do they do?; and Stewardship/cultivating generosity. Participants will be asked to write a money autobiography.

### Confirmation Again

Did you join PoP from a different denomination? Could you explain what it means to be Lutheran? Have you forgotten everything you learned in confirmation class? Pastor Sarah is developing an adult confirmation class for people who want to explore the particularities of being a Lutheran Christian, and she will shape the length, topics, and meeting time around what interested parties want. If you're interested, please let her know by **Friday February 19**. This class will not meet on Sunday mornings; more details will follow.

### New Member Class

Please join us for the next New Member class which will be held February 21 - March 14 during the Sunday School hour. For more information please contact Kris McDonell ([kkmcdonell@comcast.net](mailto:kkmcdonell@comcast.net)).

### Gone Camping

Mar-Lu-Ridge is now taking registrations for summer camp. We are blessed to have such a

superb Lutheran Camp less than an hour away. If you think your child would benefit from a week of growing closer to God with a spirited group of counselors and new friends in a beautiful setting, consider Mar-Lu-Ridge. There are camping experiences for ages 6-17, including some specialty camps like horseback, rock climbing, and performing arts. There's even a week for older kids (55+) to get away from it all. A full brochure is available at PoP or online at [www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org).

## Adult Faith Formation

What is this new emphasis in the congregation? From suggestions of daily devotionals ([www.dailytexts.com](http://www.dailytexts.com)) to web-based learning to additional classes (it's not too late to join The Book of Job, details above), we aim to equip adults in the congregation to grow in faith. If you are curious about what's already offered or if there's something you'd like to see, please let Pastor Sarah or Bob Pavlak know.

## High School Youth Ministry

### Confirmation

The Confirmation Class wrapped 160 gifts for needy children in our local community. All of these gifts were donated by members of PoP from our Giving Tree. Each year, the Giving Tree helps us to make God's love a tangible reality in the lives of families who otherwise would be unable to provide gifts for their children.



### Now Hiring!

Are you looking for an amazing opportunity to grow your own faith, share the gospel, and play outdoors all summer? Consider joining the Summer Staff at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp. We're looking for counselors, support staff, lifeguards and an EMT/nurse. For more information, please visit our website at [www.CarolineFurnace.org](http://www.CarolineFurnace.org); 540-933-6266.

## Youth Ministry

### Feb. 6 and 7: Youth Saturday and Sunday

The youth of PoP will be greeters, ushers, lecturers, communion assistants, minister assistants, acolytes, and actors in the drama

ministry to deliver the sermon. To participate, youth may sign up in the narthex.

## February 14: Valentine's Day Party

A special party will be held during Sunday school time (9:45-10:45 am) on February 14 for all pre-school and elementary age children. Come learn about God's love for us and ways we can share his love with others while enjoying snacks, crafts, and fellowship.



## Social Ministries

Jennifer Maloney ([maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:maloney.jenn@gmail.com); 301-602-6358)

### How to Contribute to Relief for Haiti

The situation in Haiti is dire; the reports of death and deprivation continue. Both the ELCA Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) are participating in relief efforts in Haiti. The greatest need is for financial support. You can contribute to ELCA Disaster Response through <https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=538>. 100% of your gifts designated for Haiti will be used for the vital relief work. You can support Lutheran World Relief online at <http://www.lwr.org/giving/> or on your phone. Starting Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, just text LWR to 40579 to donate \$10. Remember to reply YES to the confirmation.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has announced that they will match members' gifts to the ELCA Disaster Response and LWR, giving \$1 for every \$2 donated. If you are a Thrivent member, follow this link to make your contribution and have it matched:

<https://www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti/>.

### Projects for January and February: ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

Hope that you have been saving your coins for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal! Last year, we collected 1,518 quarters, 4,497 pennies, 1,847 dimes, dollars, and checks to send over \$1,200 to support efforts to end hunger through relief, development, education, and advocacy. Funds from the World Hunger Appeal are supporting relief and sustainable development work in Haiti and around the globe. From the ELCA website:

*RELIEF is how ELCA World Hunger responds to the immediate needs of people who are homeless,*

living in poverty, or who otherwise do not have the means to provide adequate nutrition for themselves or their families. This includes access to food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies and care, and other basic needs.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** is the critical element of work done during and after relief to ensure the long-term viability of a

community that experiences hunger, poverty, or widespread health issues. Development leads to increased access to food and sustainable livelihoods through means such as sustainable agriculture, care for the environment, appropriate technology, adequate housing, jobs, primary health care and disease prevention, job training, child care, elder care, nutrition education, literacy training, sanitation, safe water supplies, below-market loans, and just land use and distribution.

Here is the story of one life transformed:

### **Big hope for little Schniley**

There are big needs in the small country of Haiti. According to the Bread for the World Institute's Hunger 2008 Annual Report\*, almost half of the population is malnourished, more than half live under the international poverty line (\$1 a day), and the child mortality rate is 12 percent. There is big hope in Haiti, too, hope that your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, implemented through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), help make possible.

There is big hope for little Schniley's future. Born at a hospital outside of Port-au-Prince, Schniley was abandoned at birth. Thankfully, she has a loving new home and her adoptive mother is an LWF program participant and teacher.

The LWF works in partnership with community groups and NGOs to establish schools and microfinance programs. The LWF is also instrumental in partnering with local farmers and agencies to provide agricultural development in Haiti, such as a coffee-farming project in Thiotte and a banana plantation project near Cite Soleil.

Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help fund these sustainable economic opportunities, opportunities that make big dreams and big hopes possible.

