



GLAD TIDINGS



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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

February 2012

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 5th

The number of Americans living in poverty is the highest it has been in 52 years. One in seven households in our nation is food insecure, which affects more than 16 million children (source: United States Department of Agriculture). *More than 20 years ago*, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple Prayer from a youth group:



“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Nearly 18,000 groups have donated over \$9.5 million in cash and food items to local charities nationwide. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the largest celebration of giving and serving. Join us as we participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national movement to fight hunger and poverty. **Bring a donation of canned beef stew (preferred), soup or contribute \$1.** Contributions will be given to Gaithersburg HELP, our local food pantry assisting our neighbors in need. Boxes for your donations are in the narthex.



Each year, Gaithersburg HELP provides emergency assistance, including food, infant items, prescriptions, and transportation, to more than 3,000 families in the Gaithersburg area. Visit www.gaithersburghelp.org for more information.

The St. Olaf Choir will be performing on **Monday, February 6** at 7:30 pm at the Music Center at Strathmore. The St. Olaf Choir, with 75 mixed voices, is considered one of the finest a cappella choirs in the US. For more details, go to <http://www.strathmore.org/eventstickets/calendar/view.asp?id=7445>.

PoP Coffeehouse

Saturday, February 25, 7:30pm

Save The Date! Come enjoy a fun, relaxing evening of eclectic Irish music and acoustic rock at our first ever PoP Coffeehouse. Regina Koenig's band, *The Eclectiks*, and guitarist Steve Plewes will provide their unique brand of fun Irish music and acoustic rock. Get a sitter, bring a favorite bottle of wine to share and join us for a special night of music, fellowship and fun! Monetary donations will be accepted for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. Coffee, softdrinks, cheese/crackers and desserts will be served. Food donations will be greatly appreciated, and sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Steve Plewes at 240-401-3882, steve@advisorsfinancialgroup.com or Regina Koenig at 301-512-9585, rkoenig122@aol.com.

February 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)

The Other Six Days of the Week...

You may have noticed that you've been getting an email from the church on Monday mornings with a snippet from the sermon. Pastor Steve and I realized that we do a fairly good job of connecting with people via emails from the church but that most of what you get is informational or logistical. We have heard requests to connect more spiritually with the congregation during the week, so we thought we'd try sending out a digestible nugget from the sermon and see if that is useful to people.

So far the feedback has been positive. People who missed worship have been grateful to get a sense of the message; people who were in worship like being reminded of what they heard the day before.

These sermon reflections are a small way to help you connect your faith to your life the other six days of the week.

There's a stereotype that most Christians compartmentalize their faith: they go to church for two hours every Sunday (or, if we're being honest, every other Sunday, or once a month...) and then live the rest of their lives removed from their faith.

I suppose that is part of the appeal of someone like Tim Tebow. It seems like he brings his faith to bear in that most earthy of events: a football game. He's been lauded for the Christian example he sets, but I don't think Tim Tebow is the example we should follow. I don't see the gospel of Jesus being even marginally about blessing winners in a violent game where the winners get really rich. I don't think God cares about football, and I'm a football fan!

No, Tim Tebow aside, to be a Christian the other six days of the week takes a kind of humility and wisdom that often throws us into the grey areas of our faith and our lives. I see in the people of

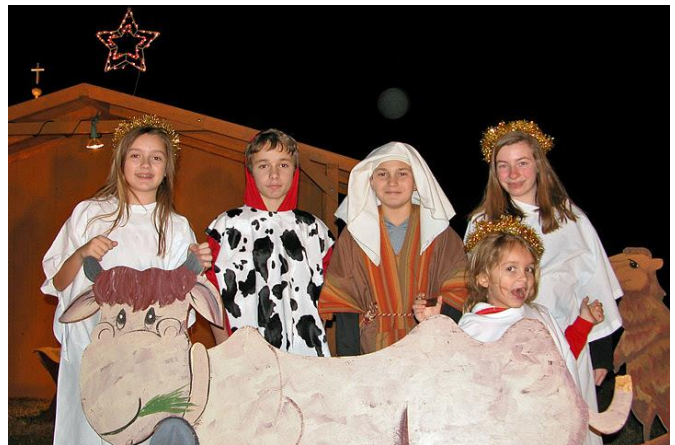
this congregation as better examples than Tim Tebow. From the high schooler who prays in the face of difficult family relationships to the mom engaged in a Facebook conversation about morals and marriage, many people in this congregation bring their faith to bear on their lives every day.

It isn't easy, though. That is why we keep looking to get tools in your hands to help you connect with God throughout the week. The Daily Texts are on their way to the college students and are available to you in the narthex. Our sermon reflections will get to you every week. During Lent (starting Feb 29th) we'll meet mid-week for vespers and testimonies.

