

# Prints of Peace



February 2025

Volume 30 Issue 2



We're in the middle of our Stewardship Campaign right now, which runs from January 12 through February 9. The theme of our campaign this year is "The (Im)possible Promise of Enough." Throughout these five weeks, we are exploring some of the promises God has made to us, promises that seem impossible on the surface, promises that we will always be fed with spiritual food, promises that we will always have enough, promises that we will be provided for, promises that we can provide for others.

And yet, we often don't have all the things we want. Sometimes we don't have the things we *think* we need. I'm reminded of a hymn that I encountered at a funeral some years ago, called "What God Hath Promised." I find it to be a good reminder to me of what God *hasn't promised* us, as well as what God *has* promised. It's written by Annie Johnson Flint (public domain), and I've reprinted the words below. I present them here to you as a reminder of the amazing, (im)possible promises God has made to us.

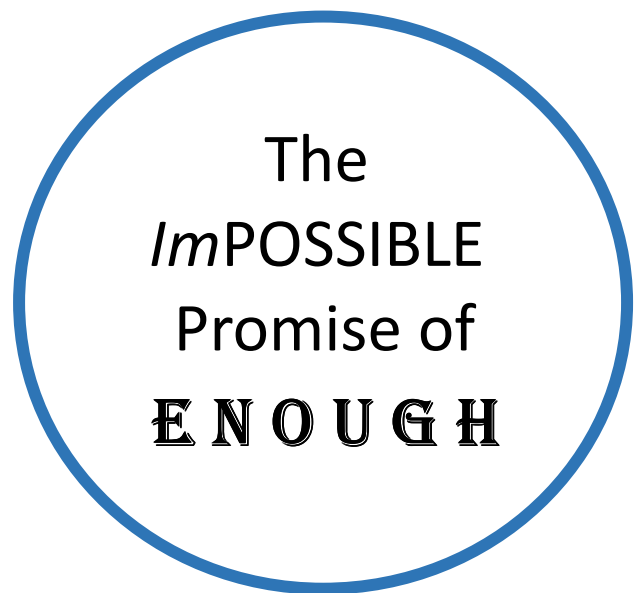
1. God has not promised skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God has not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.  
But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

2. God has not promised we shall not know  
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;  
He has not told us we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care.  
But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

3. God has not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep,  
Never a river turbid and deep.  
But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes





**RECENT PASTORAL ACTS**  
**FUNERAL:** Marijane Getz, December 31  
 (officiated by Larry Rissmiller)



### **JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

Officers and committee liaisons were elected for the year. The officers are as follows:

- Larry Rissmiller, President
- Kale Baker, Vice-President
- Tina Johns, Secretary

Council approved the first Helping Hands Sub Fund disbursement for the year, a matching grant of \$500 for the upcoming Layette Shower!

We learned that POP's Treasures has donated over \$16,000 from their profits to various agencies and organizations in 2024!

*thank you*

**THANK YOU!** Many thanks to Prince of Peace for your generous Christmas gift this year, and to all who gave individual gifts to me and my family. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity!

**--Pastor Scholtes**

**Real Readers: Join Us! We meet at 2 p.m.**

### **Real Readers Releases Their Book List for 2025**

Our 21<sup>st</sup> year as a book group begins in 2025, and this year's list has a little bit of everything for everyone.  
**New members are always welcome!**

Questions? Please feel free to speak to Karen Karner, Janet Martocci or Sherry Hoch for information.

