

Prints of Peace



FROM THE PASTOR

Over the past two years, we have lived with COVID-19. We've learned a lot over the past two years about how to take care of our physical health, how to do things to help reduce the spread of COVID, and reduce its severity. Masks, distancing, vaccinations, and so forth, are all tools that we can use to accomplish these things.

But this two-year-long “trauma in slow motion” (as I've been calling it) has also taken a severe toll on the mental health of so many people in our country and around the world. Those of us who already live with mental health conditions have found them worsened. The pandemic was certainly a contributing factor to the severe episode of depression I experienced in the fall. And I believe that it's affected most of us, perhaps all of us, in one way or another. If it's affected you, that's not a sign that you are weak, or broken. *It's a sign that you are human. We all need help sometimes.*

Thankfully, there are some things we can do that offer some help. Just as there are precautions and measures we can take to improve and build physical health and resilience, there are precautions and measures that help build our *mental health and resilience*. I am practicing some of these things now far more than I used to, and it's made a huge difference in my life.

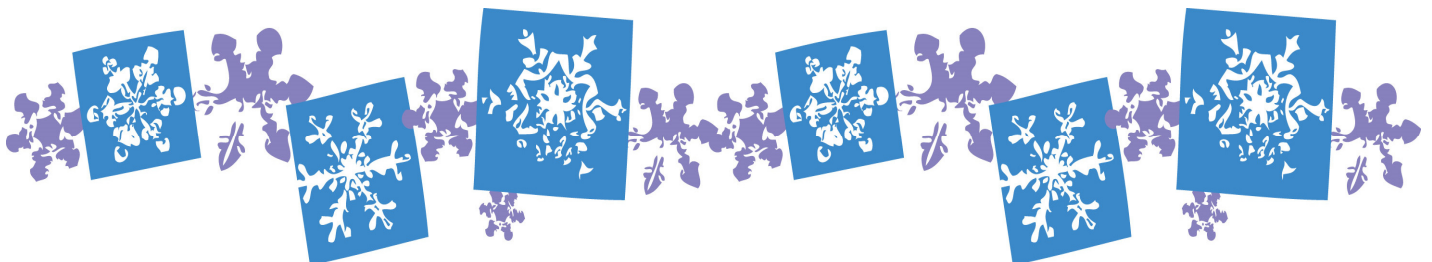
One of our members, Cheri Confalone, is a Licensed Professional Counselor, and she is sharing some tools and skills that can help us all as we continue to move through this long pandemic. Each month, she is providing handouts with coping skills. These are distributed through my daily emails, as well as on the narthex counter at the church. If you'd like a copy, just let me know and I'll get them to you. Cheri will also be offering a group meeting after worship sometime in the spring (date to be determined). This will be a chance for a group of us to get together and talk about how the pandemic has affected us, and learn together how we can get through it better. Watch for more info about that, and how to sign up.

If you or someone you love is struggling, hopefully some of this can help. I know it's helping me.

In Christ,

Pastor Scholtes

P.S. Thank you so much for your kindness and support. It means a lot!





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

- Ashley Flyte, January 1
- Doris Bachman, January 1
- Rashelle Kessler, January 1
- Barry Yetter, January 4
- Mary O'Meally, January 7
- Diane Hahn, January 7
- Scott Fraunfelter, January 7
- Dollie Romagnoli, January 8
- Joyce Chamberlin, January 9
- Susan Reinhart, January 10
- Owen Reinhart, January 12
- Andrew Iterly, January 13
- Janet Martocci, January 13
- Hunter Ott, January 14
- Kelli Hall, January 15
- Pearl Labar, 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
- John Krauss, Sr., January 23
- Scott Schipps, January 24
- Jennifer Heitzman, January 26
- Dennis Horn, January 26
- Rosanne Poliskiewicz, January 28
- Meghan McGowan, January 28



In-person (9:45 on Sundays)

All in-person worship services may include alterations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including (but not limited to) altered seating arrangements, the wearing of masks, and so forth. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.

