

Prints of Peace

As I write this in mid-March, the light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter. More and more people are receiving the COVID vaccine. The CDC is announcing new guidance that is giving us a sense that we might just see “normal” sometime soon.



We're all getting excited to see new life around us. The opportunity to gather in larger gatherings. The opportunity to see family members we've missed. The opportunity to go shopping without masks. The opportunity to sing in church. And so many other things. Those things are coming! This long, long year-plus of lockdown and pandemic and virus will end. We're not there yet, but we can see the finish line. I encourage you to enjoy this time, this time of hope and anticipation. This can be a time of dreaming for

the future, of talking with family and friends about what we hope to do next. It can also be a time of thinking about what changes we might make to our lives, as individuals, as families, as a church. Things don't have to look the same in 2022 as they did in 2019. We can use this opportunity to think about how to make a fresh start in some ways, even while we enjoy a return to other ways.

How wonderful that this is happening at this point in the church year, the seven-week season of Easter, which begins on Sunday, April 4. As we look forward to new life after the “death” that this past year has felt like, we will hear the New Testament stories of resurrection and life coming out of death. I am toying with a sermon series for Easter on the book of Acts, which tells the story of the first few years of the early church, a time of excitement and newness and new life, when the apostles explored and rejoiced in the new life that the resurrection and the Holy Spirit spread over all of them!

Together, let's explore and rejoice as well, as the days grow longer. As the COVID case numbers continue to go down, and the vaccinated numbers continue to rise. As the restrictions continue to be lifted. It's not over yet, but it does look (to me, anyway) as though it's the beginning of the end. Let's enthusiastically, yet patiently, enjoy this time of burgeoning life together.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

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 be added to the list.





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

Violet Khan, March 8 – inadvertently omitted last month!

Aria Hughes, March 20 – inadvertently omitted last month!

Justine Cesari, April 1

Virginia Pensyl, April 1

Tyler Hughes, April 2

Sharon Yetter, April 2

Nelson Hill, April 2

Benjamin Reinhart, April 2

Gladys Halfpenny, April 2

Lillian Khan, April 3

Lois Brozina, April 3

Robert Schuette, April 7

James Dotta, April 7

Matthew Rumsey, April 7

Janet Pearson, April 10

Neil Pearson, April 10

Shirley Pensyl, April 12

Samantha Gurski, April 13

Larry Smith, April 13

James Parsons, April 15

Tyler Flyte, April 15

Connie Itterly, April 15

Wayne Silvius, April 17

Tyler Reinhart, April 18

Andrea Gurski, April 18

Jacob Krock, April 20

Phyllis Patterson, April 23

Carolyn Carpenter, April 24

Colleen Hall, April 24

Diane Flynn, April 25

Betty Devito, April 26

Carol Shuman, April 28

Scott Manicke, April 28

Jacklyn Artley, April 29

Cameron Mousley, April 29

Ronald Miller, April 30



In-person (9:45 on Sundays)

All in-person worship services will include many alterations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including (but not limited to) altered seating arrangements, the wearing of masks, no singing, and so forth. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.

Online

At some point each Sunday afternoon, the service from that morning will be available online at our webpage: popbangor.org/video-worship.

Facebook

Like us at Facebook (facebook.com/popbangor), and you can view the same online worship services there.

Telephone

Call the toll free number 1-877-POP-2-POP (877-767-2767) anytime to hear the audio of our most recent online worship service.



MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Council reviewed and approved changes to the Continuing Resolutions to get them in line with current committee responsibilities, including identifying the Health and Wellness Committee as a standing committee. (It was formerly a subcommittee of Social Ministry.)
- Council discussed and approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee for an Internal Audit to be conducted this year. The committee had explored options for an external audit, and determined it to be cost-prohibitive. (This is not being done because of any specific issues, just to make sure we're operating transparently.)

Easter Meal Drive: Food Collection for P.U.M.P.