February 6 – “Only One Life/The Drowned Girl” by Sarah Blaedel (Wanda)

March 6 – “By Any Other Name” by Jodi Picoult (Patti)

April 3 – “The Teacher” by Freida McFadden (Cindy)

May 1 – “The God of the Woods” by Liz Moore (Jean)

June 5 – “Finding Dorothy” by Elizabeth Letts (Sherry)

July 3 – “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick (Sandy)

August 7 – “Tell Me Everything” by Elizabeth Strout (Terry)

September 4 – “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver (Janet)

October 2 – “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Molnar (Karen)

November 6 – “The Housemaid” by Freida McFadden (Mary)

December 4 – “All He Ever Wanted” by Anita Shreve (Maureen)



### “By Heart” – An Adult Course on Lutheranism

I will be offering a course entitled “By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.” This course is designed for all adults and teenagers who want to dive more deeply into the faith we share as Lutherans. *The Small Catechism* is a small but mighty book that Martin Luther wrote in 1529, to teach children and others the faith. It still forms the basis of Confirmation education in Lutheran congregations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And while *The Small Catechism* is simple enough for children to grasp, it’s also rich enough to explore for a lifetime.

This course does *not* require expertise in Lutheranism or the Bible. It does require a mind open to asking and pondering questions, and a heart open to exploring God’s grace.

We will meet for seven sessions of 90 minutes each. At each session, we will dive into a chapter in the book *By Heart*, watch a video, and have a lively discussion. At the end of each session, you will have both a deeper understanding of *The Small Catechism*, as well as a deeper insight into your own faith. The course will be offered both in-person and on Zoom.

The course requires a copy of the book, which I can order for you for \$18. (Or you may find a used copy cheaper online yourself.) Please sign-up on the narthex counter, or by emailing me, by February 10.

The course will begin on Wednesday, February 19, and run through Wednesday, April 9. 6:30 – 8 p.m. each Wednesday evening. We will take March 5 off, because it is Ash Wednesday.

--Pastor Scholtes

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, March 5** at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon will follow the service, and all are welcome! There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex counter, or you may call the church office at 610-588-2355 and we’ll add your name to the list!) An Ash Wednesday evening service will be held at 7 p.m.



### Please join us at our Sunday Coffee Hour and bring someone with you!



If you would like to bring something to share for coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway, where you can also sign up to serve as a host. Coffee hours are hosted each week by two or more people. If you have any questions, please contact: Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen, Sue Reinhart, or Lynn Rideout.

### Prince of Peace Seekers (POPS):

Come and ignite your spiritual imagination! We meet each week for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. We continue to meet from 10 a.m.—Noon on Thursdays and are now meeting in the Conference Room. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available. During the Month of February, Georgia Suranofsky will lead a discussion on *Women in the Bible*. Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Karner or Janet Martocci.



*Thank you . . .*

We would like to thank POP’s Treasures for their generous donation!

Sincerely,  
--Kerri Miller and Christine Manni  
Slate Belt Animal Advocacy Group

# WE ♥ OUR volunteers

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point and Camera	Acolyte	Offering Counters	Pew Tenders
Feb. 2	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim Jennings	Laraine Brands	Marlene and Butch Stana	Cathy Mullen	Isabel Baker	Tina Johns	Rhonda Montgomery
Feb. 9	Traci Rumsey, Holly Blakeslee	Janet Martocci	Connie Itterly	Sue Reinhart, Sara Godshalk	Tara Flyte	Ben Scholtes	Jean Janosa	June Jones
Feb. 16	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Mark Grusso	Marlene Stana	Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey	Jim Jennings	Alex Scholtes	Chip Harrison	Sara Godshalk
Feb. 23	Sherk and June Jones	Connie Itterly	All Hands on Deck	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim Jennings	Landon Horn	Connie Itterly	Traci Rumsey
March 2	Wayne and Lisa Jones	Sherry Hock	Bob Schuette	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Tina Johns	Fabian Vargas	Georgia Suranofsky	Sherry and Maci Hock

## Communion Assistants:

**February 2** Tina Johns, Jim Jennings

**February 9** April Miller, Tina Johns

**February 16** Brooks Baker, Laraine Brands

**February 23** (Assisting Ministers)

**March 2** Marlene Stana, Diane Hahn

**February Altar Guild:** Connie Itterly, Diane Searfass

**March Altar Guild:** Tara Flyte, Ashley Flyte

## Bread Baker/Providers:

**February 2:** Karen Karner

**March 2:** Janet Martocci



## 2025 Stewardship Campaign

**Commitment Sunday:**  
**February 9th**

“**The ImPOSSIBLE Promise of Enough**” is our theme this year and we hope that during the past month, the word “**ImPOSSIBLE**” has been turned to **POSSIBLE**. We know the promises of God that he gives us through Christ in our provisions, resources, rest, enough and liberation.

