

# Prints of Peace



Lent is upon us, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2. This special season in the church year was first developed centuries ago as a time to educate adults new to the Christian faith, in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil service. Lent is still an excellent time for Christians of all ages to explore practices that deepen our faith as we journey together through our lives.

I invite you to make the time in your life this year to explore some practices that can deepen our faith. We're using a program that we're borrowing from the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church, one of our partners in the gospel, has adopted a vision for ministry they call **"The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life."** They are encouraging all their members to explore seven practices: **Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest.** Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry writes, *"In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called 'church' or 'Christian,' this Jesus Movement was simply called 'the way.'"* You can learn a lot more about this initiative at the following website: [episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love](http://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love)

This way of looking at our lives of faith together can be helpful to us as Lutherans as well! And so I invite you and encourage you to join me in exploring these seven practices during Lent 2022, one practice each week. We'll do this in two ways.

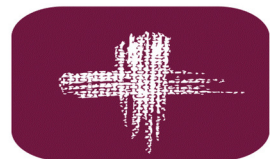
First, I have prepared a **Lenten booklet** for you with prayers, scriptures, questions, and activities for each week in Lent. Copies are available in the narthex at church and have also been shared via email. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Second, I will be making **Lenten videos** and posting them each week at our website ([popbangor.org](http://popbangor.org)). These videos will be connected to what's in the booklet for that week but will cover the material in a different way. I encourage you to use both the booklet and the videos if you are able but using only one method is also okay. You can plan to use the booklet, the videos, or both, from March 6 through April 17.

You can use both the booklet and the videos on your own time, at your own pace. We will not be gathering together for this, although there might be optional opportunities to reflect together. It is my hope that through this, we will all find a deeper connection to God and to one another and walk the "Way of Love."

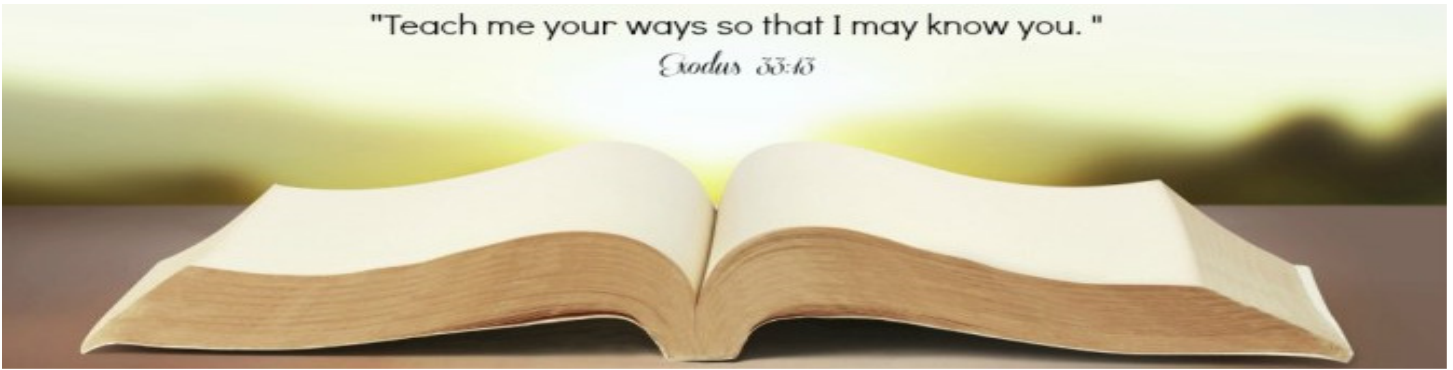
In Christ,

Pastor Scholtes



"Teach me your ways so that I may know you. "

