



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 30, Iss. 5

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

June 2011

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning on the weekend of June 4 / 5 (Yard Sale weekend), we'll resume our Summer Worship Schedule:

Saturday Worship @ 5pm
Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 10:00 am (no Sunday School during the summer).

This schedule will continue through and including the weekend of Labor Day (Sept. 3 / 4).

Yard Sale! Our Yard Sale is fast approaching on June 4! We need lots of folks to help before and during the sale, and of course, to donate items for the sale. This is always a great way to have fun together as a congregation and to meet and serve our community. Please sign up to help in the narthex, and get more information at http://poplutheran.org/communitylife/yardsale_2011.html.

It is never too early to have a hamburger or hot dog at the Yard Sale, so we need plenty of food donations to keep all our customers happy! Happy well-fed customers do more shopping and, more importantly, buying. Please sign up to donate something to the Food Booth. New this year are soft pretzels and corn dogs. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Cherie DeGeorge.



A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12 immediately following the 10 am service. The purpose of this meeting will be to move forward

with our building plans. Watch your mail and the weekly e-mails and bulletins for more information.

Green is Good! Prince of Peace won an environmental award from the City of Gaithersburg on May 2, 2011 for making "impressive strides in the past three years to improve environmental stewardship within its congregation and throughout the community." Pastor Sarah, Joyce Breiner, and Debra Aplan were present to receive the award on behalf of our congregation.

June Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Contemporary Worship

10:00 am Traditional Worship

Baby-sitter available during Services

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

Every Wednesday

12:00 pm Bible Study

5:30 pm High School Youth Group

7:30 pm Adult Choir

Every Thursday

5:00 pm Youth Choir

5:00 pm Bible Study

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;
301-869-3666)



Welcome the Stranger

While I was away at a conference, I worshipped where two of my friends are pastors. The gospel reading was the road to Emmaus from Luke 24. Two people walking down the road encounter Jesus but they think they are meeting a stranger. In welcoming the stranger, they welcome Christ.

I sat alone during the service because my friends were up front. There were probably around 150 people in worship. The feel of the church was joyful and enthusiastic. When it came time for the passing of the peace, people did more than pass the peace; they burst into cheerful conversation and roved around to greet their friends. I'm sure they think they are a friendly church.

But no one greeted me. I stood there while the people around me all turned away from me, the stranger, and toward their friends. After a minute or so of looking awkwardly for someone to pass the peace with, I sensed that the woman in the pew in front of me was at a break in her conversation.

"Peace be with you," I busted in with my hand outstretched. She replied, "I don't shake hands," and turned away. In her defense, my friends said that for medical reasons she has to be careful about germs, but the result was that I felt rejected.

After the service, I sought out the coffee and waited for my friends to be done with post-church clean-up. I stood alone with a fairly friendly looking face, my coffee in hand, and waited to see if anyone would say hello. Finally after six minutes (yes, I counted), I heard someone approach from behind and say, "Well, hello there!" Finally someone noticed me! But it was just my friend.

She introduced me to others, and after that, I was passed along and had no end of conversation.

One person she introduced me to said, "Oh, I heard you singing and thought - that seems like a new person with a good voice, we should get her in the choir." I appreciated the compliment, but I wanted to reply: "you could have started by passing the peace of Christ with me."

Going to a new church - especially alone - is a vulnerable thing. You don't know the people or their habits. It takes courage to do little things like find the coffee, the restrooms, the hymnal, a Sunday School classroom. Worship can be especially daunting. I'm fairly confident in my ability to follow an unfamiliar worship service, but I was a bit lost. This wasn't a Lutheran church and they had two different hymnals. I was in the wrong one for the first hymn. It would have been so nice for someone to notice me fumbling and help out.

Prince of Peace is blessed to have strangers worship with us nearly every Sunday. I say we are blessed not because we want to increase our membership, but because strangers bring with them Christ in a new way. As we open our hearts to newcomers, we open our hearts to God.

Plus, our congregation is large enough that even some of our most committed members don't know one another. We do well to be intentional about welcoming one another.