Here's one more suggestion for living your faith every day: **at each meal, before you eat it, pray.** Ok, so that's not such a radical suggestion. But how many of us use that time as a reminder to connect with God? Don't know what to pray? **Ask God to heal you from your sins of the past few hours and thank God for the blessings of your life.** Do it at work and at restaurants. Don't pray in order to draw attention to yourself. Do it silently or escape to the bathroom and pray in secret. For a week or two, try praying at every single meal as a way to remind yourself that God is with you at every single moment. If you do this, and you find something comes of it, let me know. I can always use more people as my examples for being faithful all the days of the week.

Peace and joy,
Pastor Sarah

Recent Events



Living Nativity

Giving Tree



Making Advent Wreaths



Christmas Eve



Christmas Pageant



Fun at the Chili Cook-off

Church Office Notes

Year End Contribution Statements
Ready to file your federal and state income taxes?
Great! You'll find your PoP 2011 Giving Statement
in a box on a table in the Church's narthex.
Should you have any questions, please contact

June Herron, our Financial Secretary, at finsec@poplutheran.org or 301-540-7188.

Enjoy fresh flowers on the Altar? The Flower Chart for 2012 has been posted. Flowers can be given in memory or honor of a person or special occasion. A donation of \$30 covers the flowers for a week, and they are yours to take home after the late service. Sign up on the Chart posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and place your donation (marked "Altar Flowers") in the Offering. Thanks for adding to our worship experience!

During December & January we had 2 Baptisms:
James Michael Voss
Jaye Marie Younkens

Wildlife Around (and In) PoP



We have a blue trash dumpster next to our building. Those aware of it probably also know that: 1) we recently acquired a new one, and 2) the old one was quite popular with the squirrels.

The old one had plastic lids with a convenient access hole for wildlife to scavenge for food. A request was made for replacement lids, but it only took a few days for the squirrels to gnaw a new hole.

A permanent solution requires steel lids but as those who have used the dumpster in the past month can attest, they're heavy. *Please be careful and seek assistance from others if the lids are too heavy for you.*

The other wildlife news is from within the building. While mice can seek refuge in buildings anytime of the year, fall is the most likely season. We had about a half dozen to catch and remove this past fall. *Please help minimize their access*

to our buildings by not keeping exterior doors open for extended periods of time. Thank you.

Youth Ministry

Student Corner

Welcome to the first printing of *Student Corner*, a column dedicated to the extra activities our youth participate in outside of Prince of Peace. Please remember to submit any and all information one week prior to the deadline for Glad Tidings.

Megan Bruening and 19 other students at Roanoke College will be participating in a 30-hour famine on Feb. 4 & 5 in order to raise awareness of world hunger. Please keep all of these students in your prayers.

James Rogers will be performing with the Midnight Players in "West Side Story" at Poolesville High School on April 19 at 7:00 pm, April 20 at 7:30 pm, and April 21 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. All performances are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Attend a performance for an entertaining time out at a low cost.

Please keep all our youth in your prayers and support their endeavors outside of PoP!

School's Out Day Camp All elementary aged children are invited to spend the day at Mar-Lu-Ridge, enjoying hikes, crafts, games, a Bible lesson and a hot lunch on February 20, 9 am-3 pm with extended care available. Cost is \$25. Please call 800-238-9974 to register your child.

Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp

Registration now open! Send a child or grandchild to week-long camps like Adventure, Arts, Guitar or Swimming Camp. Looking for a good faith-filled family vacation? Consider Family Camp. Visit www.mar-lu-ridge.org to view the Summer 2012 Brochure, register online, find dates for open houses, and download forms for camp. **Register by February 17 and save \$35 off the total cost of your camp** (discount does not apply to Day Camp).

Workcamp 2012

Happy New Year - Now is the time to gear up for Workcamp 2012. Who's on board? For this exciting week of service, great company, and meeting new friends, **come to our meeting Sunday**

February 12 at 12:30 (pizza served) to see what it is all about. This is also a great opportunity for current 8th and 9th graders to participate as well; see what it is all about! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Mark your calendars, the week we will be going is June 24 - June 30 to Ocean View, Delaware - minutes from Bethany Beach. Invite your friends, and bring them to the meeting. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please call 301-340-1219 or email Susan Soileau. See everyone on February 12!

Upcoming Youth Events

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.

Care Team Ministry

The Care Team brings support and compassionate care to members of the congregation who are ill or grieving, feeling overwhelmed or lonely, or just challenged by the responsibilities of parenthood or caregiving.



What we do:

- ❖ Bring relief to caregivers;
- ❖ Run errands and provide transportation to appointments;
- ❖ Visit members;
- ❖ Help coordinate funerals and provide support and care to members who are grieving;
- ❖ Provide meals;
- ❖ Serve as extra hands and feet for bike riding;
- ❖ Assist with computer problems;
- ❖ More. Just ask.