*Exodus 33:13*



Tuesday, March 1	Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1; Acts 10:23b-33
<b>Ash Wednesday, 3/2</b>	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20 – 6:10; Mat.6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, March 3	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34
Friday, March 4	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42
Saturday, March 5	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36
<b>First Sunday in Lent, 3/6</b>	Deut. 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
Monday, March 7	Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6
Tuesday, March 8	Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21
Wednesday, March 9	Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6
Thursday, March 10	Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12
Friday, March 11	Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20
Saturday, March 12	Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39
<b>Second Sunday in Lent, 3/13</b>	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17 – 4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Monday, March 14	Psalm 105:1-42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
Tuesday, March 15	Psalm 105:1-42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday, March 16	Psalm 105:1-42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31
Thursday, March 17	Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11
Friday, March 18	Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6
Saturday, March 19	Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45
<b>Third Sunday in Lent, 3/20</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Monday, March 21	Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11
Tuesday, March 22	Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16
Wednesday, March 23	Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21
Thursday, March 24	Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5
<b>Annunciation of Our Lord, 3/25</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, March 26	Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent, 3/27</b>	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Monday, March 28	Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8
Tuesday, March 29	Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10
Wednesday, March 30	Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17
Thursday, March 31	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24

*Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to [DailyLectio.net](http://DailyLectio.net), where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!*



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

Stella Nelson, March 2  
Patrick Itterly, March 2  
Gladys Steinmetz, March 3  
Everett Reimer Jr., March 3  
Joe Scholtes, March 3  
Marissa Hill, March 5  
William Heitzman, III, March 5  
Kody Garis, March 6  
Lori Kuhs, March 6  
Thomas Chamberlin, March 6  
Sadie Baker, March 7  
Violet Khan, March 8  
Rebecca Flyte, March 9  
Valerie Kessler, March 11  
Tylor Duffin, March 13  
Kevin Gillow, March 14  
James Jennings, March 14  
Olivia Fraunfelter, March 17  
Dennit Golden, March 18  
Aria Hughes, March 20  
Gillian Smith, March 21  
Brian Hower, March 25  
Alison Krock, March 28  
Allison Manicke, March 30  
Lois Neiley, March 31

### **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.

### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES**

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

### **NEW ADDRESSES:**

Paul & Diane Kimsey  
Mildred Clancy  
1514 Bushkill Ctr Rd  
Bath, PA 18014

Joe Daley  
c/o ExcelCare at Dover  
65 North Sussex St.  
Dover, NJ 07801

### **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). They are also archived at popbangor.org/pastormail.

**Annual Giving Statements:** The finance committee would like to remind everyone that we no longer automatically print the yearly statements for giving. We will be more than happy to print out a statement when requested. Due to tax changes, you may no longer need a statement for that purpose. Please contact Mary O Meally at [mary0107@ptd.net](mailto:mary0107@ptd.net) for your printed statement.





## **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.



**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.**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Power Point and Camera</b>	<b>Offering Counter</b>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Sherk and June Jones</b>	<b>Sara Godshalk</b>	<b>Laraine Brands</b>	<b>Kale Baker, Marlene and Butch Stana</b>	<b>Antonioli Family</b>	<b>Tina Johns, Jim Jennings</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Georgia and John Suranofsky</b>	<b>Mary Hendershot</b>	<b>Connie Itterly</b>	<b>Sherk and June Jones, Brooks Baker</b>	<b>John Martocci</b>	<b>John Suranofsky, Jackie Horn</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly</b>	<b>Sherry Hock</b>	<b>April Miller</b>	<b>Georgia and John Suranofsky, Brenda Hughes</b>	<b>Cathy Mullen</b>	<b>Scott Schipps, Jim Jennings</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Brenda Hughes, Kale Baker</b>	<b>Janet Martocci</b>	<b>Kale Baker</b>	<b>Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly, Brooks Baker</b>	<b>Kim Jennings</b>	<b>Chip Harrison, Jackie Horn</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Brooks Baker, Georgia Suranofsky</b>	<b>Connie Itterly</b>	<b>Tina Johns</b>	<b>Kale Baker, Marlene and Butch Stana</b>	<b>Jim Jennings</b>	<b>Georgia Suranofsky, Jim Jennings</b>

**Altar Guild for March: Tara Flyte and Tyler Flyte**

**Altar Guild for April: Kim Jennings and Sara Godshalk**



## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update:**

During the next few months, we will be collecting marriage and baptism pictures to be displayed during our anniversary year. Please place your pictures on the counter in the narthex or see one of the 50th anniversary committee members to drop off your photo. They will be displayed in the narthex in April and May. If you were baptized or married at POP since 1972, show off your pictures in celebration! In March, Janet Martocci will be telling us her faith journey which was founded at the North Bangor church.