Here are a few tips to welcoming the stranger:

- 1) Each week, say hello to three people you don't know before you talk to those you do know. You may talk to a newcomer or a life-long member who is normally at a different service; either way, it's a good thing.
- 2) Passing of the peace isn't primarily a time for conversation, it's a time to share Christ's peace. Do a 360 and make sure you greet all those in your immediate surroundings and if we all do this, we will all be greeted.
- 3) Before church, find out if anyone sitting around you is new and needs help navigating the service. How can you tell if they're new? If you don't know them, just ask.
- 4) After church, invite someone you don't know to grab a snack or cup of coffee with you; tell them about your favorite ministry or invite them to Sunday School.

- 5) Introduce your children too. Yes, we all know about “stranger danger” and take it seriously. But children are part of our church too, and an important part.
- 6) Finally, here are some lines to use if you are not sure how to strike up a conversation with a stranger:
 - a. “Hello, I’m _____. I don’t think we’ve met before...”
 - b. “Hello, I’m _____. I know I’ve seen you before, but I’m sorry I don’t remember your name.”
 - c. “Hello, I’m _____ (do you see the pattern - introduce yourself first). Welcome. Have you worshipped here before? If not, I’m happy to help you find your way through the service.”
 - d. “Hello, I’m _____. I’ve only been here a few times so I don’t know everybody, but I sure like being part of this church. How long have you been coming here?”

Welcome the stranger. You will meet Christ.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

Recent Events

Easter



Creation Care Carnival



Ride Your Bike to Church Day



Putting on Our God Goggles



Stewardship Creation Care



Fruitful Fields, at the beginning of the growing season. An "after" photo will be in an upcoming issue.

Recycle Worn-out Athletic Shoes! Now through June 19: Prince of Peace, as part of this year's Creation Care Carnival, is an official collection point for the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program. Bring your unusable athletic shoes, and those of your friends and neighbors, to the collection container. The recycling effort will create new places to play: playgrounds, running tracks, football fields, basketball courts and more. Guidelines: Athletic shoes only • Any brand • No damp or muddy shoes • No metal, cleats or dress shoes • No sandals or flip-flops.

Creation Care Mission Statement

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:

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

The Creation Care Team meets the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 10:30 am. Our next meeting is Saturday, June 4. Please feel free to join us if you are interested in helping out at the Creation Care Carnival or just want to see what is going on. Contact Pastor Sarah for more information.

Education

Susan Junghans (KSJunghans@verizon.net)

Save the Date!

Walk Thru the Bible is coming back to PoP. On **Saturday, September 17**, PoP will host a Walk Thru the **NEW** Testament seminar. This seminar is a highly interactive, energy charged, and fun way to learn more about the New Testament.

For more than 30 years the Walk Thru the Bible



organization has been offering incredible

seminars to help people learn more about God's Word without tedious note-taking or long, boring lectures! Instead, they will guide us through a highly creative and interactive learning adventure. Here's how they describe this seminar:

You'll begin with the 400 years of silence, which are anything but silent because they're marked with the turbulent transition between the Old and New Testaments. During those years, world powers rose and fell, religious institutions were birthed, the arts flourished, and Rome came to dominate the world. God orchestrated these events so that in the fullness of time, He could send forth His Son.



Now the journey brings your people to the place they're destined to go. By experiencing Walk Thru the New Testament, each participant will walk where Jesus walked, relive the birth and growth of the early church,

and journey with the apostle Paul to the ends of the earth. Each also will come to see how God used ordinary people - people like you and me - to do extraordinary things.

This adventure will be so enjoyable that it will hardly seem like people are being taught. At the end of this five-hour seminar, participants will learn more about the New Testament than they ever imagined while having fun and being positively challenged along the way. By the time they reach the journey's end, they'll be able to: Arrange 77 key people, places, and events in the New Testament in chronological order.

Arrange the well-known events of the life of Christ in sequence.

Discover how the four gospels complement each other, making one complete biography of Christ. Tie together the structure of the New Testament into a complete whole.

The 27 books of the New Testament, penned by at least nine authors over a period of 50 years, will come together like brick and mortar to build a solid foundation of biblical understanding. Your congregation will understand things in a new way

and passages - which used to puzzle them - will suddenly become clear. As a result, your people's devotional lives will be more meaningful; and you'll find them eager to get into God's Word every day. You'll also notice new power in their prayer lives.



Attendees will have an understanding of the overall purpose and plan of God, which will serve them well for the rest of their lives. When they read the Bible, they'll understand it better and be able to place people, places, and events into their proper order. When the journey is completed, they'll be ready to begin a new journey on higher ground.