You should receive a letter with a commitment card at the end of January asking you to possibly consider increasing your offering. Instructions will be in the letter on how to complete and return the commitment card. Please consider signing up to use the online giving option on the website at [www.popbangor.org/giving](http://www.popbangor.org/giving).

We hope you will prayerfully make a decision that reflects your gratitude to God and all the ministries he has put before us. Your increase in offering will help us grow our infrastructure as we continually strive to live out our purpose statement to actively seek and serve Christ in all people.

Please review the Narrative of Support on the next page while you prayerfully make your decision to consider an offering increase.

*Thank you for your generosity in the past!*

## Joyful Noise Good News!

Collection for December totaled \$98.00! Your giving in 2024 totaled \$1,050.26!  
Thank you for your continued generosity!



PRINCE OF PEACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, BANGOR, PA  
NARRATIVE OF SUPPORT – 2025

**The Ongoing Purpose and Passion of Prince of Peace**

The purpose statement of Prince of Peace is this: **“We the people of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church will actively seek and serve Christ in all people.”** In the past year, we have recognized more and more that we are living this out right now through being the **“Helpers’ Helpers.”** We are not on the front lines. But we support those who are. We continue to make a tremendous difference through the way we support PUMP, the foster program, Slater Family Network, and more. We believe that Christ is at work in many ways outside the church in our community, and we see it as our job to support those who are doing it. We are *serving Christ in the people* who are on the front lines. None of us can do this alone – we continue to remind each other that ***none of us is expected to individually support all of these opportunities.*** It’s as a *community* that we make the difference we do.

**Impact Beyond Our Budget**

We’ve talked about how being the *Helpers’ helpers* is our impact on the community *beyond our budget*. We use almost no church funds for these outreach endeavors. The difference we make is because of your generosity *beyond* giving directly to the church. Thank you! And yet, the congregation continues to be the “home base,” the *infrastructure*, for this. We have the gift of worship, the gift of pastoral care, the gift of a building where items can be stored and sent from, the gift of evangelism to grow our faith community, the gift of education. We have a pastoral leader who is connected with both the wider church and the community. We have all *these* things thanks to the grace of God, and through your generous gifts *directly to Prince of Peace*. Thank you! ***The budget of Prince of Peace provides the infrastructure that allows the greater ministry to occur.***

We make a difference in the world because we have these three things: a strong *infrastructure*, a *generosity* above and beyond that infrastructure, and the *abundance* of God’s grace alive in us. This Narrative of Support concerns the *infrastructure*, the congregation itself and our assets (such as building and staff).

**The Status of our Infrastructure**

2024 has been a very hopeful year for Prince of Peace financially. At this point, our infrastructure is funded primarily from three sources: through our **offerings**, through **fundraisers**, and through disbursements from our **Endowment Fund**. All three of these sources are experiencing increases.



- Thanks in part to a surprise return to the Blue Valley Farm Show, our *fundraiser* income in 2024 was the highest it's been in years.
- Thanks to the substantial gift from Marion Messinger, our *Endowment disbursement* for 2025 will be unprecedented.
- And most importantly, **you responded to our call last year for an increase in offerings**. As of the end of September, we are on track for a 7.5% increase in offerings for the year, well above our goal of 5%. **THANK YOU!!!**

### **Moving into 2025**

With diligence, our infrastructure will remain strong. What will that take? For one thing, it will take **continued dedication to fundraising**. With your help, we will continue to staff these important events, and we have to continue to grow at recruiting people to staff them.