We will also be preparing for the other fun things coming up, so, if you would like to help out --let one of us know.

Thank You,

*Denny and Jackie Horn, Brenda Stauffer, Connie Itterly, John Martocci*



**Helping Women BLOOM** Most of us know of the Bloom Creative Studio in downtown Bangor. But did you know that they also have two homes in town where women who have lived through trafficking, abuse, and addiction can recover and begin new lives?

Yes, Bloom is a local non-profit organization under the direction of Carol Andersen. They believe that

“Art Heals and everyone deserves a chance to start over.”

**From today through March 27** the Social Ministry is asking if we all could help these women out by offering some items that these women need in their day-to-day life.

These women are all expected to keep their house neat and clean, while they attend counseling and hold down jobs. Wouldn't it be nice for us at Prince of Peace to make it a bit easier for them through giving some cleaning supplies. We ask that while you shop you; add a few extra things for these hard-working women who are seeking to better themselves, working towards escaping the hardships and horrors they have experienced.

**Here is a suggested list of items they need:** laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet bowl cleaner, paper towels, toilet tissue, and sponges

As always Social Ministry thanks you for your generosity and compassion. We all know that everyone at some time in their life needs some help and we know that no one should go through hard times alone. So “Do not forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.” (Hebrews 13:16)

**From Justine Cesari, Parish Nurse:** Below is the link for ordering free in-home rapid Covid 19 tests to be delivered by USPS. Ordering instructions are fairly straightforward and it does allow individuals to order for other addresses e.g. children can order for their parents. The kit includes 4 tests per household.  
<https://special.usps.com/testkits>



**Excerpt From Pastor's Notes:** Help is available for people in our area who are struggling financially to pay for their rent and utilities. Prince of Peace, along with many other congregations in the Slate Belt, have funded the Slate Belt Ministerium with funds to help people in precisely these circumstances. We work through our local family centers, Slater Family Network and Families First. While these agencies work by school district boundaries, the help they provide is **not** limited to people with school-age children -- they help people of all ages.

Feel free to share this information as you like.

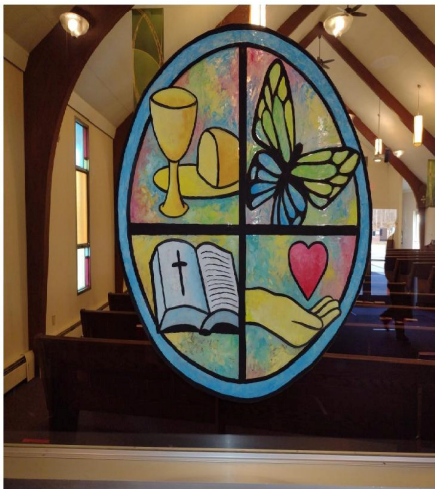
**\*Slater Family Network** [slaterfamilynetwork.org](http://slaterfamilynetwork.org) 610-599-7019 (for people living in the Bangor School District)

**\*Families First** [www.familiesfirstopenargyl.org](http://www.familiesfirstopenargyl.org) 610-863-3688 (for people living in the Pen Argyl School District)

50 years from.....

Thank You!

to



The stewardship committee would like to thank the many hands that made this year's campaign a holistic and creative way to help us think about who we are as God's people. Thank you also for reading, listening and watching as we unfolded the symbols in the 50th anniversary logo. If we look at the logo to the left, we see at the center is the cross of Christ. Encircling the cross we see how God nourishes us with the sacrament; how God enlightens us through his word; how God gives us new life as we continue to grow in relationship to Him and others and then how God send us out to share love with our hearts and hands. This is our legacy of blessing at Prince of Peace. All that God gives us and in turn year after year we break through the boundaries to give to others our gifts of time, talent and financial resources.