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.

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

- Funerals: Robert A. Williams, December 2
Anthony DeVito, Jr., December 4
Nina M. Walck (non-member), December 9

thank you! A Thank you letter has been received from the Portland-Upper Mt. Bethel Food Pantry, Inc. to all who so generously donated Thanksgiving Food, Christmas Food, Gifts for the children of P.U.M.P. and for the socks, scarves, hats and gloves for distribution. Thank you again!

Brittnee Evans, Parish Custodian

On December 5, 2021 during the Sunday Worship Service, Prince of Peace honored Brittnee with an Appreciation Certificate and a gift. Brittnee was also given a new title: Prince of Peace Parish Custodian at her last evaluation. Brittnee has been with us since October of 2018. Along with her job with us she also has a full time job elsewhere. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and pleasant staff member. Thank you Brittnee for all that you do!



Cards for the Military update:

To those who serve we send our praise and glory
I started seven years ago and never thought back then
We would go from six hundred to now timing that by 10
Soldiers of our appreciation are very deserving
To all of those who are far and serving
To know that other people are caring
And that this message we are sharing
I would love to see their faces
Opening our Christmas cards in foreign places
This year total cards written was 7,648
An awesome total—really great!
One thing is sure no matter the weather
Writing these cards brings us all together
From a young and very proud boy scout
To an old woman who poured her heart out
Thanks again to all who help me
I will be grateful 'til eternity
So let's all spread the Christmas cheer
And here's to a bigger total next year!
For those of you who did not know it
Yes, I am also a poet.
—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Holly Blakeslee



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

(Please provide any directory corrections or updates to Annette Buss or Pastor Scholtes. They will be printed in the following newsletter.)

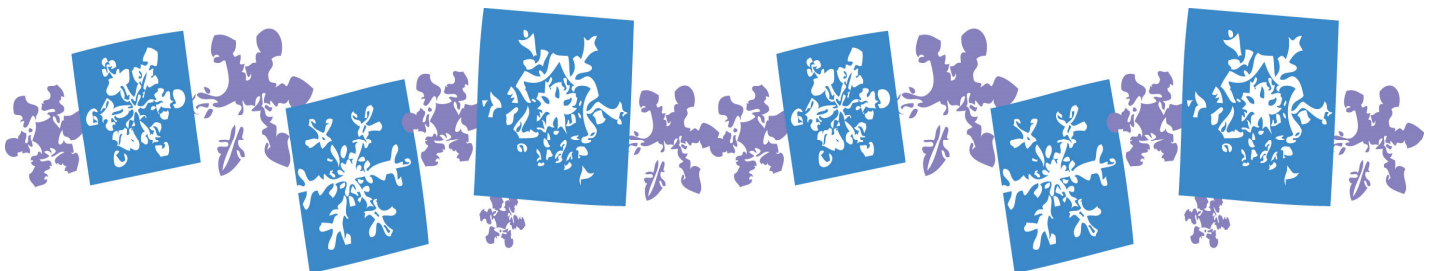
Tara & Raymond Flyte
460 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Bangor, PA 18013

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM
DECEMBER 13TH MEETING:**

- ◆ Council regrettably accepted the resignation of Bruce Antonioli effective December 7, 2021
- ◆ Jackie Horn will fill Bruce's seat until the Annual Meeting in November 2022
- ◆ Approved Pastor Scholtes vacation request for February 21-27, 2022

PASTOR'S VACATION:

Pastor Scholtes will be on vacation from December 25 - January 7, 2022. For pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Rev. Chris Druckenmiller at 610-331-6717.





ALTAR FLOWERS for 2022

For the past few years, most of our altar flowers have come from **JC Bloom** florist, but that shop has recently **closed**. There has also been an increasing number of Sundays throughout the year where no one has signed up to provide fresh altar flowers. The Altar Guild has been using silk flower arrangements on Sundays when there are no fresh flowers. Although the silk flowers are pretty, we are hoping that congregational members would still like to provide fresh flowers for the altar on many Sundays throughout the year.