Secondly, it will take **wise use of Endowment sub funds**. The sub funds we approved for 2025 will continue to provide resources to take care of our infrastructure, with a focus on our building, our land, our paid and volunteer leaders, and our technological tools. In fact, these sub funds are providing for a *reduction* in budgeted expenses. (For instance, the Technology *budget line* has been reduced, because we expect to pay for any new technology from the *Technology Sub Fund* instead of from the *Current Fund*.)

**And thirdly, it will take a continued dedication to your giving**. The budget for 2025 targets an increase in offerings of about 3%. This is a modest increase, close to the expected cost of living increase. We need your help to reach that target. ***Could you consider the possibility of growing your giving by 3% in 2025?***

### **Dreaming of the Future**

We envision a future where we are solely financed by our offerings, a future where fundraising and Endowment money can be used primarily for *outreach* and *growing our ministry*. We are already taking steps in that direction. One of our Endowment sub funds for 2025, the "Helpers' Helpers Sub Fund," will be providing matching grants for many of our outreach programs in the coming year. And POP's Treasures, our successful monthly boutique, has committed to using the majority of its income for outreach. These are good steps – imagine if we could fund our infrastructure with just offerings. Imagine how much more outreach we could accomplish. (How many more "Helpers" could we "help"?)

So, if you are in a position to do so, we encourage you to consider an even bigger increase to your giving, to help us get there. ***If it's possible in your budget, could you consider the possibility of growing your giving by 5%, 10%, even 20% in 2025?***

Thank you for your generosity in the past, and your continued generosity in the future. Your generosity is the key to us continuing to spread the good news of God's love.

The Endowment Trustees would like to announce the year end balances and 2025 Sub Fund allocations for the Endowment Fund. The Sub Funds for 2025 were previously approved at the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting in November. Please see the grid below for all balances related to our Endowment Program.

	Year End Balance	2025 Disbursement	Jan 1 Starting Balance
Global Endowment	\$ 746,587	\$ 137,700	\$ 608,887
Non-Budgeted Property Sub Fund	\$ 2,635	\$ 100,360	\$ 102,995
Technology Sub Fund	\$ 5,364	\$ 16,404	\$ 21,768
Outdoor Enhancement Sub Fund	\$ 2,145	\$ 10,936	\$ 13,081
Congregational Education Sub Fund	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Helpers Helpers	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000

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*The following policy, concerning “POP’S TREASURES,” was adopted at the December 2024 congregation council meeting. There will be an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, February 16 to answer any questions about this policy.*

## **POP’S TREASURES POLICY**

POP’s Treasures is a ministry of Prince of Peace that began in the spring of 2023, after being approved by congregation council in March 2023. POP’s Treasures is a monthly boutique that raises money for outreach. Since its creation, POP’s Treasures has grown far more quickly than expected, and this document outlines a plan for how to manage this important ministry in our multi-use building going forward.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The “POP’s Treasures Committee” will be established as a standing committee of the congregation. As such, they will be assigned a council liaison and will be expected to report regularly to the council, and annually to the congregation in the Annual Report. POP’s Treasures will be staffed by volunteers. Some of these volunteers may be from outside the congregation, but oversight will always be by POP’s Treasures Committee members.

POP’s Treasures operates two days a month, generally the second Friday and Saturday. This schedule should be set annually and provided to both council and the parish administrator.

## **ROOMS & STORAGE**

The four back rooms (#10 – 13), and the adjacent hallways, are allocated for POP’s Treasures use at all times. POP’s Treasures may also use approximately half of the Fellowship Hall during their sales as necessary. This may be set up ahead of time, but use of the Fellowship Hall for other church functions takes precedence over POP’s Treasures up until the Tuesday before the sale. POP’s Treasures takes precedence for the Fellowship Hall from the Wednesday prior to the sale, until 2:00 pm on the Saturday of the sale. In certain circumstances, there may be flexibility at the discretion of the POP’s Treasures Committee.