The results of the campaign will be shared soon! Keep an eye on Pastor's email, our website and our Facebook!

*Serve each other according to the gift each person has received,  
as good managers of God's diverse gifts. 1 Peter 4:10 CEB*

March 6th is International Women's Day. Women have been a part of the Lord's ministry since the old testament days. Please read the inspiring story on the following page to learn about the service and justice women are a part of in the church around the world. You can also click on this link to see the story in a special way.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/sofia/equal-in-gods-kingdom.php>





"The church becomes a family only with the recognition of women as equal partners in God's vineyard."





# *Equal in God's Kingdom*

Cholita Narzary made history in November 2020 as the second woman ordained into ministry by the Bodo Evangelical Lutheran Church (BELC) in Assam, India. She joined the roster 22 years after the denomination ordained its first woman, the late Kunanjaw Basumatary, who served as BELC bishop in the past.

"Since the first woman's ordination there were many silent years," said Ichahak Muchahary, BELC bishop. "The church becomes a family only with the recognition of women as equal partners in God's vineyard."

Muchahary credits the ELCA-organized 2019 South East Asia Conference on Gender Justice in Hyderabad, India, for pushing him and other leaders to advocate for and implement gender justice shifts within the church. *The ELCA has accompanied the BELC for two years, funding some of its ministries through Mission Support.* Since entering a formal companion relationship with the BELC in 2018, the ELCA has accompanied the church with mutual encouragement and leadership training events and funded community development, disaster response and academic scholarships (including for International Women Leaders).

Said Narzary of her ordination, "I knew the call of God from my childhood, but due to my parents and others, I could not go for further biblical studies. It took me long years, and it was really challenging for a girl like me to [acknowledge] my true [vocation]."

Prior to 2020, Narzary served as an evangelist and Sunday school teacher within the BELC and received training at the Karnataka Theological College in Mangalore (India).

She currently works as women's coordinator for the BELC, manages its Silk Research and Development Centre and leads a local parish.

*"I strongly believe that men and women are equal in God's kingdom, both bearing the image of God. Now, after experiencing the work that women are also capable [of], the church will open the door for other women too."*

Muchahary said Narzary's ordination has paved the way for the BELC to ordain more women. Currently six are pursuing theological studies in different seminaries in India, and in 2021 the BELC General Council adopted a resolution to implement 41% gender representation in all its governing bodies, in compliance with the Lutheran World Federation's gender justice policy.

With those amendments, Narzary hopes that **many qualified and ordained women will take leadership positions in the BELC.** "Women have always been in the forefront of Jesus' ministry," she said. "I strongly believe that men and women are equal in God's kingdom, both bearing the image of God. Now, after experiencing the work that women are also capable [of], the church will open the door for other women too."



## FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE...

### Comments:

\* 2021 Expenses were \$4,189 greater than 2021 Income.

\* Two primary factors allowed us to achieve these results:

\* Expense Control: Note the results above indicate that we under spent our budget by almost \$23,000. This was key to ending the year only \$4,189 in the RED.

\* Giving: Despite drastic losses in weekly attendance, members continued to support the church including significant increases in offering being mailed to us.

\* Considering the tremendous negative impact of the pandemic, our results were really quite positive.

**THANK YOU for your continued support!**

### **2021 Financial Results**

Budget	\$ 234,923
Actual Income	\$ 207,801
Actual Expenses	\$ 211,990
Income vs. Expenses	\$ (4,189)
Expenses vs. Budget	\$ 22,933

### Challenges as we look ahead:

While we have successfully navigated through almost 2 years of uncertainty related to the pandemic new hurdles are on the horizon. Consider the following:

\* Offering: Our offering has been essentially flat for 2 years. That's a positive considering the pandemic but is a concern going forward.

\* Fun & Fellowship Income: The pandemic has stopped events like the Silent Auction and Rummage Sales from running and we no longer run the Farm Show Stand.

\* Expenses: Expenses continue to rise.

These three issues taken together mean that we need to be particularly careful with our finances.