The Social Ministry Committee asks for your support during our annual Easter Meal Drive for the Portland-Upper Mount Bethel Food Pantry (P.U.M.P.). This year in lieu of giving out paper eggs we are asking for donations of the following items: instant mashed potatoes; box of scalloped potatoes; canned vegetable; canned fruit, and biscuit mix. Thank you for your generosity each holiday and all year long. You help feed local families who are facing hunger and food insecurity.



We're having an **Easter Egg Hunt** this year! **FOR ALL AGES! Sunday, March 28, 2021 11 a.m.**

Social distance and masks required. Bring a basket or a bag to collect the eggs. Bring a friend.

We will hunt outside, and once hunt is over you may take your eggs and depart.

The church building will not be accessible. For questions, contact Tina Johns at 570-350-5942.

(Rain date Saturday April 3, 2021 11am.)

Date:	Greeter	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Usher	Power Point
Sunday, April 4 Resurrection Sunday (6 a.m.) Grove	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A
Sunday, April 4 9:45 indoor service	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Janet Martocci	April Miller	Vivian Fahr, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker	Jim Jennings
Sunday, April 11	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Georgia Suranofsky	Kale Baker	Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr, Bob Gist	Kim Jennings
Sunday, April 18	Sue Reinhart, Brooks Baker	Kale Baker	Marlene Stana	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Georgia and John Suranofsky	Tina Johns
Sunday, April 25	Kale Baker, Connie Itterly	Connie Itterly	Tina Johns	Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr, Brenda Hughes	Antonioli Family
Sunday, May 2	Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr	Sherry Hock	Laraine Brands	Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker, Connie Itterly	Jim Jennings

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.



The holy season of Lent began on February 17, and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 4. Our Lenten worship will be different this year, as we are making some adjustments due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. Here is the current schedule, but please understand that further adjustments may be necessary depending on conditions:

HOLY WEEK: Our Holy Week schedule will be changed this year. Normally, we have worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. This year, there will only be **one** weekday service, on **Friday, April 2 at 7:00 pm**. This service will include elements of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This service will be recorded and shared online as well.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4: Our **6 am Easter Vigil** service will be held **entirely outdoors**, in the grove. The good news about this is that we now have an outdoor heater, and that should make it comfortable! There will also be an indoor service at our regular time of **9:45 am**. The 9:45 am service will be recorded and shared online, and hopefully the 6 am Easter Vigil as well.

Daily Readings



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY (3/28)	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1 – 15:47
Monday, March 29	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday, March 30	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday, March 31	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/1)	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
GOOD FRIDAY (4/2)	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
Saturday, April 3	Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (4/4)	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
Monday, April 5	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:1-19; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Tuesday, April 6	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:20-2:4a; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Wednesday, April 7	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Song of Solomon 3:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
Thursday, April 8	Psalm 133; Daniel 1:1-21; Acts 2:42-47
Friday, April 9	Psalm 133; Daniel 2:1-23; Acts 4:23-31
Saturday, April 10	Psalm 133; Daniel 2:24-49; John 12:44-50
2nd Sunday of Easter (4/11)	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2; John 20:19-31
Monday, April 12	Psalm 135; Daniel 3:1-30; 1 John 2:3-11
Tuesday, April 13	Psalm 135; Daniel 6:1-28; 1 John 2:12-17
Wednesday, April 14	Psalm 135; Isaiah 26:1-15; Mark 12:18-27
Thursday, April 15	Psalm 4; Daniel 9:1-19; 1 John 2:18-25
Friday, April 16	Psalm 4; Daniel 10:2-19; 1 John 2:26-28
Saturday, April 17	Psalm 4; Acts 3:1-10; Luke 22:24-30
3rd Sunday of Easter (4/18)	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Monday, April 19	Psalm 150; Jeremiah 30:1-11a; 1 John 3:10-16
Tuesday, April 20	Psalm 150; Hosea 5:15-6:6; 2 John 1:1-6
Wednesday, April 21	Psalm 150; Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 16:9-18
Thursday, April 22	Psalm 23; Genesis 30:25-43; Acts 3:17-26
Friday, April 23	Psalm 23; Genesis 46:28-47:6; Acts 4:1-4
Saturday, April 24	Psalm 23; Genesis 48:8-19; Mark 6:30-34
4th Sunday of Easter (4/25)	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Monday, April 26	Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5
Tuesday, April 27	Psalm 95; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; Revelation 7:13-17
Wednesday, April 28	Psalm 95; Micah 7:8-20; Mark 14:26-31
Thursday, April 29	Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:1-7; Acts 8:1b-8
Friday, April 30	Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:11-13; Acts 8:9-25
Saturday, May 1	Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32
5th Sunday of Easter (5/2)	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Samuel and Linda Zeiser Fund for Leaders Endowment