The large closets are not to be used by POP’s Treasures without prior approval by congregation council.

The four back rooms are normally kept locked. A key shall be kept in the church key-box.

Two large trailers are set up outside the church building for the use of POP’s Treasures for storage.

Continued...

## ITEMS FOR SALE

Items for sale at POP's Treasures are donations from the congregation and the community. The POP's Treasures Committee will see that times are scheduled and announced to receive such items.

## CONNECTION TO RUMMAGE SALE

The Fun and Fellowship Committee generally conducts one or two Rummage Sales per year. As the Rummage Sale is similar in some ways to POP's Treasures and utilizes a similar group of volunteers. Items donated to the church may be shared between the two groups. The trailers may be used to store Rummage Sale items with the permission of the POP's Treasures Committee. If a conflict or disagreement arises between the two groups, congregation council will have the final say on settling such disagreement. Holding the two events simultaneously should be avoided.

## FINANCES

POP's Treasures shall have its own bank account, with signers from the POP's Treasures Committee and/or congregation council. All income and expenses should be monitored and reported by the church bookkeeper.

The intended purpose of POP's Treasures income is for *outreach*. At the end of each calendar year, at least 50% of the year's net income shall be allocated for outreach. 90% of this outreach amount (thus, at least 45% of the total income) shall be sent to various nonprofit organizations and charities. These might include local charities, ELCA ministries, or others. Organizations and ministries which Prince of Peace supports in other ways (such as through Social Ministry outreach) should be given consideration. The decision on where the year's outreach goes shall be made by the POP's Treasures Committee and reported to congregation council at their next meeting. Disbursements should be reported to the congregation as early as possible in the new year (such as in the newsletter), and also in the Annual Report.

The remaining 10% of the outreach amount shall be saved for use in purchasing some unbudgeted need of the congregation. Such purchases may be recommended by the POP's Treasures Committee but shall be approved by congregation council.

From their remaining amount, POP's Treasures may make purchases throughout the year for supplies, and for improvements, such as furniture, signage, or storage. Such purchases should be approved by the POP's Treasures Committee and reported to congregation council.

POP's Treasures' account shall have a cap of \$100,000. If that cap is exceeded, any excess should be spent on outreach, above the normal 50% for that year.

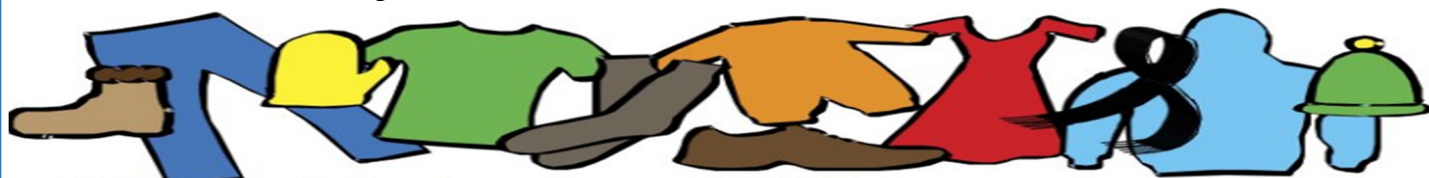
## FUTURE

As POP's Treasures, and the congregation of Prince of Peace, continue to grow and change, alterations to this document may be appropriate. This document should be reviewed regularly and adapted as necessary.

*Adopted 12/8/2024*

### FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY:

On Saturday, February 1st, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. we will be hosting a free clothing giveaway. Please share the news so others can be a part of a wonderful outreach. Questions: see Jackie Horn







### Social Ministry Project:

The VALOR Clinic Foundation provides veteran families in crisis with holiday meals at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They provide a complete day's meals starting with breakfast and ending with dessert. This helps families from having to decide between paying the bills or having a holiday meal. In 2024 on Easter, they provided a complete meal for 125 veteran families, and the number increases each holiday. This committee decided we would help them by collecting 6 of the 21 items needed for a complete meal. The items are: 3 cans green beans; 3 cans of corn (if purchasing the green beans or corn please purchase 3 of each); 1 box stuffing; 1 box cake mix; 1 can frosting, and 1 can pie filling. There will be a basket in the Narthex to place your items in. "1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." Social Ministry thanks you for your continued and generous support of our projects!

