

Prints of Peace



January is a great time to celebrate new things and look forward hopefully to a new year! At Prince of Peace, there are a number of things I'm excited about and hopeful for in 2024.

I am hopeful for a great Stewardship campaign this winter. You have all heard many times over the past year about the church's current financial situation. The Stewardship Campaign will be an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider an increase in your giving to the congregation. I am excited about what we have planned, and I am hopeful that Prince of Peace will respond well to the campaign.

I am excited about getting the "Sharing Our Hope" booklet out. Many of you agreed to include your name in it, to offer your help to those who might be going through a difficult time that you've already endured. If you would like a copy of the booklet, either pick one up on the narthex counter, or email me at pastorMJS@gmail.com for an electronic version. I expect to reprint this with new entries in a few months. Please let me know if you would like to be included in the next edition.

I am excited about a new goal that congregation council has set for 2024: to focus on *growing the spirituality* of the congregation. I'm getting some ideas of how to do this – perhaps a new evening Bible study, perhaps something new in worship, perhaps something else entirely. Whatever it is, consider being a part of it!

Council is also planning to look into ways of making it easier to recruit and train volunteers, and to streamline our whole volunteer process. I look forward to where this conversation goes!

We've had several new families visiting with us recently. I look forward to welcoming some of them into membership in our congregation in the coming months!

I look forward to continuing to grow and learn and serve with you. And above all, I look forward to worshipping the Lord with you! It will be a great year!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes



THE SLATE BELT MINISTERIUM

You may have noticed that the Slate Belt Ministerium will be one of the recipients of this year's Joyful Noise offering. I thought you might be interested in knowing a little more about what the Slate Belt Ministerium is, and what it does.

The Slate Belt Ministerium is a loose community made up of leaders from many of the churches across the Slate Belt, from Wind Gap to Portland (mostly, but not all, clergy). We range from Lutheran and UCC to Methodist and Presbyterian, and more. We meet once a month for breakfast. At these breakfast meetings, we have the opportunity to get to know one another better and learn about what's going on in each other's congregations. We share support and ideas. We also often have guest speakers, usually from a charitable organization in the area. Some very fruitful partnerships have grown from these visits.

The Slate Belt Ministerium sponsors a Community Thanksgiving Service every year and is also involved in preparing some joint Lenten services among member churches. We also offer financial support to individuals and families in the area. All recipients are screened through Slater Family Network or Families First. When we receive a request for help from one of those agencies, we usually respond with \$250 from our Relief Fund to help a local individual or family with a utility or rent bill. The Ministerium Relief Fund is funded by yearly dues for clergy and congregations, by offerings at Thanksgiving and Lent services, and by donations like the one made by the Joyful Noise offering this year. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

– *Pastor Scholtes*



RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals: Paul H. "Cider" Hinton, 11/13/23
Marion S. Messinger, 11/13/23
Joyce J. Minisi, 11/21/23
Mildred J. Clancy, 11/22/23

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- We will have the Trinity Lutheran's bell choir and a guest organist perform on January 7th
- Welcome to new council members Jill Hill, Jean Janosa, Mary O'Meally, Larry Rissmiller, Allison Manicke. Thank you to outgoing council members Marlene Stana & Dave Karner and thank you to all the task force members.
- Council approved the 2024 goals:
 - 1) providing a focus on spiritual focus
 - 2) council team building event by end of May
 - 3) continue to explore outdoor assets
 - 4) strengthen volunteer infrastructure



Social Ministry Update:

The committee has decided that the Joyful Noise funds will be divided between World Hunger and The Slate Belt Ministerium. Pastor Scholtes is a member of the ministerium, they work closely with The Slater Family Network and Families First in Pen Argyl. (As of this writing we don't have an amount, we expect it will be close to \$1,800.00) We also discussed a project for the first quarter of 2024. Have you heard of Valor House, no, well I didn't either until recently. Valor House helps homeless vets, both male and female, and their needs are many. We would like to help them by providing some of the items that are needed, while shopping please pick up one or two or three of the following items: deodorant; toothpaste; Q-Tip's; tampons/maxi pads; peanut butter; and canned fruit with a pop-up lid. This project will run from Sunday, January 7th thru Sunday, March 17th. There will be a basket in the Narthex to place your donations in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support for our projects in 2023, I know 2024 will be just as successful!

Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to us all!!
–*Mary O'Meally*

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point and Camera	Acolyte	Offering Counters
Jan. 7 2024	Sherk and June Jones	Kim Jennings	Connie Itterly	Sara Godshalk, Sue Reinhart	John Martocci	Isabel Baker	Connie Itterly
January 14	Sara Godshalk, Sue Reinhart	Mark Grusso	April Miller	Vivian Fahr, Connie Itterly	Tara Flyte	Landon Horn	Scott Schipps
January 21	Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey	Janet Martocci	Sarah Harrison	Brenda Hughes, Sara Godshalk	Antonioli Family	Alex Scoltes	Chip Harrison
January 28	Georgia and John Suanofsky	Kale Baker	Marlene Stana	Sherk and June Jones	Kim Jennings	Landon Horn	Brenda Hughes
February 4	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Sherry Hock	Kale Baker	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Cathy Mullen	Isabel Baker	Tina Johns

Communion Assistants:

- January 7 Marlene Stana, Jim Jennings
- January 14 Diane Hahn, Tina Johns
- January 21 April Miller, Laraine Brands
- January 28 Brooks Baker, Connie Itterly
- February 4 Marlene Stana, Tina Johns
- January Altar Guild: Tara Flyte, Ashley Flyte
- February Altar Guild: Connie Itterly, Diane



Thank you for your willingness to serve!!

If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find someone to take your place and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change as soon as possible. For last minute changes be sure to leave the message on Pastor Scholtes' voice mail at 610-588-2355 or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.

Bread Baker/Provider:

- Jan. 7: Connie Itterly
- Feb. 4: Phyllis Campbell



Weis Grocery Receipts:

Thank you to all who save their Weis receipts for Prince of Peace!
 Keep those grocery receipts coming! Please note we can only use slips from the Blue Valley store, and we cannot use receipts for gift cards, milk, tobacco, sales tax, alcohol and pharmacy items. These items are deducted from the slips. Thank you for your continued support.
 —Janet Martocci

Sunday Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Coffee hour resumes on January 7. Come join us and bring someone with you! Coffee hours are hosted each week by two or more people. If you are interested in hosting coffee hours, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. Hosting involves setting up coffee and tea and supplying baked goods/snacks. Members of the Coffee Hour Team are available to help if needed: Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen and Sue Reinhart.



POP's Treasures Boutique News:

POP's Treasures needs some new/gently used items for the boutique. The store was cleaned out of most items and will need to replenish for the shoppers in January and the coming months. Please consider the boutique with your treasures! (No electronics please!)
 Committee members:
 Valerie Kessler, Jackie Horn



Please keep these people in prayer on the anniversary of their birth!

- Doris Bachman, January 1
- Rashelle Kessler, January 1
- Bethany Reinhart, January 3
- Winter Johns, January 3
- Barry Yetter, January 4
- Mary O'Meally, January 7
- Diane Hahn, January 7
- Scott Fraunfelter, January 7
- Eli Hughes, January 8
- Joyce Chamberlin, January 9
- Susan Reinhart, January 10
- Owen Reinhart, January 12
- Andrew Itterly, January 13
- Janet Martocci, January 13
- Hunter Ott, January 14
- Kelli Hall, January 15
- Karen Karner, January 17
- Ann (Pat) Manicke, January 18
- Alex Scholtes, January 19
- Dennis Mullen, January 20
- Sarah Reinhart, January 21
- Ashley Kessler, January 23
- Rhonda Montgomery, January 24
- Scott Schipps, January 24
- Jennifer Heitzman, January 26
- Dennis Horn, January 26
- Rosanne Poliskiewicz, January 28
- Meghan McGowan, January 28

Come Worship With Us!

On-site (9:45 on Sundays)

Online / Facebook / Telephone

Watch our worship each week at our website (popbangor.org/video-worship). Or watch it on our Facebook page (facebook.com/popbangor). You can also call in to hear our worship each week at 877-POP-2-POP (877-767-2767). New videos and audio files will be added each Monday.