Additionally, our investment portfolio has decreased related to recent projects like the video projector replacement, sound system upgrade and parsonage septic system replacement. Planning is happening now on action that can be taken to help reinforce our investment portfolio. More info will be shared on this further into 2022.



### **Key Council Highlights From February 14th:**

- Council is planning a retreat, outside of the church In May.
- Keep an eye out for upcoming events for the 50th anniversary
- Council presidents in the Pocono Mission have been getting together monthly
- Reopening task force is continuing to meet monthly and open to suggestion and comment. Please reach out to a committee member: Kathy Williams, Justine Cesari, Denny Horn, Marlene Stana, Pastor Scholtes.





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

**Web-site: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)**  
**Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes**  
**[lotsofsocks@live.com](mailto:lotsofsocks@live.com)**

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
*Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 3 for details!*

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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314,**  
**[PastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto:PastorMJS@gmail.com)**
  - **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
  - **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
  - **Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally**
  - **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
  - **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895,**  
**[cesarijustine1080@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

**Congregation Council Members:**

Connie Itterly -President	Jackie Horn– Treasurer
Traci Rumsey -V-President	Tina Johns -Secretary
Scott Schipps	Georgia Suranofsky
Kathy Williams	Chip Harrison
Dave Karner	Brenda Hughes
Sara Godshalk	Max Manicke-Youth Rep.
Pastor Michael Scholtes	

**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?

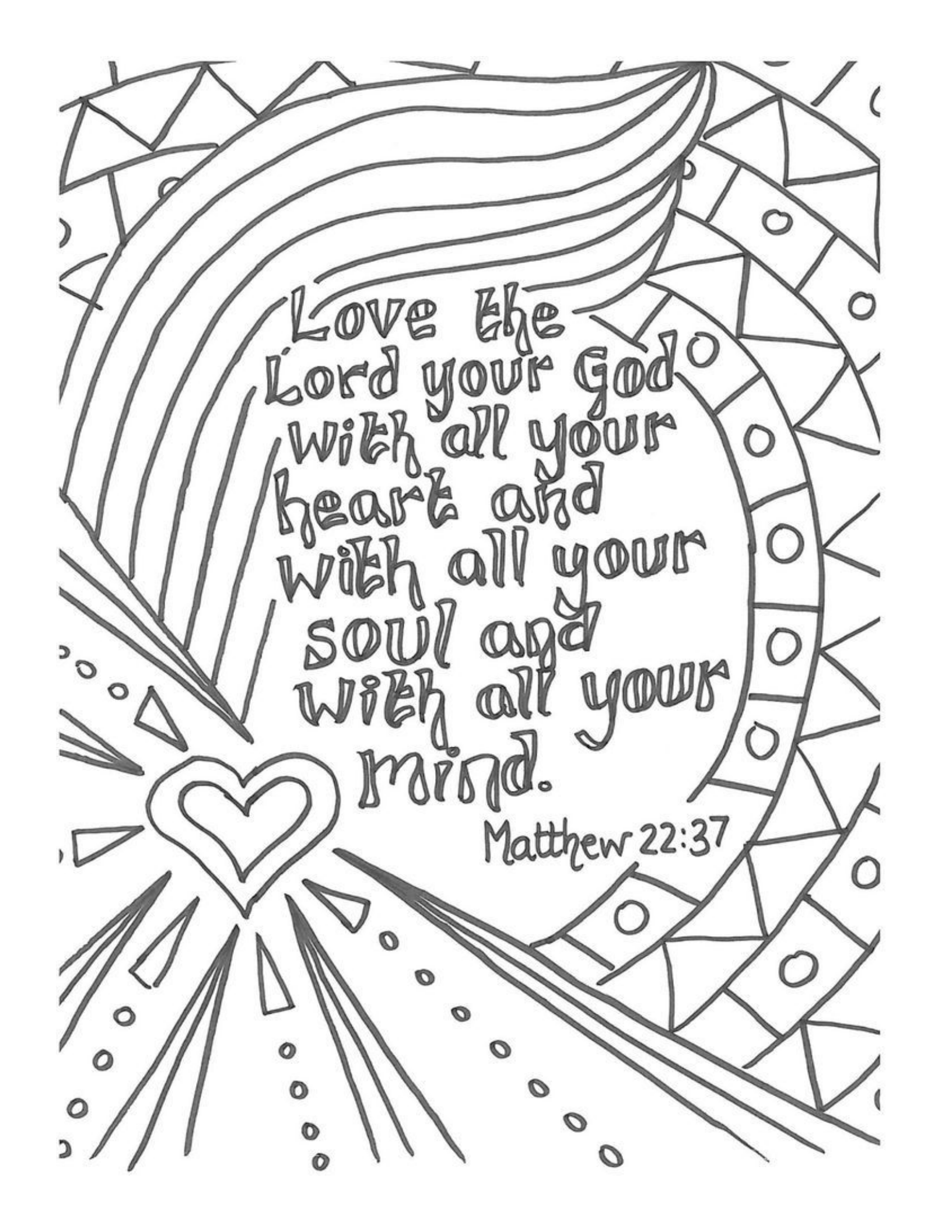
**EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**