### Joyful Noise Update:

Thanks to your generosity all year, we closed 2024 with a total of \$1,050.00 (In July \$100.00 was given to the Youth CONVO for World Hunger). As always, half (\$525.00) will go to World Hunger, and half (\$525.00) will be donated to P.U.M.P. in memory of Charmaine Collins. Thanks to Charmaine P.O.P. will always be the peanut butter church. P.U.M.P. can buy peanut butter or whatever else they need. The Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your continued support of this ministry!



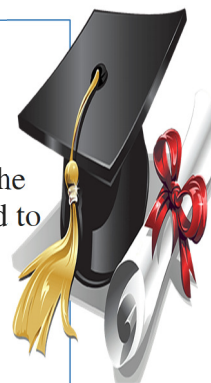
### CHURCH KEYS:

The property committee thanks everyone for making the lock change and the distribution of keys easy. While we realize this transition was needed, it can be difficult for some. If you are not a key holder and you have programs throughout the church year where you need access, please see Annette Buss in the office to have one signed out to use during your event. Also, we are collecting the old keys now that are not in use. Please see me, John Martocci or Jackie Horn to turn yours in. Thank You, —*Dennis Horn*

**The POP scholarship committee is pleased to announce that the Anthony D. and Jeanne M. Turtzo scholarship application form is now available for completion.**

All POP college students entering their second, third or fourth year of college/university for the 2025/2026 school year are eligible and encouraged to apply. The scholarship will be awarded to up to three students.

The 2025 application form and instructions can be downloaded from the church website at [popbangor.org](http://popbangor.org), alternatively send a request by e-mail to [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com). Completed applications are due by noon on Monday, May 5th, 2024.



## weis

**WEIS GIFT CARDS**— Just to let everyone know, we sold \$24,425 Weis gift cards in 2024, which gave the church a profit of \$4,522.50. These cards can be used to purchase ANYTHING at any Weis store. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.** We can continue to earn money for OUR church by simply continuing this convenient way to shop. So, continue buying these cards, and tell a friend. Let's see if we can beat the 2024 profit. —*Kale Baker*

### WEIS 1% DONATION PROGRAM UPDATE:

In 2024 we received \$1355.55 from a total of \$133,550 of grocery receipts. I will be dropping off at Weis another \$55,380.00 of grocery receipts which will net another \$553.00 for the start of 2025. **THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!** REMINDER: We can only use receipts for the Bangor Store....All tax, stamp purchases, gift card purchases, alcohol, prescriptions, tobacco and milk are deducted. —*Janet Martocci*

### Congratulations POP!!!!

We have already reached our goal for a new bench after saving over 1,000 lbs! In a year and a half, we have collected for recycling 1 ton of plastic (2000lbs)!!! It is truly amazing how much our world uses in plastic and how a little church in the middle of nowhere has been able to collect (along with friends) this much plastic. Thank you for putting a tiny footprint on helping our planet. We will continue to save plastic, so keep up the good work! --**Jackie Horn**



**Our NexTrex Challenge Continues:** Recycle your household bags and wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing. (Plastic must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue.) **From the store:** produce bags, store bags, ice bags. **From the pantry:** Ziploc and other re-closable bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags. **From your front door:** newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, plastic e-commerce mailers.

### Health Aid Items for P.U.M.P.

We are going to be collecting health aid items for the next several weeks for P.U.M.P.

Some suggested items include:

toothpaste	toothbrushes	body wash	bars of soap	shampoo
conditioner	Q-tips	men's deodorant	woman's deodorant	hand soap
feminine hygiene products, all types		mouthwash	dental floss	hand lotion
Vaseline	baby wipes	denture cleaner	band-aids	Neosporin, etc.