Traditionally, altar flowers have come from a flower shop, but we would like to broaden this concept by inviting members of the congregation to provide fresh flowers in any way they like: **Through a florist, a grocery store, a farmers' market, cut from a garden... or any other creative way you can think of.**

If you would like to provide flowers for a particular Sunday:

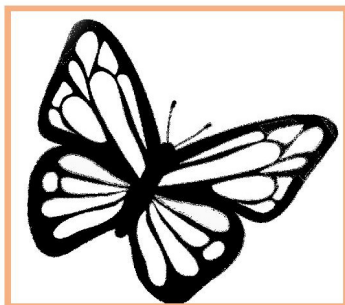
1. Please **sign up on the FLOWER CHART** on the wall by the church office for the date(s) you would like to provide flowers. Please indicate if you will be ordering the flowers from a shop or providing them yourself. If you would like to **name someone** in whose memory or honor the flowers are placed, please write your message on the flower chart.
2. Please note that during **some seasons** of the church year, **only certain colors of flowers are appropriate**. These colors will be listed on the flower chart.
3. If you **purchase flowers from a florist**: you are responsible for payment to the florist. The florist must **deliver the flowers before 12noon on Friday** to ensure access to the church (*POP will not be providing floral shops with a key to the church*). **You may also choose to pick up your flowers from the shop and deliver them to the church yourself.**
4. **If you are delivering flowers to the church yourself** and you do not have a church key, you will need access to the church. PLEASE CALL **TINA JOHNS: 570-350-5942** and she will work with you to arrange access to the church.
5. There will be vases available for use. They will be on the counter in the sacristy area.
6. We are requesting that if you provide altar flowers, that **you take the flowers home** after worship. Flowers not taken home by the donor will be disposed of appropriately. If you used vases from the church, **please leave the vases** so they are available for the next flower donor.

50 years...from caterpillar to butterfly

This is our jubilee year! We have been blessed to be joined with God to seek and serve Christ in all people for the past 50 years. The stewardship campaign this year is built around the theme of “50 years...from caterpillar to butterfly”. Our logo for the 50th anniversary becomes the focus for the 4 weeks of the campaign, beginning January 16th.

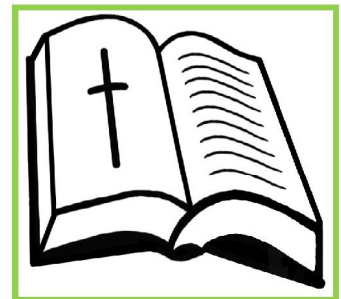


Week #1– God nourishes us with the sacrament

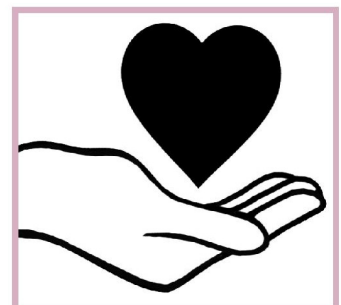


Week # 3-God gives us new life

**Each week
Pastor will
take one of the
symbols in the
logo and share
a sermon that
will help us to
see and feel
how Jesus
chooses to be
with us in all
we do, in all we
say, in all we
are and in all
we give.**



Week # 2– God enlightens us through his word



Week # 4-God send us out to share love

We are thankful for your commitment through the years to actively seek and serve Christ through the ministry of Prince of Peace. You will be asked at the end of the campaign to increase your financial support by a specific amount and how to calculate that. Please pray during the campaign for discernment on how God wants you to respond to what he has given you and how you will give to keep His mission going for another 50 years.

Let's celebrate our 50 years of seeking and serving Christ in all people!

