



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 30, Iss. 9

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

November 2011

Christmas Pageant!

It is time to sign up for Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals will begin on November 6, 2 to 4pm and will be every Sunday except November 27. The Pageant will be at 6pm on December 11 with a dress rehearsal on December 10 at 6pm. We need both youth for pageant and adults to help with the rehearsals and production. For additional info contact: either Jon or Lisa Conary (301-528-9737), e-mail: lconary@prodigy.net.

Inside Property

Please help spruce up the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 12, between 9am and noon. Anyone who can help for any length of time would be most appreciated. We'll provide snacks and drinks. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex or call Joanne Pulliam at 301-977-6131.

Special Congregational Meeting

The Council and the Building Committee are excited about the prospects of moving ahead with building for the future, and are now confident that we have enough input to hire an architect to work creative and collaboratively with us to develop a complete Master Plan and the phases necessary to begin implementing the plan. So, we will hold a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 13 at 12:15 pm to approve the use of some existing Building Fund money to hire an architect. Please plan to be at this exciting and important meeting!

Kid Corner

Hey, Kids! Do you stay with Mommy and Daddy during the worship service but sometimes get bored? Did you forget to bring your book to look at so you can stay quiet and not get too antsy?

If you answered yes to either of these, visit **KID CORNER** on your way in to the service. There you can find something to help keep you busy. Some things you might find are books to read, pages to

color, little bags of crayons, small quiet toys, and your own special bulletin (You know, the papers Mommy and Daddy look at to tell them what is happening in the service).

Next time you come to church, show **KID CORNER** to your parents. It is near the door at the closet where everyone hangs up their coats in the winter.

See you at church!

November Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Worship with piano and guitar

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship with organ and piano

A Supervised nursery is available during all Services

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

Every Wednesday

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;
301-869-3666)

In November, we have five baptisms. What a reason to rejoice! The water used in baptism is sometimes called “Storied water.” The water is simply tap water. We bless the water and invite the Holy Spirit to be present in the baptism. The important part about the water, however, is how it is used. It is used by God to claim a person as part of God’s family and to promise salvation.

This becomes special water indeed!

Throughout our Bible - our collection of stories of faith - we hear about how God used water to save people and to claim them as God’s own. God saved Noah and his family through the flood; God saved the people of Israel through the Red Sea; God gave a bunch of different Old Testament characters water at critical times (Hagar, Jacob, Elijah are a few); Jesus spoke words of grace and freedom to a woman at a well and told her about living water; John to baptized Jesus with water and the Holy Spirit showed up too. Because of that water, God said “This is my son, my beloved.”

When a person is baptized, she takes her place with all those ancestors as someone with a story of faith. Each person’s story is unique, but together we create living stories of how God still uses the water of baptism to save us and claim us.

In the month of November, we have opportunity to gather as a church and as families to tell stories. On Nov 6, All Saints Day, we will remember those who have died. Each of the names we’ll read aloud represents a person who is part of the faith story of someone living and connected to the church. At Thanksgiving, you will probably gather with friends or family. Perhaps you, like many families, will tell stories. Not all of our stories are happy; these are times you may especially miss those who have died or mourn a recent difficult change of circumstances. In the end of November we will begin Advent, the season where we again tell the story of how God

sent Jesus into the world as a baby. This baby would grow up to live and teach and heal and die and be raised so that his followers (us!) have a new story to tell.

Because of Jesus, because of our baptisms, our personal stories include this most important fact: we are children of God. That means we will inherit, along with God’s son Jesus, life abundant in this world and eternal life to come. This is your story and mine, and through the baptisms this month it will also be the story of Ema, Katrena, Carter, JJ, and Matthew. Welcome to the family! Welcome to the story.

In peace and joy,

Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

Recent Events

Recent visit to PoP by Sally and Tom Roach!



Stewardship

Turn Your IRA Required Distributions into Charitable Donations

The IRS rules mandate that individuals age 70 ½ and older take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs each year, regardless of whether the income is needed. These annual RMDs are subject to ordinary income taxes. By making a charitable contribution from your IRA, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income.

This provision may be especially attractive for retirees who don’t need all the income from their

IRA to meet current living expenses. By donating the money to charity, you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

Prince of Peace qualifies as a charity eligible to receive this donation. This provision of the tax code, to donate your IRA distribution to a charity and receive a tax break, expires on December 31st of this year unless extended by Congress. If you are not 70 ½, please share this information with your parents or grandparents. Making a donation to the Prince of Peace building fund, youth ministry, or to the designated fund of your choice would be a meaningful way to further these important ministries of our church.