New Ministry: Card Shower

We are a community where we celebrate joy and happiness and also compassion, support, and love. Jackie Horn has offered to coordinate a new ministry where we can show this support – through card showers! Jackie writes, “Join me in creating a meaningful connection between those that we care about. If you know of someone that needs a pick me up, a get-well card, or any type of correspondence, let's make someone's day by sending them a card shower.” (Note: this will be *in addition to* the card already sent on the church's behalf.) Here's how you can help: First, when someone you know could use a card shower, let Pastor Scholtes know. He will announce the name in worship and via PastorMail. Second, when you hear one of these announcements, get a card, sign it, and leave it in a marked box in the narthex. Jackie will handle collecting them and making sure they are delivered! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jackie Horn at 610-810-7268.



Prince of Peace Seekers (POPS)



Come and ignite your spiritual imagination in 2024! We meet each week for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. We continue to meet from 10-12 and are now meeting in the Conference Room. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available.

Here is the Schedule for January and February:

- January 11.** Reflections on a New Year, New Beginnings!
- January 19.** Traci Rumsey will teach us how to write love couplets! These are short poems to include in cards to loved ones.
- January 25-February 8.** Georgia Suranofsky will lead a 3-part series on Women in the Bible.
- January 25.** Eve, who teaches us how to find lasting contentment and truth.
- February 1.** Leah, who overcame rejection and insecurity.
- February 8.** Learn more about Gomer and how to accept unconditional love.
- February 15.** Pastor Scholtes begins a Lenten Series.

Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Karner or Janet Martocci.

2024 Stewardship Campaign



You will receive your announcement packet the 2nd week in January filled with information about what will be happening during the campaign including devotions and a poem written by Traci Rumsey. Here are a few highlights:

- Weekly sermons to help us explore things we may “have heard it said,” but which might not be true the way we think!
- One family’s experience using the at home activity found in your mailing
- Temple Talk
- The youth will have some good things to share

Over the four weeks, we will unpack some of what you have heard about money (and generosity), reflect on how God might be calling us to use all our money, not just the portion we give away, and discern how we might live out our faith with our financial generosity. You will receive another mailing towards the end of January asking you to possibly consider increasing your offering. We hope you will prayerfully make a decision that reflects your gratitude to God and all the ministries he has put before us. Instructions will be in the letter on how to complete and return the commitment card.

Good News!

The Joyful Noise Collection for November totaled \$118.00! Thank you for your continued generosity!

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Thankfully we are now out of Covid and our building is being used more frequently and by different people. That means we need to be more mindful of how we leave our room when we leave it. If there is dirt, clean it up, or vacuum. Please empty your garbage can into the large can in the kitchen. After food activities, especially on Sunday, the trash needs to be taken out and placed in the large garbage can outside the kitchen door. There will be opportunities with outside groups, rentals and our own church groups where we want to have a clean space for everyone to experience. Please put all food away, empty the receptacles and leave the space better than how we found it.



Help us Prepare Baby Care Kits!



On Sunday, January 28, 2023, from 8:30-9:30 a.m., join us in the fellowship hall to assemble Baby Care Kits. Lutheran World Relief will distribute our gifts around the world to newborns and families in need. You can help by donating items for the layettes, giving a monetary gift to help purchase items, and/or share your time to prepare the layettes at the baby shower. Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used. If you want to make sweaters or diapers, go to www.lwr.org/beinvolved and click on Baby Care Kits for patterns. They specify that we are not permitted to add other items to the kits.

Kits will include:

lightweight cotton t-shirts, long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet (top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers pajama top/pant sets may be substituted), receiving blankets up to 52" square, cloth diapers, flat fold preferred, jacket, sweaters or sweatshirt with a hood or baby cap, socks, hand towel, dark color recommended, bath-size bars of gentle soap in the wrapping (like Ivory or Dove), diaper pins or large safety pins.

Look for information in the narthex where items can be placed. Call Michele Harrison at 610-863-8398 or Joanne Schipps at 570-460-1065 if you have any questions.

Note:

- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Thank you!

Thank you to Pastor Scholtes and everyone for their calls, cards and visits. Thank you for the gift bags and to the carolers. The kindness is much appreciated!