PoP 50 55 Summer of Scripture (snazzier name coming soon)

Again this summer we, as a congregation, are being challenged to complete a Bible reading plan. This year there will be 55 readings focusing on lesser-known Bible characters. The Summer of Scripture (www.summerofscripture.blogspot.com) blog will once again have daily updates, including both the reading for the day and a reflection on the reading written by one of the pastors or a member of the congregation. If you would like a daily reminder and link to the blog emailed to you please contact the church office.

Or, if you'd prefer a hard copy, booklets containing all 55 passages will be available in the narthex. Everyone who appears in the Bible had a part in God's plan, so let's get to know more of those people!

Youth Ministry

Please refer to the website calendar or the Youth Ministry bulletin board for details about events throughout the year. Also, don't forget that the High School youth meet weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 pm. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Drissel at (301)349-2848; Drissels@comcast.net.

2011 Workcamp Update

Workcamp is right around the corner! We will have our Workcamp Commissioning Service on Sunday June 26. Please join us!

WORKCAMP will be held July 9-July 16 and we are headed to Keansburg, NJ. If still interested, please contact Susan Soileau at 301-340-1219 to check for Youth availability.

1-By-Youth

Eleven PoP middle school and high school youth and three adults attended our first 1-By-Youth event in Manassas, Virginia on May 14. Along with





600 other youth and adult volunteers, we helped to create a community garden with 30 plots, and in the same 3-acre field as the community garden, others worked on renovating the centerpiece memorial gazebo and gathering place for the Point of Woods neighborhood to honor a Manassas police officer killed in the line of duty protecting that the neighborhood. Some of our group also worked to repair a home along with Habitat for Humanity volunteers. We finished the day off with a block party to celebrate all the work that 600 volunteers can collectively accomplish in one day - there was music, and of course, plenty of food! There will be another 1-By-Youth event in Frederick, MD in the Fall ... watch more details later in the summer.

Fellowship

Lesa Sullivan (lesasullivan@comcast.net; 301-330-3686)

Interested in Fellowship?

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly Fellowship meetings which are held at the church the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30. For more information, call Lesa Sullivan at 301-330-3686.

Social Ministries

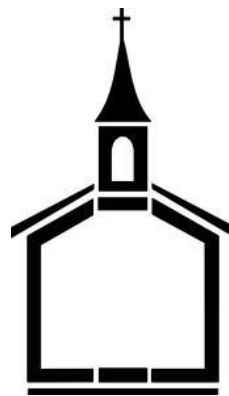
Jennifer Maloney (maloney.jenn@gmail.com; 301-602-6358)

Prince of Peace will be partnering with Thrivent Builds & Habitat for Humanity on July 23 and August 6 for a home renovation in Silver Spring! We need volunteers (adults and youth age 16 and up). This is a renovation project, so there will be demolition, drywall painting and framing, misc repairs, ceilings, etc. Skilled labor is not required. For more information, please sign up in the Narthex, or contact Steve Sullivan (301-330-3686; stevesullivan@comcast.net)



You Can Turn a Life Around!

“Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear...all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia



In so many simple ways, we can make a difference in the lives of others. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a wonderful caring community and to harness all that love and concern, the Social Ministry Committee is planning a more structured program, the Care Ministry. By using a team approach, we hope to reach out to those in need without it being a burden on any particular individual, and also being part of a team ensures that the team members receive support and empowerment from one another.

Examples of support for congregational members include bringing love and consistent, compassionate service to the sick, lonely, and overwhelmed, helping with errands, transportation to appointments, relief for caretakers, support during bereavement, light housework, babysitting, meals, computer assistance, raking leaves, and handy-person chores.

As an intergenerational, congregation-based ministry, we are looking for volunteers of all ages, and time commitments can be large or small. Because we have three separate services,

there may be people we do not know, but want to be sure that everyone who has a need receives congregational support.

Are you interested in making a difference, in turning a life around? We are planning a training session with an experienced Care Ministry Coordinator on **June 11** from 12-5:00 pm with lunch and snacks provided. If you are unable to make this training, but wish to participate, those who have been trained will become the trainers. Please contact Nancy Swanson at nmom65@gmail.com; 301-349-2184 to indicate your interest and to register for this team-oriented and rewarding mission of “doing what a friend would do.”