As always, you should talk to your financial or tax professional before making a decision that affects your tax situation. If you or your financial advisors have any questions about how to accomplish this, please contact Mike Kalas (michael.kalas@gmail.com) on the PoP Finance Committee.

Prince of Peace now has a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



Education

Susan Junghans (KSJunghans@verizon.net)

Our season of Sunday School is in full swing. Pick up a flier in the narthex for the location of our youth classes. Contact Janet Levine (Lyle1Janet@msn.com; 301-540-7992) or Susan Junghans (KSJunghans@verizon.net; 301-217-9420) with questions /comments.

We also have four Adult education options during Sunday School hour, so grab a coffee and come hang out with other adults!

- * Exodus Bible Study (led by Kurt Junghans, meets in Youth Center)
- * Guided Bible Study by Cricket Keeth (led by Bob & Bridget Pavlak, in Pastor Sarah's office)
- * Young Adult Bible Study (in Pastor Steve's office)

* Chat with a Pastor: it's an informal time to discuss whatever is on your mind. Chat about what? About anything you think you'd like to talk about: How does faith inform our understanding of current events? What was that 2nd reading about? What burning theological question has always been on your mind? Meet in the sanctuary at 9:45am.

Youth Ministry

Christmas Pageant!

The Christmas Pageant for this year is a little different than what we have done in the past. This year as the Christmas Story is told in the pageant, we also will be telling our story: Our story as individuals, as members of Prince of Peace and as members of "The Church." To help with this, we need adults that are willing to be interviewed by the youth, so let Lisa and Jon Conary know at lconary@prodigy.net; 301-528-9737 if you are willing to be interviewed. Some of the interview responses will be used during the pageant. Thanks!

The questions which all relate to Christmas are:

- 1) Tell me about when and where you were born.
- 2) What was it like when you were a kid? How was it different from the way things are now?
- 3) What do you remember about Santa Claus? Did you visit Santa at a department store, or did he come to your school or church?
- 4) Tell me about the music at Christmas. Did you go caroling? Were there special shows or programs when you were a child?
- 5) What do you remember about the special foods at Christmas? Did your family bake cookies or make candy? Were there treats at school or church?
- 6) Did you put up a lot of decorations at Christmas? Who was in charge of decorating in your family?
- 7) How was the story of Christmas shared in your family?
- 8) What was it like for you on Christmas Eve? Did you have trouble sleeping? What did your family do on Christmas morning? Did your family have any special traditions?
- 9) When you were growing up, were any Christmases particularly memorable because of what was going on at the time? (New brothers or sisters? Traveling? Unexpected changes in the family? Historical events?)
- 10) How did your family share Christmas with others? Did you send cards? Visit relatives? Have a

Christmas dinner with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins?

Workcamp 2012 planning is underway. For those high school youth who want to join us next year for a great week of service and great company, put June 24 - 30 on your calendars. We are going earlier this year and headed to Reading, PA! Invite your friends. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Susan Soileau at 301-340-1219; s10620W@ymail.com. We also have a sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board. Input even at this early date is appreciated for planning purposes.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans from **July 18-22, 2012**. The Youth Gathering takes place once every three years, and it's an incredible experience as nearly 30,000 high school youth from all over the country to join together in worship, learning and service! Check out the website for the Gathering (<http://www.elca.org/elca/youth-gathering.aspx>) to learn more!

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.

Fellowship

Fellowship Committee

If you enjoy food, fun and fellowship, we would love to have you as a member of the Fellowship Committee. It's a great way to get to know other members of Prince of Peace and encourage Christian Fellowship within the congregation and the community. The Fellowship Committee is responsible for planning/coordinating and preparing meals for various church-wide social events such as the Walk through the Bible, Auction, Lenten and Advent soup suppers and the annual Congregational meeting, as well as other smaller fellowship related groups. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Lisa Woodard (Fellowship Chair) at 301-762-2343 or woodard4@comcast.net.