Please place your donations in the P.U.M.P. drawer labeled "Health Aid Donations" not with the food donations. Thank you for your continued support!



**Friends and members of Prince of Peace:** Thank you for your cards, calls and prayers during my rehab and since I've been home. I am so thankful to have so many people to think of me. God bless you all! —**Bill Kessler**

**To my POP family:** Thank you very much for your expressions of sympathy on the passing of my wife Jane. It is very comforting to know I do have a church family. A special thank you to Pastor Scholtes, and Larry Rissmiller for their words of comfort at this time. Thank you to the hospitality committee who did a great job. Thank you again! —**Ron Getz**

**A thank you letter** has been received from The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Giving Service and Justice, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response acknowledging our donation of \$2,500.00 to ELCA World Hunger. The letter is on the Gratitude Board located by the church offices.

FROM THE **RISING** OF THE **SUN**,  
TO THE PLACE WHERE IT SETS, THE  
**NAME** OF THE **LORD** IS TO BE  
**PRAISED.**

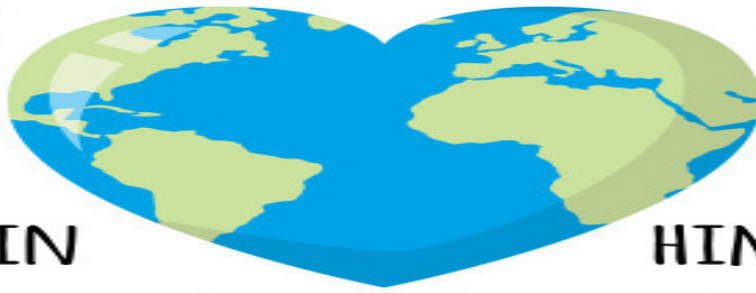
-PSALM 113:3

Saturday, February 01	Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sun after Epiph. (2/2)</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
Monday, February 03	Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
Tuesday, February 04	Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25
Wednesday, February 05	Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44
Thursday, February 06	Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25
Friday, February 07	Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31
Saturday, February 08	Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sun after Epiph. (2/9)</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Monday, February 10	Psalm 115; Judges 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40
Tuesday, February 11	Psalm 115; 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b; 1 Timothy 3:1-9
Wednesday, February 12	Psalm 115; Isaiah 8:1-15; Luke 5:27-32
Thursday, February 13	Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:12-19; Acts 13:26-34
Friday, February 14	Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Peter 1:17-2:1
Saturday, February 15	Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:1-4; Luke 11:24-28
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sun after Epiph. (2/16)</b>	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
Monday, February 17	Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34
Tuesday, February 18	Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19
Wednesday, February 19	Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52
Thursday, February 20	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11
Friday, February 21	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17
Saturday, February 22	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sun after Epiph. (2/23)</b>	Gen. 45:3-15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Cor 15:35-50; Luke 6:27-38
Monday, February 24	Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16
Tuesday, February 25	Psalm 38; 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33
Wednesday, February 26	Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4
Thursday, February 27	Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16
Friday, February 28	Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8

*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!*



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY SON, WHO SO –  
LIEVES IN HIM SHOULD  
NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.  
JOHN 3:16 – 17



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)  
Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013  
Office Phone: 610-588-2355  
Website: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)  
Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
**Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!**  
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**
- **Volunteer Pastoral Assist. Larry Rissmiller**
- **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally**
- **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Saviet,**
- **Administrative Assistant: Annette Buss**  
**Admin. Asst's Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.–Noon  
Thursday: 1 to 4 pm  
**Church email:** [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

#### **Congregation Council Members**

Larry Rissmiller, President	Jackie Horn
Kale Baker, Vice President	April Miller
Tina Johns, Secretary	Brenda Hughes
Allison Manicke, Youth	Wayne Jones
Jean Janosa	Kerri Miller
Mary O'Meally	Holly Blakeslee
Rev. Michael J. Scholtes	Justine Saviet