No task is too small or too big - if it appears too big, we can help identify necessary resources. The Care Team Ministry started at PoP last summer - to harness the love and concern within our community for members in need. Care Team members coordinate the congregation's response to those in need and encourage other members to participate in this ministry. As an action-oriented

ministry, you can help by providing care, by identifying those needing assistance, and with your prayers. Please contact the pastors if you know of someone in need of support. To learn more about Care Team Ministry, contact Sharon Wahl smwahl@mail.nih.gov.

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. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Lisa Woodard (Fellowship Chair) at 301-762-2343 or woodard4@comcast.net.

Social Ministries

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

Souper Bowl Sunday: Who do you think will win the Super Bowl this year? Vote for your favorite team by donating canned goods (hearty soups and beef stew) to Gaithersburg HELP. Each can counts as one vote. Voting starts soon and ends on Sunday, February 5! Last year, PoP correctly predicted the Packers' win and donated more than 300 cans of food!!

Lenten Sharing Bags: Each year during Lent, Social Ministry invites the congregation to support social service organizations in our community. This year, we will be collecting snacks for the tutoring program, La Sagrada Familia, personal items for the residents of Housing Unlimited Inc., and diapers and other needs for teen mothers and women at the Community Based Shelter in Rockville. Look for the Sharing Bags at church beginning Sunday, February 26. All donations need to be returned by Sunday, March 25.

Great News and Many Thanks!

- PoP provided 261 gifts for 50 children from Rachel Carson Elementary School this Christmas. Many thanks to Kathy Rossmeisl for coordinating this project!
- Social ministries throughout the Metro area will receive \$2,345 in additional support through the Gifts of Hope. Nancy Morton, Melinda Fox, and Vilma Witten

did a wonderful job, running the Gifts of Hope this year.

- Peg Welborn took the lead on supporting our adopted family for the holidays, purchasing groceries for Thanksgiving and Christmas, warm clothes, and winter coats.
- Lastly, confirmands stuffed 100 Christmas stockings with games, candy canes, and snacks for families throughout Gaithersburg.

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 Thursday, February 2nd at 7:30 pm. 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

Something about a good book makes people want to talk, to share the experience, to understand it more deeply. If this is how you feel, think about joining the PoP Women's Book Group. We meet each month, usually the second Thursday of the month, to discuss a book - sometimes fiction, but also nonfiction, recent bestsellers, and classics. The next meeting is Thursday, February 9th, at 7:30 pm. We will gather at Lesa Sullivan's home at 4 Letterman Ct in Gaithersburg. The book this month is *Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China* by Jung Chang. Amazon.com describes the book as, "Blending the intimacy of memoir and the panoramic sweep of eyewitness history, *Wild Swans* has become a bestselling classic in 30 languages, with more than 10 million copies sold. The story of three generations in 20th-century China, it is an engrossing record of Mao's impact on China, an unusual window on the female experience in the modern world, and an inspiring tale of courage and love." RSVP to Lesa.

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.

Women's Luncheon

All women from PoP are welcome to meet for lunch on the first Monday of each month. We meet at the home of Karen Kimmel-Miltzer at noon time. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Luncheon dates are:

- February 6
- March 5
- April 2

Please bring your own lunch and something to drink. Call Karen at 240-477-4137 to RSVP and for further details if needed.

Viewer Discretion Advised...



New Year's Hats and Horns - Men's Group Style
(submitted by Larry Speicher)

Coming Up...

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Feb. 21

Workcamp - June 24-30

ELCA National Youth Gathering - July 18-22

Vacation Bible School - July 30 - August 3

Lead the Way

Registration is open for the Derek Sheely LEAD THE WAY 4.0-Mile Race and 1-Mile Walk on June 2, 2012 at 8 am at Northwest High School in Germantown. There's a unique stadium start and finish, medals for all finishers, music, and door prizes!



THE DEREK SHEELY FOUNDATION, a non-profit organization, was created to increase awareness and research of traumatic brain injuries, including supporting advancements in education, prevention, and treatment for all causes of traumatic brain injuries, with a focus on youth sports. The Foundation is named in honor of Derek Thomson Sheely, #40, a strong and healthy 22-year-old honor student and member of Prince of Peace. He played fullback and linebacker at Northwest High School and Frostburg State University. Derek was a two-time academic all-conference selection in college and never had a documented concussion. On August 22, 2011, during football practice for his senior season at Frostburg, Derek suffered a traumatic brain injury and died one week later on August 28. The Foundation was created to help prevent other children and families from suffering through the devastating effects of traumatic brain injuries.

Held in honor of Derek, who wore #40, the Derek Sheely LEAD THE WAY 4.0-Mile Race is to increase awareness and raise money for critical concussion and brain injury research.

Please visit www.thederekshelyfoundation.org to register for the race; email Kristen Sheely at Kristen@thederekshelyfoundation.org for information on how to volunteer.

Think About It

Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.

—Khalil Gibran

First keep peace with yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.

—Thomas Kempis

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.

—Abraham Lincoln

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: *What are you doing for others?*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **FEBRUARY 19, 2012**. Please e-mail articles to kristen.sheely@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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