To honor the retirement of Bishop Zeiser, Prince of Peace would like to make a contribution to the Samuel and Linda Zeiser Fund for Leaders Endowment. The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarship assistance to persons studying for ordained ministry. To make a contribution to this gift you may drop your marked donation in the offering bucket, mail your donation to the church or contribute on line (select the option “Zeiser Foundation”). Bishop Zeiser was pastor of Prince of Peace for fourteen years, and so we would like to raise \$1400, which is \$100 for each year of his service with us. Donations will be accepted until April 30th.

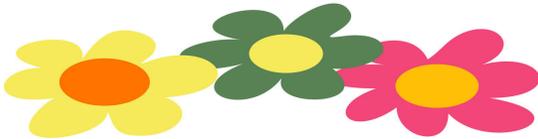
Photo of: Linda and Bishop Samuel Zeiser with their grandchildren James, Lillian, and Sadie.

Attention all college students! Applications for the 2021 **Turtzo Memorial Scholarship** are now available! Remember that this scholarship is only available to students entering their second or later year this fall.

If you would like to apply, please do so right away -- **the deadline is April 1, 2021!** You can download the forms at our website www.popbangor.org



Thank You



I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and called when Tony was in the hospital and after his passing. Also, thank you for the offers of help. It was appreciated very much! —*Betty DeVito*

for your Kindness

Honor Your Mother and Special Ladies for Mother’s Day—May 9th

Since we are not back to having weekly Announcement Folders just yet, we’ve come up with 3 special ways to observe Mother’s Day—in memory of and in honor of Mothers and special ladies! The names received will be listed in a display on the bulletin board by the church offices, a special document will be emailed on Pastor’s email group and be published in the June Newsletter. The suggested donation is \$1.00 per name, which will benefit the Sunday School. Donations may be placed in the offering buckets or mailed with your offering— just put a note designating that it is for Mother’s Day. (**Please don’t mail cash.**) Mail the names and your information to Annette at 2445 Lake Minsi Drive, Bangor, PA 18013, email the names to poplcbangor@gmail.com or call Annette at the church office: 610-588-2355 (leave a message if it’s after hours).



Deadline for names to be included is: Sunday, May 2nd

Please print

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

BY: _____

Use extra paper if more space is needed.

2020 Prince of Peace Financial Recap

COVID-19 had a dramatic impact on every aspect of our church, including our finances. There were three important ways the pandemic affected us. They were:

We applied for, and were granted, a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan from the federal government. While it is considered a loan, for us it is more like a grant as we have met the requirements for forgiveness of the loan. This was utilized to offset payroll expenses in the early stages of the pandemic, ensuring that key personnel would continue to work and be compensated. The amount was \$23,500.

Our overall income was down compared to both our budget and prior years. Our biggest area of reduced income was related to the lack of multiple activities that generate income for us that did not run due to COVID-19, including the Farm Show stand, rummage sales, WEIS card sales and collection of WEIS receipts. We also experienced a slight decrease in total annual offerings. Considering the many weeks with no in person worship, our offering totals held up quite well. Thank you for your support!