34%

Worship

Various ways to worship, commune and baptize
Special worship for church seasons
Music to enhance glorifying God
More opportunities to serve

Can we find more ways to worship?

33%

Outreach

Healing the hurt of members and others
Engaging others near and far
Feed those with food insecurity
Support Scouting

What could be new?

33%

Learning

VBS Zoom Zone Young Adult Ministry
Bible Studies First Communion Story Time

What more can we learn?

Our spending plan is equally proportioned to thank God for 50 years of ministry together! Let us continue to generous stewards! Click on this link <https://youtu.be/HFKNmLBUyQ> to see how we did mission and ministry in 2021!

DIG DEEPER

Sat., 1/1 (Holy Name of Jesus)	Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Sun., 1/2 (2nd Sun. of Christmas)	Jerem. 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
Monday, January 3	Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21
Tuesday, January 4	Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53
Wednesday, January 5	Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18
Thu., 1/6 (Epiphany of Our Lord)	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Friday, January 7	Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1
Saturday, January 8	Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20
Sun., 1/9 (Baptism of Our Lord)	Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Monday, January 10	Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday, January 11	Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21
Wednesday, January 12	Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36
Thursday, January 13	Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24
Friday, January 14	Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7
Saturday, January 15	Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23
1/16 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
Monday, January 17	Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21
Tuesday, January 18	Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-17
Wednesday, January 19	Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; Luke 5:33-39
Thursday, January 20	Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6
Friday, January 21	Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8
Saturday, January 22	Psalm 19; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 2:39-52
1/23 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)	Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21
Monday, January 24	Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:1-10; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12
Tuesday, January 25	Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12
Wednesday, January 26	Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44
Thursday, January 27	Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48
Friday, January 28	Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10
Saturday, January 29	Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51
1/30 (4th Sunday after Epiphany)	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
Monday, January 31	Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

ARE YOU GETTING PASTORMAIL?

Pastor Scholtes sends out emails to the congregation almost every day. These *PastorMails* contain information about upcoming events, about recent decisions made in the church, and generally help to keep us all connected. If you are not receiving them, please send him a note at pastorMJS@gmail.com to get added to the list, or sign up at our church website (popbangor.org).

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 (610-588-2355) or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.**

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point	Offering Counter
January 2, 2022	Sherk and June Jones	Connie Itterly	Tina Johns	Vivian Fahr, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Cathy Mullen	Georgia Suranofsky, Jackie Horn
January 9	Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey	Sherry Hock	Connie Itterly	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Jim Jennings	Scott Schipps, Jim Jennings
January 16	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Mary Hendershot	April Miller	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Kim Jennings	Connie Itterly, Jackie Horn
January 23	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Isabel Baker	Marlene Stana	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker, Georgia Suranofsky	Tina Johns	Traci Rumsey, Jim Jennings
January 30	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Quincey Miller	Tina Johns	June and Sherk Jones, Vivian Fahr	Antonioli Family	Chip Harrison, Jackie Horn
February 6	Sherk and June Jones	April Miller	Kale Baker	Georgia and John Sursanofsky	Cathy Mullen	TBD

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE:



This committee wants to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy & Blessed New Year! We also want to thank you for your generous support of our ministries and projects last year. We also have good news, we will not be asking you for anything this month (January). However, as you probably noticed from the calendar in the Narthex, the rest of the year is filled with projects and ministries we will ask you to support. There is also a change in how we will collect the "Joyful Noise", an envelope for this collection is in your offering box, you may also donate online to this or any fund. Questions: see Mary O'Meally

James 2:17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.



Behold
I make
all things
NEW

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

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

Web-site: www.popbangor.org
Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes
lotsofsocks@live.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 2 for details!

- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314,**
PastorMJS@gmail.com
- **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O’Meally**
- **Sexton: Brittnee Evans**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 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:

Georgia Suranofsky - Pres.	Brenda Hughes
Connie Iterly - V-P	Scott Schipps
Kathy Williams	Tina Johns
Dave Karner	Chip Harrison
Traci Rumsey	Max Manicke-Youth Rep.
Jackie Horn	Pastor Michael Scholtes
Sara Godshalk	

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

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 2022 Newsletter is:
January 11th**

*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.****

found **faithful**
in **little**
with **much**
with **all**

1 Corinthians 4:1-2



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 30

Covid-19 Update & Guidelines

The Latest Situation: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate fear, concern, confusion and division across the country and within our own Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The most recent developments – some troubling, some hopeful – include:

- The rise of new variants, especially “omicron”;
- The ongoing and in many cases, increasing numbers of new cases;
- The continued reluctance and refusal of some to get vaccinated, or to wear masks;
- On the good side: the increased opportunities for testing, for boosters, and for vaccines for all ages.

Here in our Synod, I now encourage us to use another trustworthy source of information to help guide our decisions concerning the pandemic: the “Covid Act Now Coalition.” This non-profit, web-based resource brings together non-partisan experts in medicine, law, and public policy, to provide objective data and analysis. Their website is being consulted as a reliable source by synods and congregations across the ELCA. From their site, we can see clearly that things are still very threatening here in NE Penn: all 14 of our counties have threat levels of “VERY HIGH” or “SEVERE” – Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill all are in that worst category. Additionally, the vaccination rate is at or below 60% for 7 of those 14 counties. Most of these numbers are worse than the data for many of our neighboring synods, including the Southeastern Penn Synod, whose leaders have nonetheless chosen to put in place stricter guidelines than we have. I believe we can become safer and return to “normal” sooner if we follow their lead.

Dr. Luther Shows The Way:

Almost exactly 500 years ago – in November 1520 – Martin Luther published one of his most ground-breaking treatises: “On the Freedom of a Christian.” He begins the document with this famous declaration: “A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. And a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

He goes on to describe how God, through Christ’s sacrificial love for us on the cross, has granted us the grace and the freedom to make our own decisions; but this freedom does not release us to disregard the truth, or our call to care and concern for our neighbor. Luther writes: “Therefore [Christians] should be guided in all [their] works by this thought and contemplate this one thing alone, that [they] may serve and benefit others in all that [they do], considering nothing except the need and the advantage of [the] neighbor.”

So “what does this mean?” The inconvenience of mask wearing; and even the threat of temporary cold-and-flu reactions to vaccinations – these are simply the sacrifices we are called to make, as “the dutiful servants of all, subject to everyone.” It is within this traditionally and theologically Lutheran framing that we maintain our vigilance; and update our guidelines here.

Covid-19 Continued...

Latest Synod Recommendations:

As we prepare for the larger crowds of Christmas Eve – and with Lent, Holy Week and Easter not far away – I am recommending the starting, the continuation, or the resumption, of any and all common-sense and good-neighbor precautions, including:

- Proof of vaccination or a negative test for all indoor events
 - Indoor masking
- Good air circulation, including open windows where feasible
- Social distancing, frequent washing and other effective protocols

Furthermore – at their January 15 meeting, I am encouraging our Synod Council to discuss and decide upon further appropriate actions, which may include mandates that all Synod-sponsored indoor events require masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of a negative test. As the duly elected governing body of this Synod, your Synod Council has the right and responsibility to make these decisions for Synod gatherings. When it comes to our individual worshipping communities, our authority is more limited; Synod Council (and myself) can only make clear and strong recommendations – based on the best science, on good conscience and on our common love for our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. In other words, all congregations have the “freedom of a Christian” to decide for themselves how they will choose to act – or refuse to act. I invite us all to follow our baptismal call and Lutheran heritage, to follow God’s will and God’s love for all.

In God’s Love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

MISSION
SUPPORT
2022



Send in your mission support commitments for 2022. You can find the form on the synod website, under the resources tab.

boundless
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG

Save the date SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022

June 10-11
Reading



DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED

for the

LORD

your

God

WILL BE

with you

wherever you go

JOSHUA 1:9