Tables For All

What are two of the top ten best reasons for being Lutheran? That's right, food and fellowship - and you can combine both in Tables for All. Get to know other folks from Prince of Peace through casual dinners held at participants' homes. This adult fellowship activity is low stress and lots of fun. We do three "rounds" in a calendar year: October/November, January/February, and March/April. Eight people (singles or couples) are grouped to enjoy a potluck dinner at one participant's home. The host provides the main dish and the other people are assigned to bring either side dishes, salad, bread, or dessert. It is mapped out for you each round, so all you need to do is sign up in the narthex or contact Becky Carr (carrfive@comcast.net).

Social Ministries

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

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa

If you enjoyed the aroma of coffee at the PoP Auction, you can take it home with you. Fair Trade coffee, tea, and cocoa will be on sale at PoP the weekends of October 29/30 and November 5/6 while supplies last. Fair Trade products ensure that coffee farmers and other producers receive a fair price for their products. Lutherans through the efforts of Lutheran World Relief have promoted Fair Trade policies and products for many years. For information about LWR's involvement with Fair Trade products, visit http://lwr.org/site/c.dmJXKiOYJgI6G/b.7521971/k.C73D/Support_Fair_Trade.htm

For the Holidays:

Giving Tree

Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PoP members can select a child's name from the Giving Tree and purchase a special Christmas gift for him/her. The City of Gaithersburg sponsors the program and this year, the Social Ministry Committee is working with Rachel Carson Elementary School to provide a happy Christmas for students there. Kathy Rossmeisl coordinates the program. You will see the tree up in the narthex in a few weeks!

Adopted Family

Prince of Peace is adopting a family in our neighborhood for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The family, recent immigrants from Egypt,

consists of two parents and six children; three of the children attend Quince Orchard, one attends Lakelands, and two are going to Brown Station. Peg Welborn has already brought the family groceries and will be purchasing warm coats. The family is in need of more clothing, especially warm clothes; we hope to collect sweatsuits and provide groceries for the holidays so our new neighbors will share in God's bounty.

Gifts of Hope

Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift program in the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. What is alternative giving? Traditional gift giving involves buying an item and giving it to a relative or friend. Alternative giving differs in that it involves buying a symbol of a gift and giving the symbol to someone. The actual item goes to someone who needs the gift. For example, traditionally, a child might give a small bottle of perfume to her teacher at Christmas. Alternatively, the child might give her teacher a Christmas card that tells the teacher that a basket of books has been made available to needy children as a Gift of Hope. Look for the Gifts of Hope table in the narthex in December.

Help Wanted: Gifts of Hope Coordinators -- The Gifts of Hope program runs for three weekends in December. Coordinators help prepare the materials (gifts inserts), staff the booth on Saturdays or Sundays, and help track donations. Please contact Jennifer Maloney at maloney.jenn@gmail.com or 301-602-6358 for more information.

Help the Homeless Update

After rescheduling due to rain, we were blessed with a gorgeous day for our annual Mini-Walk for the Homeless last Sunday. **Many Thanks** to all who participated: walking, registering, and sponsoring. A **special Thank You** to the High School students for all their help with the Walk - we couldn't have done it without them! The Walk Tshirts have arrived so be sure to pick one up from the foyer if you would like one - we have plenty. We ended up with 197 registered walkers and raised \$3,350 for Gaithersburg HELP. When our walker count is included with all the other congregations and schools walking for HELP, we hope it will earn a \$25,000 bonus for Gaithersburg HELP!

Thanks to everyone who donated Peanut Butter & Jelly to the Gaithersburg HELP Food Pantry during September and October. We had a great response!

Looking for an unusual gift to commemorate a Birthday, Anniversary, or other Big Day? Check out the **Gaithersburg HELP Alternate Giving program**. Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one while helping families in the Gaithersburg area to deal with emergency situations. Gifts range from \$8 to \$50 and include items such as diapers, groceries, and a cab ride. See the website (www.GaithersburgHELP.org) for details.

The Fall Festival at the Village at Rockville (National Lutheran Home) is coming...Saturday, November 12, 9:30am-2pm. Come enjoy shopping for wonderful treasures, handmade crafts, baked goods and fudge, and much more. Enjoy a delicious lunch 11am-1pm. Enjoy the Home Chorus as they perform at 2:30pm. Independent Living Cottage tours at 10:30am and 1:00pm. Donations of baked goods and used household items, books, and jewelry are needed. Call 301-424-9560 if you want to make a donation. The Festival is sponsored by the Auxiliary and all proceeds benefit the residents of the Home. The Home is located at 9701 Veirs Drive, near Wootton Parkway in Rockville. For more details and a map, pick up a flier from the Social Ministry table in the foyer.

