



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 30, Iss. 10

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

Dec 2011/Jan 2012

Join Us!

Please come to PoP each [Wednesday in Advent](#) (Dec 7 & 14) for soup & salad suppers at 6:15 pm and Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm!

Our [second Annual Christmas Cantata](#) will be held on Sunday evening, **December 4 at 5:00 pm**. Join our choir and guest instrumentalists as we usher in the season with “Joy, Joy, Joy - Celebrating the Season, The Story, The Savior,” by Deborah Craig-Claar and David T. Clydesdale!

And our Annual [Christmas pageant](#) will be held on **Sunday, December 11 at 6 pm**! You can also attend the dress rehearsal on **Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6 pm**.

Living Nativity

Our Living Nativity will be back from December 19 - 22 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm along Route 28 as members of Prince of Peace dressed up in costumes share the Christmas message with people driving and walking by our church! This year our dedicated Council members will be taking part on Tuesday evening (20th) and we will be having “Youth Group Night” on Wednesday (21st) evening. This is a fantastic family activity too, so please come and join the fun and sign up for any of the nights. Also make sure to show your PoP spirit by “honking” and waving as you drive by. Hot drinks and snacks will be provided for participants and guests. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex for each of the evenings. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Lisa Woodard at 301-762-2343 or at woodard4@comcast.net.

Worship at Christmas

Join us for [Christmas Eve worship](#) at 5 pm (Children’s service) and 7 & 10 pm (Carols and Holy Communion)!

Join us on [Christmas Morning](#) for worship at 10 am. On **New Year’s weekend**, we will worship on Saturday evening (Dec 31) at 5 pm and on Sunday morning (Jan 1) at 10 am.

Annual Meeting

Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 29, 2012** from 1-2:30 pm, preceded by a pot-luck luncheon! At this meeting, we’re hoping to have our newly hired architect present to share with us the architect’s initial work! Don’t miss it! At our Annual Meeting, we’ll also elect Council members and approve the 2012 budget. The Finance Committee will again hold information meetings about the budget between services on Sundays, Jan 15 & 22 for those interested in budget details.

December/January 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 Steve...

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

On Sunday, November 13, Prince of Peace took an important step forward in living into our

future! At a well-attended meeting, we approved authorizing funds to hire an architect to begin working collaboratively with us to develop a Master Plan for our facilities. As I write this article, our Building Committee is already in the process of interviewing and selecting an architect to recommend to the Council. We're hoping that an architect will be selected and hired by the Council before the end of the year, and that the architect will be present to meet the whole congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2012

These will be a couple of exciting and busy months, and not just for the Building Committee and the Council. During these next couple of months, all of us need to think, dream, and pray even more about God's vision for our future here at Prince of Peace. In the end, buildings aren't boxes, but rather are tools to help us worship, learn, serve others, and reach out to people near and far. Over the last few months, we became more and more aware that our current buildings are both too small and not configured well to do the kinds of vital things we feel God is calling us to do to build connections to God and others. Now, more than ever, we need to be thinking, dreaming, and articulating that vision so that the architects can help us make sure that our buildings can help us live into that vision.

And in fact, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are really great times for that! In Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we read the stories of people in the Old Testament who looked forward, and actively tried to live into, God's future. In Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we read stories about people who saw in Jesus the light of the world transforming their world and their future. And in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we hear again God's call to live into the future that God is bringing about even now.

We've already begun to get a glimpse of the vision of God's future as we've begun to envision how worship, learning, service to others, and the building of connections with God and others can develop and grow in new ways. Many of the things we've all been talking about are listed in the [documents that we're going to use to begin our conversation with the architects](#). But we need to keep looking, dreaming, praying, and envisioning over these next few months, as we continue to discern the ways in which Jesus is also transforming our lives and calling us to live into God's future!

Yours in Christ,

Recent Events

Welcome to our New Members!

- Eileen Conley
- Elizabeth, Darian, and Xavier David
- Rachel Kasianowicz
- Gary, Judy, Laura, and Matthew Logeman
- Leigh Weed
- Angelo, Anne, Brandon, & Cruz Witten
- Vilma Witten
- Jaye Youngers

During November we had 5 Baptisms!

- Matthew Sawyer Bolek
- Katrena May Huen
- Jonathan Pierce Hundt
- Carter Joseph Jodts
- Emma Shishtawy Oen



Confirmation Class 2011



Youth Choir



All Saints Sunday

You Are Invited

There will be a **Messiah Sing-Along** on December 17, at 7 pm, at First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg (200 W. Diamond Ave.). All are welcome to join this free event!