Our overall expenses were also down compared to both our budget and prior years. In most cases, expenses were down by default. The closure of our building, the lack of many activities running, and a reduced level of operations across the organization meant that our spending was down in almost every area except for staff compensation.

The table below shows a comparison of our actual performance to our budget:

	2020 Actual Performance	2020 Budget
Total Revenue	\$220,857	\$234,416
Total Expenses	\$199,500	\$234,416
Net Income (includes PPP Loan)	\$ 21,357	N/A
PPP Loan	\$ 23,500	N/A
Net Income (without PPP Loan)	(\$ 2,143)	N/A

In considering these results, it is important to understand the impact of the PPP Loan. The combination of receiving the loan and our reduced expenses for the year mean that we show revenue that is more than \$21,000 higher than expenses. While those are the actual results, we get a clearer view of our true operation if we look at the results without including the loan, which shows that expenses exceeded income by just over \$2,100.



I am attempting to compile a list of items that have been donated to Prince of Peace either in Memory of, or in Honor of loved ones. If you have information or photos that would be helpful in this search please let me know. I can be reached by email at tcbpai@gmail.com or cell at 610-554-2381. (Thank you to those that have already reached out to me!) —*Connie Itterly*



They are trying to have a complete photo library of each confirmation class. The missing years are: 1972, 1982, 1986, 1988-1998, 2009, 2016, 2018, 2019. We can make a copy if you have an original. The committee really wants to have a complete collection. Please contact any of the committee members: Denny Horn, Jackie Horn, Connie Itterly, John Martocci, and Brenda Stauffer.



**Giving to God
the things
that are God's**

But me, who am I, and who are these my people that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand." -1 Chronicles 29: 14

The results of this year's stewardship campaign are as follows:

15 total intentions were committed for an increase of \$457.00 per month. We are grateful for these increases. We are also thankful to those who continue to support the ministry of Prince of Peace. You may increase your giving at anytime during the year.

Remember to look for the Acts of Generosity story every Wednesday in Pastor's Notes



Earlier in the winter our BSA scout troops offered to help with snow removal. While we might still get some snow, they're all looking toward spring right now! The scout troops are now offering help with spring yard work to people in the community, whether members of Prince of Peace or not. They will be available on Saturdays over the next few months. If you, or a neighbor, would like help with this, please contact Dave Karner at davidkarner1@gmail.com or 484-280-8657. Please know, this is a service opportunity for the scouts, not a fundraiser. They're not looking for payment! What a generous way to share God's love with the community!

The Power of a Mini Prayer Cloth

Beginning Sunday, April 11, we will have mini prayer cloths available in the narthex at church. I encourage everyone to take one, and keep it on you – in your purse, or your jacket pocket, or somewhere it'll be with you when you're out. What are you supposed to do with them? Give them away! Keep your eyes open for an opportunity

like the one listed below. The following paragraph was shared with me anonymously. You can be that person as well!
-Pastor Scholtes

A Prayer for Protection
Let the Light of God surround you.
Let the Love of God enfold you.
Let the Power of God protect you.
Let the Presence of God watch over you.
Wherever you are, God is...

As you may know, a group of us at POP are making mini prayer cloths. We made them with the intention of giving them to



healthcare workers. So far we have given 285 mini prayer cloths to 11 healthcare facilities and nursing homes. The feedback has been amazing, and they seem to bring comfort to those receiving them. That got me thinking: why not carry one in my handbag, just in case? Well, that "just in case" happened on Saturday, February 27th while I was shopping in Sam's Club. I observed a female employee who seemed to be stressed out. Now my question was "do I approach her or not". The Holy Spirit answered me and led me to her. The conversation went something like this: Me: I hope you don't mind me approaching you but you look very stressed? Her: I am. Me: I pulled out the mini prayer cloth and told her how we were making them at church for healthcare workers, and how much it brings them comfort during this stressful time. I asked her if she would like one to keep in her pocket, and to read the prayer when she is stressed. Her: I would like one, thank you so much.