**April 2022 Newsletter is:**  
**\*\*March 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

*You may email your submissions to*  
**[poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)**  
*Or give a handwritten items to*  
**Annette Buss**

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





Love the  
Lord your God  
with all your  
heart and  
with all your  
soul and  
with all your  
mind.

Matthew 22:37



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

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MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 30

Beloved Members of our Synod,

At its January meeting, the Synod Council made the difficult decision to once again hold the Synod Assembly online instead of gathering in person. We know this decision may come as a disappointment to you, and I'd like to explain how the Council came to its decision.

First, please know the decision wasn't easy, nor was it unanimous; however, the decision to move online did pass with an overwhelming majority voting in favor. Initially, many council members, like you, very much wanted to hold the assembly in person and gather as planned in Reading. But in discussion, a few realities just could not be overcome: vaccines were still not available for our youngest children (ages 0-4), a new variant was ushering in extremely high transmission numbers, and our local hospitals were struggling to keep abreast of testing and available beds. Given the swift onset and spread of the Omicron variant, the council wondered at the possibility of a new variant emerging at the time of the Synod Assembly. Like you, we just simply can't see into the future.

The gravity of these unknowns increased when coupled with the fact that there was a significant down payment cost for the facility – a cost we could not recoup even if, for whatever reason, we needed to cancel or downsize the Assembly. Use it, or lose it. As long as I have been chairing Synod Council meetings, I have never witnessed the Council making spendthrift decisions. Each financial decision is taken on deliberately and with care, the council focusing on being good stewards always and in every way. It was, in the end, a financial risk too great to take.

So, once again, we will see you online on June 10th and 11th. But we hope you will find a way to see each other in person, gathering safely in smaller numbers as the situation allows, and enjoying each other's company as we get the business done and see what's happening around our Synod and throughout the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,  
Kristen Edelman-Weiner  
Vice-President, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod





## 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARAMENTS

Brenda Stauffer was the catalyst for the new altar and pulpit paraments that were dedicated for our 50th Anniversary. Brenda brought up the idea of creating quilted paraments at the brainstorming session that was held at Prince of Peace in January of 2021. A suggestion was made that the paraments be green so that they would be able to be used during the season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. This is the longest season of the church year and is represented by the color green.

The 50th Anniversary Task Force approved the designs for the paraments, Kim drew the designs out to scale and delivered them to Pam. Pam chose the fabrics and used an appliqué technique to create them. Brenda kept communicating with everyone to make sure the new paraments were completed on time for their dedication on January 16, 2022.

**VIEW FULL STORY HERE**

[www.popbangor.org/anniversary-paraments](http://www.popbangor.org/anniversary-paraments)

## BOOK STUDY: WAKING UP WHITE

The Racial Justice Team (a part of the Witness & Service Ministry Team) invites you to participate in a 5-part online Lenten book study, beginning Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm and continuing the next 4 Monday nights at 7 on Zoom. Contact Samantha Drennan for more information!

## STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

**JUNE 18, 2022**  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, LANSDALE**  
**AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE  
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS**  
**(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)**



**Save the date** **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**  
*June 10-11*  
*Virtual*

# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

## Money Changers in the Temple

This phrase, taken from the act of our Lord recorded in Matthew 21:12, is usually taken to describe something deplorable, the sordid, the profaning of religion by commercialism. But in the highest sense, each Christian can be a "money changer." When a person brings money to be used in furthering the purposes of Christ, money becomes changed into life. Money can be changed into health and life in a hospital down the street or across the sea; it can be changed into a college where a young person finds what is needed for real living. It is changed into food as the church meets physical need in all parts of the earth. By its right use, money is the alchemy by which human life and energy are transported from one place to another.

By our money, we can talk in many languages to proclaim the Gospel; by our money, we can heal the sick, give sight to the blind, care for the fatherless, teach the ignorant and feed the hungry. Hence it becomes the "open sesame" to a glorious ministry.

You ... yes, you ... can be a money changer in the temple!

G. W. Mattace



## Serve Where You Are

A policeman in Birmingham, England on becoming a Christian was so greatly troubled by the sights and sounds of sin among which he worked that for a long time he prayed, "Lord, take me out of the police service. Give me some other work."

No answer came and no other work was opened to him. At last he said to his wife: "I think we have been making a great mistake. We have been praying that I may be taken out of the force, and I begin to think that he

has put me there to work. Now I am going to pray that he will help me to serve where I am."

That was the beginning of a life of marvelous usefulness. His influence over the men was so great that he was promoted to be the head of the detectives. He was instrumental in the salvation of many criminals. The place where God has put you is the place where you do the best service for him.

M. Lunn

## Thoughts to Ponder:

*"If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."*

P. J. O'Rourke

*"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."*

Mark Twain

*"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."*

Winston Churchill



## Carrying Our Own Loads

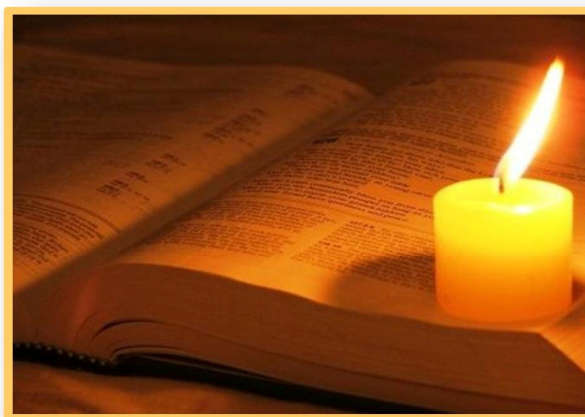
We all start at the same place: *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23), and we are all rescued from this position in the same way: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). God sees us all the same – sinners saved by his grace. Since we are all equal in his sight, there is no need to measure ourselves by our neighbors. The Apostle Paul, in our text above, declares this a fruitless exercise.

What is helpful, though, is to test our own actions. Am I using the gifts and talents God has given me in a way that brings him honor and that benefits the Body of Christ? Am I spending time in reading his Word and in prayer to him? Am I joining in Christian fellowship as the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are administered? Am I encouraging others to do good deeds? Am I giving sacrificially and humbly? How am I building up my pastor(s) so he can effectively preach the Word and care for the flock in his care?

As we examine our actions, we must also examine our motives. Do I do “good things” because I’m a prominent member of the congregation and it’s expected of me? Do I labor in the church so I’ll be noticed and commended? Do I serve others and give of my time in order to earn God’s favor? God forbid that those should be our motives! Rather, we say with Paul, *“Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

## Finding the Good Life

Most people believe that money brings happiness, so they always want more of it. But money does not bring happiness. Money and the things that money can buy do not produce the good life. The good life is taking *“hold of the life that is truly life”* (1 Timothy 6:19) and in using what God has given us to build his kingdom. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we will hold the things of this world loosely and focus on things that are eternal.



***Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!***