Council Corner

It is hard to believe as I write this, we are only a week away from Advent and that the Church's Fiscal year will conclude in a month. Where has the time gone?! This year, Prince of Peace has been very blessed. We have been busy! The Yard Sale and the Auction were major successes. It

goes without saying that they will be continued in the future. But one of the most exciting developments in our long list of developments is our building program. Our Special Congregational Meeting was a harbinger of things to come. We passed the resolution to expend funds to hire an Architect by a unanimous vote! The upcoming year will prove to be one of change and forward progress!

The Church Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous financial contributions to the continued ministry of our church. Although the economy is still bad, giving from members is up a bit this year. In fact, as of the end of October, we had received 76.7% of our expected contributions. (On average, we receive 74.6% by the end of October). Like most churches, we rely on very generous additional contributions in the months of November and December to meet our year-end goals, but we are very encouraged by the generosity we've experienced already, and we encourage everyone to keep continuing their generous offerings of time, talent, and financial gifts as we head towards the end of the year.

We have a special mission in our community and without all of you we would not be able to perform it. We hope you have a blessed and joyous Christmas and join us here at Prince of Peace as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!

Kurt A. Nelson
Vice President of the Church Council

Building Committee News

At an Special Congregational meeting held on November 13, the Congregation voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of up to \$60,000 from the Building Reserve fund to pursue hiring an architect and civil engineer to do a master plan for PoP and start work on the first phase of what will likely be a multi-year project to make physical improvements to PoP to help us continue to do God's work and expand our ability to do the work of the Church.

The Building Committee has sent out a Request for Proposal to 12 pre-screened architectural firms in the area that have had experience in working on religious facilities in the past. The deadline for return of the bids is December 5, and the Committee will spend the month of December

reviewing the bids, shortening the list, conducting interviews of firms, and making recommendations to the Church Council on who to hire to begin this work.

On November 17, all the architectural firms were invited to a pre-bid walkthru of PoP and given an opportunity to ask questions of the Building Committee members to assist in their bid preparation.

Our hope is to have an Architect hired in time for the Annual meeting held on January 29, and the Architect would be introduced to the Congregation.

Tom Kettler
PoP Building Chair

Worship & Music Committee

The Worship and Music committee is introducing an innovative worship service once per liturgical season. On **December 18, the 8:30 service** will be the first. The service will include new visual and musical elements. The 11:00 service will be the normal traditional service.

December 18 is the 4th Sunday in Advent. The gospel is the annunciation, where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will have a child. It's a story that invites the question:

"When am I most aware of God's presence in my life?"

The worship service will incorporate your responses to that question. If you have a story or reflection to share about when you have been most aware of God's presence, please email it to pastorsarah@poplutheran.org. Thank you!

Youth Ministry

December: Faith-Full Families will be held on December 1 at 6 pm! Please come with your young families to share a craft, a meal, and some fellowship!

Parent's Night Out will be held on Saturday, December 17 from 6-9 pm. Drop your kids off for a great time with friends at the church, and finish your Christmas shopping!

The annual **Birthday Party for Baby Jesus** will be held during the Sunday School Hour on December 18. Kids look forward to this event every year, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

January: Back by popular demand, the **Chili Cook-Off** will be on Saturday, January 7! That gives everyone plenty of time to get their recipe books out and start creating the winning chili! Look for details in the bulletin as we get closer to the date.

Faith-full Families will be held on January 19 at 6 pm! Please come with your young families to share a craft, a meal, and some fellowship!

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.

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. Since June, Care Team members have:



- ❖ Brought relief to caregivers;
- ❖ Run errands and provided transportation to appointments;
- ❖ Visited members;
- ❖ Helped coordinate funerals and provided support and care to members who are grieving;
- ❖ Provided meals;
- ❖ Served as extra hands and feet for bike riding;
- ❖ Assisted with computer problems;
- ❖ And more.

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.

Social Ministries

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

Opportunities for Giving in December

The Giving Tree - Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PpP 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. The tree will be up in the narthex throughout Advent! Contact Kathy Rossmeisl at klrossme@verizon.net.

Gifts of Hope - December 3 - 18

Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift program for members of congregations in the Metro DC Synod. What is alternative giving? Alternative giving differs from traditional gift giving 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 December 3 - 18. Contact Melinda Fox at foxmin54@yahoo.com or Nancy Morton at nancy.morton@octagon.com or Vilma Witten at vilma.witten@gmail.com if you have questions.