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!**

March 2025 Newsletter is:

**Tuesday,**  
**February 11 at Noon**

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

*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.\*\***

## **OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

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



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Engaging the Stranger Within: The Northeastern PA Synod's Racial Justice Work

Growing up in the American South, much of what was taught about racism dealt with history—slavery, annexation, Jim Crow, and integration. What (and how) we were taught in school, and the ways our community and churches remained unofficially segregated were “just the way things were.” There was a disconnect between the way things were and *why*. Racism was something that had happened, and we were living in the status quo of the Civil Rights Movement. And with that history focused so heavily in the South, it was like racism was somehow localized and intensified in that region, and we were more directly impacted by its legacy.

The privilege of my seminary formation and exposure to different contexts have shown just how limited my awareness of racism’s pervasiveness extends. Racism is a part of every community, congregation, home, and heart. It isn’t localized more intensely in one place or another. Our communities, workplaces, and churches in Northeastern Pennsylvania face the same legacy and challenges of confronting racist prejudices and practices, even if they expose themselves in different ways.



Cultural isolationism, unawareness of our past and current exploitation of the Lenni Lenape and Delaware peoples, emphasis on the immigrant heritage of our congregations while dismissing immigrant communities across the street, and an apathy to acts of violence against persons of color permeates our pews. Confronting personal, local, regional, and national instances of racial prejudice

is as important now as ever. The gospel gives us the assurance that the way things are is not how God calls us to be. To get from here to there, we need help learning what we don’t know, and hearing firsthand from our neighbors how we can work together to resist racism.

Through your Mission Support generosity, our Synod has the opportunity to walk together in more intentional ways as we learn about our communities’ and congregations’ complicity in racial prejudice and work for racial justice. Loving the land we steward in Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the people who occupy it, and healing the hurt of our ancestral and contemporary practices, begins with engaging the stranger we do not wish to see in ourselves so that we can better engage the stranger we do not currently see in our neighbors.





Pastor Jennifer Hall and Pastor Samantha Drennan at the 2024 youth pre-gathering event representing the Racial Justice Team

Racial Justice Boundary Training for rostered leaders, Synod Council and Staff, and congregational lay leaders has been an invaluable resource for beginning this work in our Synod. In January, we collaborated with [Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley](#) and our own Synod's [LGBTQ Task Force](#) at the Lutheran Center for a day of worship and action called MLK Jr. Day of Prayer and Service. Partnership with [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania \(LAMPa\)](#), [Liberty Lutheran's](#) MLK Day of Service, and local ecumenical and interfaith agencies committed to the course of justice in our neighborhood are but a few crucial ways we are already naming and confronting racism together as Christ's church, along with our

support of the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement](#). All of these endeavors are bolstered by your Mission Support giving, and reflect our shared commitment to growing together as disciples of Jesus who are gospel filled and Spirit led.




Just as the Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Psalm 103:6), so too does God charge the people with upholding the cause of justice for those most vulnerable (Deuteronomy 16:19-20; 24:17). To get involved in our shared work of racial justice and reconciliation, [reach out to a member of our Synod's Racial Justice Team](#), participate in local or regional educational opportunities with partnering colleges and universities, confront practices that reinforce barriers based on race and ethnicity, and have conversations with other disciples in your congregation about how your baptized community can work for justice and peace in in the world.


*Submitted by: The Rev. Brandon M. Heavner, Weisenberg- New Tripoli, NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team*


**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

# RACIAL JUSTICE

## TRAINING





## FEBRUARY 8

All Northeastern PA Synod rostered leaders (pastors, deacons, and synodically-authorized lay leaders) are required to have **Anti-Racism** at least once every three years.

Training will be presented by The Rev. Carla Christopher.

**9:30AM TO 3:00PM**  
**LUTHERAN CENTER**  
 2354 GROVE ROAD, ALLENTOWN  
 For more information & how to register, visit  
[godslove.org/racial-justice-training](https://godslove.org/racial-justice-training)