*\*Hunger 2008: Working Harder for Working Families (18th Annual Report on the State of World Hunger) © 2008 Bread for the World Institute.*

## **Haiti Disaster Relief Fund of Lord of Life Aids Haiti through Lazarus Project**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, with campuses in Fairfax and Clifton/Centreville, has an existing relationship with the Lazarus Project, an opportunity to be directly involved in serving Haiti's poor. The Rev. Ron Qualley alerts us to the availability of an update from Lazarus Project staff. A blog post from Debbie Berquist, interim director of the program, declares, "We have passed another safe night... praise the Lord!" Read her full entry at <http://www.lordoflifelutheran.com/lordoflife/blogger/blogger.html>. The congregation has established a Haiti Disaster Relief Fund, which will channel relief directly to needs identified by the Lazarus Project. Find this giving opportunity from the congregation's home page or from <http://lordoflifelutheran.com/haiti.xml>.

## **Souper Bowl Sunday**

**Celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday on February 7 and fight hunger in our own backyard!** Watch



the game, but first support the Souper Bowl of Caring by bringing beef stew (or canned soup), which helps replenish supplies at Gaithersburg HELP! Use your contribution to "vote" for your team in the Super Bowl. The team

that has the most cans donated wins the "Souper Bowl." Last year, youth across the country collected more than 4.5 million pounds of food and provided countless hours of service. Let's help them surpass that total this year.



## **Ongoing Projects**

Drop off boxes of cereal, pasta, sauce, tuna, and other donations for Gaithersburg HELP! We also collect old cell phones (which are given to people at risk for domestic violence), cancelled stamps (for the National Lutheran Home), Campbell's soup labels (actually only the UPC code, which go to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission) and hotel-size toiletries (for shelter residents).



## Refuge in Times of Trouble

If you know someone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need that is a member of the congregation, please let us know! The Social Ministries Committee can offer services such as food, cards, or other specific needs. We can't help if we don't know. Contact Pastor Sarah Scherschligt at 301-869-3666 or at [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org) if you need help or know of someone who does.

## Join the Team!

Want to become a part of the Social Ministries Team? The next meeting is Wednesday February 10 at 7:30 pm. Contact Jennifer Maloney at 301-602-6358; [Maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:Maloney.jenn@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.



## Women's Book Group

The Book Group members particularly enjoyed reading about Julia Child and her life in France for the January meeting, and sharing their own culinary experiences in Paris and at home. For February, we have chosen a very different book to discuss, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. A contributor to Amazon.com wrote: "The Help is about a young white woman in the early 1960s in Mississippi who becomes interested in the plight of the black ladies' maids that every family has working for them. She writes their stories about mistreatment, abuse and heartbreaks of working in white families' homes, all just before the Civil Rights revolution...The story grabs you and doesn't let you go. You can smell the melted tar on the Mississippi roads, the toil in the cotton fields, the grits burning on the stove. The theme is the indomitable will of human beings to survive against all odds." Karen Kimmel-Miltzer will host the gathering on Thursday, February 11, at 7:30pm. Karen lives at 110 Chevy Chase Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. RSVP to Karen at [kjsmartmov@starpower.net](mailto:kjsmartmov@starpower.net) or 240-477-4137.

Book Group usually meets the second Thursday of the month in members' homes; in April and May, we will meet on Wednesday night. Books are selected by the group and all women of PoP and friends are welcome to attend the gatherings. To be added to the book group list, please contact Jennifer Maloney at [Maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:Maloney.jenn@gmail.com) or 301-602-6358.

## Future Dates

Thursday, March 11: *A Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks, hosted by Judy Bruening



\*\*Wednesday, April 14: *The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown, hosted by Nancy Morton

\*\*Wednesday, May 12: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson and Reg Keeland

Thursday, June 10: *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar



December Meeting



Annual Book Swap

## Men's Group

We enjoyed a recent omelet breakfast to celebrate Kurt Nelson's and Emil Keller's birthdays.



The "dirty baker's dozen"

Neil Howard,  
omelet extraordinaire





In January, we visited Bill Prueter at his new home in Washington, D.C.

## Special Dates

- Groundhog Day, February 2
- St. Valentine's Day, February 14
- Presidents' Day, February 15
- Ash Wednesday, February 17



## Two Kinds of People

There are only two kinds of people on earth today  
Two kinds of people, no more I say.

Not the rich and the poor, for to know a man's  
wealth

You must first know the state of his conscience  
and health.

Not the happy and sad, for in life's passing years,  
Each has his laughter and each has his tears.

No, the two kinds of people on earth I mean  
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

In which class are you? Are you lifting the load  
Of some overtaxed lifter who's going down the  
road?

Or are you a leaner who lets others share  
Your portion of toil and labor and care?

—Ella Wheeler Wikcox

## A Little Extra Something

- Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by  
the things we do not see

—Martin Luther

- While we are living in the present, we must  
celebrate life every day, knowing that we are  
becoming history with every work, every  
action, every deed.

—Mattie Stepanek

- The time to repair the roof is when the sun is  
shining.

—John F. Kennedy

- Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a  
time, but it ain't goin' away.  
—Elvis Presley

- Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing  
that nobody's going to know whether you did it  
or not.  
—Oprah Winfrey

## Contact the Pastors

Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah are working together to make sure that pastoral care needs are met. To be certain that one of them is always "on," Pastor Steve takes Fridays off while Pastor Sarah takes Mondays off. You can reach both of them at the church office, or contact them by cell phone or email: Pastor Steve: 301-980-0160; [pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org); Pastor Sarah: 202-870-8363; [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org). Visit Pastor Sarah's blog at [www.thebarefootpastor.blogspot.com](http://www.thebarefootpastor.blogspot.com).

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**Glad Tidings** is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org).

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