School Supply Drive

Prince of Peace will be participating in the Interfaith Clothing Center’s school supply collection again this year. Last year, Interfaith distributed over 2,100 backpacks filled with supplies and hopes to meet the need again this year. Please leave donations in the box in the narthex. We will be collecting the following new supplies July 2 through August 7.

Top 5 needed items:

- Backpacks (grades K - 12)
- Boxes of colored pencils
- Packages of lined filler paper
- Pocket folders
- Tab dividers

Needed items:

- 1 subject notebooks
- 3 ring binders (3 inch)
- Crayons
- Composition books
- Erasers, large pink or white
- Glue bottles/Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Package of big markers
- Pencil pouches and boxes
- Pencils, #2
- Pens, red & black
- Rulers
- Scissors



So...watch those early back-to-school sales. You don’t need to buy everything on the list. Any questions, please call Sherry or Ken Prather at 301-294-6331.

PoP to Help Metro DC Efforts in Namibia: “Fill the Container”

The Metro DC Synod’s Namibian Task Force is reaching out to help Namibian children in need. The Synod is shipping a container of donated goods to the children in the youth hostels located within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) synod. The hostels provide food, housing, healthcare and supervision for 1,650 children between the ages of 5 and 15, in locations near public schools. The children, often from very rural areas and/or orphaned due to HIV/AIDS are already vulnerable. Without these hostels, they risk losing access to an education as well.

Donations of new or used clothing, shoes, ball caps, children’s books, and toys are needed; Social Ministry will glean donations of these items from our yard sale. In addition, the Synod is seeking new items for health kits; PoP are members are encouraged to donate bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bandaids. **Items can be brought to church June 12 and 19.** Donations will be delivered later in June and shipped to Namibia mid-July. Questions, contact Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com.

Recent Projects

Thanks to Jennifer Maloney and Deborah Kalas for coordinating meals for the Community Based Shelter on May 10. Deborah and Richard Farrar, Melinda Fox, and Susan Gowing prepared and served a wonderful dinner and brought breakfast and lunch items provided by Sandy Moore, Debbie Chan, Judy Bruening, Tracy Barr, Astrid Crookshank, and Vickie Brown.

A hardy group returned to the shelter on Saturday to clean beds and plant seven bushes, perennials (from Jane Howard’s garden), and annuals. Kudos to our green thumb team of Deborah and Mike Kalas, Megan (Kalas’ future daughter-in-law), Remi Langum, Bevin and Jennifer Maloney, Sharon Wahl, and Leigh Weed! We especially want to thank the Potomac Garden Center, which provided the plants and materials for the project at half price.

Lenten Sharing Bags - Thanks to Ken Prather and Dave Ritzmann for dropping donations off and Jennifer for coordinating the project.

Campers at the LSS Camp Life Haven slept well on 9 pillows and used 2 flashlights, 2 sheets sets-full, 16 t-shirts (4 packages) and 2 giant chalk packages to enjoy a weekend retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge.

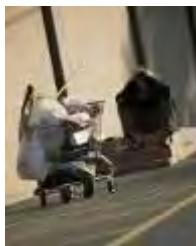
The women at the Community Based Shelter received 19 bags with 220 pairs of socks (30 packages), 1 knitted sweater/top, 212 pairs of undies (47 packages), and 690 sanitary pads (18 packages).

La Sagrada Familia tutoring program is now well-stocked with 250 packs of crackers, 400 snack bars, and 470 juice boxes.

Final Number ELCA World Hunger Appeal-received in 2011: \$2,461; balance from 2010 - \$1,050. **TOTAL sent to ELCA - \$3,511.** These funds will support international and domestic disaster relief and sustainable development across the globe.

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 if you need help or know of someone who does.



The next Social Ministry meeting is Wednesday, June 8 at 7:30 pm at the Besecker Youth Center, and all PoP members are welcome to attend. There will be no meeting in July. Contact Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com; 301-602-6358 for details and/or to be added to the committee list.

Women's Book Group

The PoP Women's Book Group will meet Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 pm at the home of Karen Kimmel-Militzer, 110 Chevy Chase Street, #204, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. We are going to discuss Stieg Larsson's trilogy, beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. RSVP to Karen at jksmartmov@comcast.net.

Book group meets the second Thursday of the month; the members select the books. All PoP women are welcome to join the group for one evening or every month.