--Rich and Linda Kessler

Thank you for the emails, calls, cards and gifts. Thank you for thinking of me at the holidays. I'm wishing you all a happy and prosperous new year! -- *Annette Buss*

For the love and happiness you share just by being who you are, thank you...

...from someone who appreciates you more than you know...

Thank you to all, very much for calls, cards, and prayers. I don't know when I'm coming back, but I get the service on my phone and listen all the time. Miss you very much! God be with you! Love, --*Mary Hendershot*

Save the Date:

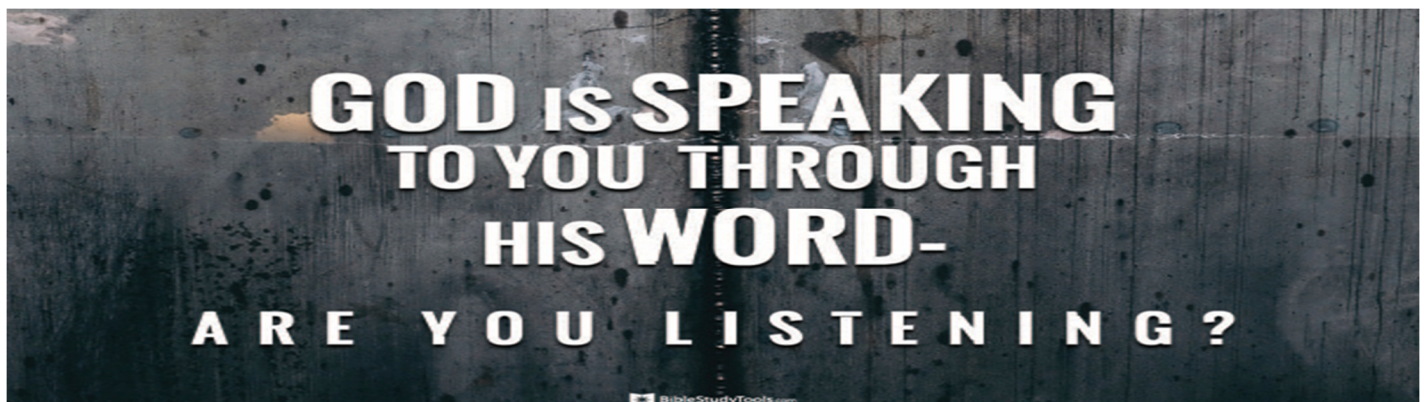
Ash Wednesday Services and Luncheon, February 14, 2024


A luncheon will be held after the morning service. ALL ARE WELCOME! Questions? Contact Carolyn Leidy. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex, so we can properly prepare.



Name of Jesus (1/1)	Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Tuesday, January 2	Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
Wednesday, January 3	Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10
Thursday, January 4	Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17
Friday, January 5	Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31
Epiphany of Our Lord (1/6)	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of Our Lord (1/7)	Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
Monday, January 8	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12
Tuesday, January 9	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16
Wednesday, January 10	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34
Thursday, January 11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
Friday, January 12	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25
Saturday, January 13	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13
2nd Sunday after Epip (1/14)	1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
Monday, January 15	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
Tuesday, January 16	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11
Wednesday, January 17	Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17
Thursday, January 18	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20
Friday, January 19	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7
Saturday, January 20	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16
3rd Sunday after Epip (1/21)	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Monday, January 22	Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Tuesday, January 23	Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42
Wednesday, January 24	Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a
Thursday, January 25	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18
Friday, January 26	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17
Saturday, January 27	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1
4th Sunday after Epip (1/28)	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corin. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
Monday, January 29	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26
Tuesday, January 30	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Wednesday, January 31	Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to DailyLectio.net, where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!





*Jesus,
The Light,
Gives Life*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)
Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013
Office Phone: 610-588-2355

Website: www.popburangor.org
Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes
lotsofsocks@live.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!

- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**
 - **home: 610-588-2314 - PastorMJS@gmail.com**
 - **Volunteer Pastoral Assist. Larry Rissmiller**
610-588-4669
 - **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
 - **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
 - **Financial Secretary: Mary O’Meally**
 - **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
 - **Parish Nurse: Justine Saviet, 610-730-7895,**
cesarijustine1080@gmail.com
 - **Administrative Assistant: Annette Buss**
 - **Admin. Asst’s Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday,**
Wednesday, Friday 9am–Noon
Thursday: 1 to 4 pm
- Admin. Asst’s email: poplcbangor@gmail.com**

Congregation Council Members:

Connie Itterly - President	Brenda Hughes
Traci Rumsey - Vice President	Jackie Horn
Tina Johns - Secretary	Kerri Miller
Kale Baker	Jean Janosa
Sara Godshalk	Mary O’Meally
Larry Rissmiller	Jill Hill
Rev. Michael Scholtes	Allison Manicke

Would you like to place an article in the monthly newsletter? Highlight your ministry? Post a Thank you? Make an announcement?

EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE
APPRECIATED!

February 2024 Newsletter is:
Tuesday, January 16 at Noon

****Please submit items in a Word Document
not PDF format, thank you!****

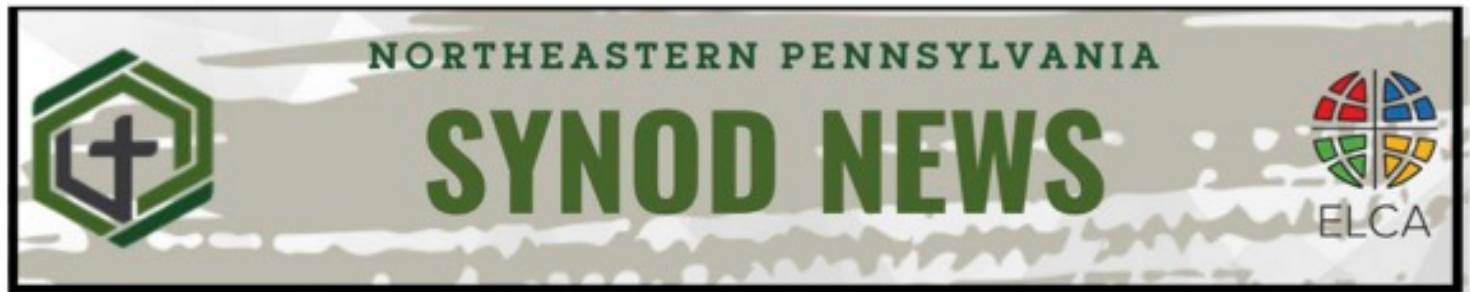
You may email your submissions to
poplcbangor@gmail.com

Or give a handwritten items to
Annette Buss

****Items received
after the deadline
will go into next month’s
newsletter.****

**OUR PURPOSE
STATEMENT**

***We, the people of Prince of
Peace Evangelical
Lutheran Church,
will actively seek and serve
Christ in all people.***



Worship in Collaboration with Oglala Sioux Nation

On November 12, 2023, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA, held their annual Native American worship service in honor of November being Native American Heritage Month. I attended the worship service and wanted to share my experience with you.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has a partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation of Native Americans in Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, one of the poorest communities in the United States, and has been supporting them in many ways with their giving and their prayers.

In the worship service, the English translations used for the liturgy were:

Creator as the name used for God

Creator-Sets-Free as the name used for Jesus

The Chosen One as the name used for Christ

The Great Spirit as the name used for the Holy Spirit

The music for the worship service had a Native American vibe, words, and theme involving the sacredness of nature and life.

Copal incense from Central and Southwestern North America was used during the service as Native Americans used for sacred services.



Pr. Jim Farnsworth's message was dedicated to Native Americans and how the new immigrants treated them to America. He asked that we remember and honor those who have gone before us -- the original inhabitants of this land. He also asked that we have a right relationship with God and each other and that we have a responsibility to repair relations. We reconcile by learning the truth, loving each other, and breaking down barriers with others. He suggested that we learn the history of our area by looking through the eyes of our neighbors and that we are called to be good neighbors.

- Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator,
Mission Interpretation Ministry

UPCOMING *events*



FINDING HOLY FOCUS
IN HUNGERING TIMES
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024
PRESENTED BY:
NEPI SYNOD
FOR ALL FOSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS



GENEROSITY
EXTRAVAGANZA
TOOLS FOR TODAY
JANUARY 20, 2024



LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2024
Trusting God:
Doing a New Thing
JANUARY 27, 2024 (SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 3)
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH, WYOMISSING, PA

this year