Adopted Family - Prince of Peace has adopted a family in our neighborhood - for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The family, recent immigrants, consists of two parents and six children; the children attend schools in our area. Peg Welborn is taking the lead and has met the family and already brought them groceries and Thanksgiving dinner. She will be purchasing warm, winter coats and groceries for the family in December. Church members can help the family with 'stocking up' and also donating additional warm clothing. The following items are needed:
Paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins
Sweatpants and hooded sweatshirts in the following sizes:
For the boys: two - men's medium; one - men's small; one boy's size 12-14; one boy's size 7.
For the daughter: misses medium (or size 13).

Please sign up for the gifts in the narthex or email Jennifer Maloney at Maloney.jenn@gmail.com. Donations should be returned by December 4th.

Coming Up in January

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Save your change! The coin box collection returns in January. Last year, we gathered more than \$1,450.00 in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. That is enough money to fill two family farms with goats, chicks, pigs, a duck, tools, and support. If we can reach \$2,500.00 this year, our support will help a community construct a well. One well provides clean, safe drinking water to as many as 500 families. The ELCA World Hunger program is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies - relief, development, education, and advocacy - to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. To learn more, visit <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger.aspx>.

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

The PoP Women's Book Group will meet at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 8th, for the annual Christmas gathering. We will discuss Tom Rachman's *The Imperfectionists* and have our book exchange. Please bring a new or gently used book - wrapped. Nancy Wolejsza hosts at her home on 104 Foxtrail Terrace, Gaithersburg 20878. RSVP to Nancy at NAWolejsza@aol.com.

In January, we will meet to discuss *A Fierce Radiance (A Novel)* by Lauren Belfer on Thursday, January 12th at 7:30 pm.

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 Monday, December 5, at the home of Karen Kimmel-Miltzer at noon time.

We'll celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Look around your home and see if there's a certain something you would just love to give away. If not, try the dollar store for an appropriate gift. The idea here is to have fun - not spend money.

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

Can You Help?

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels needs volunteer 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 11:30 am 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 301-216-4200, or Mary Casamento at 301-253-4626.

Everyone Should Be Warm This Winter

Weatherization Services available from Habitat for Humanity - Montgomery County homeowners with limited income (\$54,100 for a family of 2, \$67,600 for 4) may qualify for FREE weatherization services from Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County. Applicants must have a need for weatherization services, such as:

- Air leakage from doors and windows,

- High electricity, gas and water bills despite efforts to conserve, and/or
- Uninsulated attic and/or crawl spaces and be unable to afford to do the repairs themselves. Applicants must be willing to partner with Habitat and contribute the required Sweat Equity hours (up to 10 hours including homeowner education). Individuals and families interested in applying should contact Teresa McCoy at 301-990-0014 x19, or download the application at <http://habitat-mc.org/PDFs/Weatherization%20Packet%2010-7-11.pdf>

Having Trouble Seeing?

Stop by the Church Office and peruse our fine selection of lost-and-found eyewear. Thanks!

Coming Up...

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

Many people want to help a grieving friend but don't know how. Here are some ways to help:

- Acknowledge your own discomfort. It's okay if you don't know what to say. And it's okay if you say nothing.
- Understand that each person grieves differently.
- Be patient. Grief takes time.
- Remember that first birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays without a loved one can be very difficult. Remember, too, that all days are difficult, not just holidays.
- Avoid platitudes, such as, "This is part of God's plan" or "She is in a better place," or "Everything happens for a reason."
- Listen. Be willing to sit in silence.
- Call and offer specific ways that you can help.

- Be there for the long haul. Your friend may not be a "good" friend right now, so you need to be.

(Adapted from Montgomery Hospice's Director of Bereavement, Linda Tebelman's article, "Ways to Help a Grieving Friend.")

More information about grief can be found on our website: www.montgomeryhospice.org/grief. If you know people who need help with grief issues, have them call Montgomery Hospice's Bereavement Department at 301-921-4400. We are also available for group presentations on end-of-life concerns, or on grief and loss. Our mission is to gentle the journey through serious illness and loss with skill and compassion.

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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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210
E-mail: office@poplutheran.org
Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler
Associate Pastor Sarah Scherschligt
Council President David Yaney
Glad Tidings Editor..... Kris Sheely
Production Martha Rogers
PhotographyGordon Gipe

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Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

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