Future Dates:

Thursday, July 14, *Shadow Divers* (movie), pool party at Susan Victor's
Thursday, August 11, *Blue Shoes and Happiness* by Alexander McCall Smith, at PoP and hosted by June Herron
Thursday, September 8, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

To be added to the book group list, send an email to Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

July 18-22: It's time to register for VBS! VBS is for all children from age 3 (toilet trained, please!) to those finishing 4th grade. Pick up registration forms in the narthex or download them from our website (www.poplutheran.org) to join us at Pandamania July 18 - 22, from 9 to 12. Registration fee is \$45 per child (max. fee \$135/family) and includes 1 CD per family. Come join us and learn that God is Wild About You!



Help is needed! Join us at Pandamania, July 18 - 22. VBS needs lots of volunteers. Be a crew leader if you are at least 11 years old. You will lead and assist a group of 5-6 children at different stations throughout the morning. Be a station leader or asst. station leader, for either the elementary group or the pre-school group, if you are in high school or an adult. We need help with crafts, games, snacks, Chadder's video, Bible time, and Spotlight VBS. Have fun and earn SSL hours, if you need them. If you can't help every day, we also need people to do registration on the first morning and in the kitchen each day. Nursery care is provided for young children of volunteers. Sign up in the narthex; contact Judy Bruening if you have questions.

July 23: PoP partners with **Thrivent Builds & Habitat for Humanity** on July 23 and August 6 for a home renovation in Silver Spring! We need volunteers (adults and youth age 16 and up), and skilled labor is not required. For more information, please sign up in the Narthex, or contact Steve Sullivan (301-330-3686; stevesullivan@comcast.net).

Special Dates

- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 19
- First Day of Summer, June 21

A Little Extra Something

• Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

—Bishop Desmond Tutu

• Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

• Truth, and goodness, and beauty are but different faces of the same all.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

• Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures.

—Mother Teresa

• Our true wealth is the good we do in this world. None of us has faith unless we desire for our neighbors what we desire for ourselves.

—Mohammed

Optimism

In order to better understand people's views of the world, a researcher once placed two children, one a pessimist and the other an optimist, alone in separate rooms. The pessimist was placed in a colorful room full of all kinds of imaginative toys; and the optimist was put in a room filled with

horse manure. The first child played in the room for a little while, but soon came to the door asking to leave because the toys were boring and because they broke too easily. Likewise, the young optimist soon came to the door, but rather than asking to leave, she asked for a shovel. Naturally, the researcher asked the child why she wanted a shovel. She replied, "With all this manure around, I know that there must be a pony in here somewhere."

—Unknown

Two Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes
which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black
and all your joys in the gold."

I heeded his words, and in the two boxes
both my joys and sorrows I store,
but though the gold became heavier each day
the black was as light as before.

With curiosity I opened the black --
I wanted to find out why --
and I saw in the base of the box a hole
which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,
I wonder where my sorrows could be;
He smiled a gentle smile at me,
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked, "God, why give me the boxes,
why the gold and black with the hole?"
"My child the gold is for you to count your
blessings, and the black is for you to let go."

—Contributed by L.M. Myers

Stop for a Moment

With human minds we emotionally bind ourselves
to things we cannot see, hopelessly setting a
course that will deprive us of the strings of peace
that were given to you and me.

We often pass up rainbows, a spring shower, a
sunset, or even just a smile. Yet in the name of
prosperity and growth we'll go the extra mile.

God gave us the ability to experience the delicate
sides of this earth. But often we don't allow
ourselves to fully appreciate what it's worth.

Have you ever whistled with a songbird, been touched by a breeze, or smelt the seasons in the air? Or did you just consider them daily problems and not ever really care?

Have you ever had a falling leaf placed gently at your feet? Carried by a loving wind just for you to meet?

Did you let it say good morning, friend, or kick it to the side? Thinking that you're late for work or you'll never catch your ride.

During a crowded traffic jam have you ever looked up high? To see how God directs the clouds as they go flying through the sky?

What was your thought today as you tumbled out of bed? "Thank you Lord for this day" or "Man, do I feel dead."

You see it's up to us to find these things as we're traveling down life's road. Because God sends these gifts to cross our paths and relieve our heavy load.

—David Waddell



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; Pastor Sarah: 202-870-8363; pastorsarah@poplutheran.org.

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Articles for the July/August issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **June 19, 2011**. Please e-mail articles to kristen.sheely@gmail.com or deliver to the newsletter mailbox outside the church office. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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