Willing hearts and hands are needed to assist with the Fall Festival. The Auxiliary sponsors this event to raise money to enhance the lives of our residents. We need a chairperson and helpers for our Grandma's Attic sale (used household goods) and our jewelry sale. We promise you'll enjoy wonderful fellowship and feel good about helping a worthy cause. Please call (301-354-8460) or email the Auxiliary for more information and to sign up - you'll be glad you did!

It's Time for the United Way

United Way, CFC, and other workplace giving contributions account for a large percentage of non-profit organizations' income. Please consider designating your employer-sponsored drive (United Way, CFC, America's Charities, etc) contribution to the following charities. Our congregation is a supporter of these organizations. CFC/United Way codes shown below:

Gaithersburg HELP #30374/#8432

Assists local residents with food, diapers, prescriptions, and transportation

Upper Montgomery Assistance Network #15276/#8881

Provides emergency funds for local families facing eviction or loss of utility service

Lutheran Social Services #78343/#8146

Provides assistance in the areas of foster care, refugees, immigrants, AIDS, abused women and children, and the disabled

Lutheran Volunteer Corps #54430(CFC)

A year-long volunteer service program which provides volunteers for shelters, medical clinics, tutoring programs, and advocacy work on housing, hunger, etc.

National Lutheran Home #12809(CFC)

Provides a continuum of care for the aged of the Lutheran community regardless of their ability to pay

N Street Village #90946/#8281

Provides meals, emergency shelter, support groups, medical care, counseling, and treatment programs for homeless women and low-income families in DC

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.

Questions about social ministry? 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

Our next Book Group gathering on Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 pm will take the group on a treacherous journey to Brazil's Amazon as we discuss Theodore Roosevelt's *Darkest Journey: The River of Doubt* by Candice Millard. C. Hutton

reviewed the book on Amazon.com, "Does this brief three month trip of discovery on the Rio da Duvida (River of Doubt) warrant a full scale book? In Ms. Millard's superb account of the near fatal expedition, the answer is yes. The former president was an adrenaline junkie who needed to forget his loss in the 1912 campaign for the White House. He found all the adventure he would ever crave on the Rio da Duvida, for he was way in over his head. If not for their guide, Colonel Candido Rondon, no one would have made it out alive...This adventure yarn focuses, not on the political animal, but on a man who would never quit and never did."



Sandy Wickenheiser hosts at her home at 18108 Coachmans Road, Germantown. RSVP srwick@verizon.net.

Book Group is open to all PoP women, who are welcome to attend occasionally or on a regular basis. To be added to the Book Group list, please email Jennifer Maloney at maloney.jenn@gmail.com.

Future Dates and Book Selections:

Thursday, December 8 - *The Imperfectionists* by Tom Rachman

Thursday, January 12 - *A Fierce Radiance: A Novel (P.S.)* by Lauren Belfer

Thursday, February 9 - *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang

Thursday, March 8 - *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

Women's Luncheon

All women from PoP are welcome to meet for lunch on Monday, November 7, at the home of Karen Kimmel-Miltzer at noon. Please bring your own lunch and something to drink. Please call Karen at 240-477-4137 to RSVP and for further details if needed. Please note that the next luncheon will be Monday, December 5 at noon.

Can You Help?

Volunteer Drivers urgently needed for Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has a continuing need for drivers to deliver hot lunches and cold suppers at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at

Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:45 and 11:30am Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with eight to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels at 301-216-4200 or Mary Casamento at 301-253-4626; mississippiprimary@aol.com.

Thanks for your consideration,
Tom Gill, President
Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels

Coming Up in the Next Few Months...

Special Congregational Mtg - Nov. 13 @ 12:15 pm

Christmas Cantata - Dec. 4 @ 5 pm
Christmas Pageant - Dec. 11 @ 6 pm
Christmas Eve Worship - Dec 24 @ 5, 7 & 10 pm
Christmas Day Worship - Dec. 25 @ 10 am

Chili Cook-off - Jan. 7, 2012

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Feb. 21

Workcamp - June 24-30

ELCA National Youth Gathering - July 18-22
Vacation Bible School - July 30 - August 3

Think About It

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

—Lao-Tze

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes.

—Marcel Proust

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 December/January issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **NOVEMBER 20, 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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