That night I thanked God for using me to bring comfort to someone and asked Him to continue to do so. How blessed we are to be a blessing to others. **-A servant of God!**



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

Web-site: www.popbangor.org
Webmaster: Isaak Griggs—isaakgriggs@gmail.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**
- **Organist/Music Leader: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O’Meally**
- **Sexton: Brittnee Brown**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895, cesarijustine1080@gmail.com**
- **Church Secretary: Annette Buss**

Church Secretary’s Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am–Noon Thursday: 1 to 4 pm
Church Secretary’s email: poplcbangor@gmail.com

Church Council Members:

Georgia Suranofsky - President	Dennis Horn
Connie Iterly - Vice President	Luke Hoff
Marlene Stana - Secretary	Scott Schipps
Dave Karner	Kathy Williams
Traci Rumsey	Chip Harrison
Benjamin Manicke-Youth Rep.	Bruce Antonioli
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!

Deadline date for the May 2021 Newsletter is:

April 13th.

*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 the next month’s newsletter.****

Publication’s title & number:
PRINTS OF PEACE

Statement of frequency
Published Monthly: 12 issues

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

Authorized Organization’s

Name and Address:
PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
2445 LAKE MINSI DRIVE
BANGOR, PA 18013-5418

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Growing Young & Vital: June 4&5, 2021

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Synod Assembly will run from the beginning of April through May 17, 2021. Our theme for this year is "Growing Young and Vital," which engages three different lanes: loving the land, healing the hurt, and engaging the stranger. We are a church in three expressions, Churchwide, synods, and congregations. In each expression of the church we seek to find joy and vitality in ministry with people of all ages.

This year we'll welcome Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to participate in the installation of our Bishop, Christopher deForest! We'll also elect members of our synod to attend the Churchwide Assembly (CWA) as voting members in 2022.

Along with electing voting members to the CWA, we will be engaging important issues



"So then if any person is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things are gone away, and look, new things have arrived".

2 Corinth. 5:17, CEB

New Life and Vital Signs

We are resurrection people living in the hope and promise of eternal life in Christ. For us as Christ's followers, new life follows death, and there are signs of new life everywhere!

Sometimes, it feels as if we have been in a place between sleep and waking for these past twelve months, but new life is happening! If last spring was a time when we experienced more closely than ever the kind of fear and sadness the disciples may have felt at the death of Jesus, this year, while there is still much grief and weariness of these difficult days, we are also experiencing the newness of life, in powerful ways, as we head toward the empty tomb and lives of liberation, aliveness, and joy of the resurrection!

Some of the most moving moments of new life for me in recent weeks has been visiting people in local nursing homes for the first time since last year. It was wonderful to be physically present and spending time with God's people.

There is much energy and new life at **Christ Lutheran**

and topics, attending to the business of our synod as outlined in the constitution, and participating together in festival worship.

While we talk about, wonder about, and carry out our theme: Growing Young and Vital, we'll be setting the stage for asking congregations and ministries throughout our synod to identify their vital signs and places they're healing the hurt, engaging the stranger, and loving the land!



Growing Young & Vital
Northeastern PA Synod

BISHOP INSTALLATION

You're invited to worship with us as we install our Bishop, Christopher deForest. This will take place after the synod assembly. Whether you attend the synod assembly or not, you're invited to participate fully in the Installation Worship! We will broadcast the installation worship live for all to participate and witness this truly joyous occasion. More information will follow letting you know how to connect to the worship and specific start time. Please plan to attend as we connect all three expressions of the church!

Conyngham, and it feels exciting, like when the beautiful spring flowers pop out of the thawing ground in spring. Some of the new and renewed life, includes getting started with **Growing Young**, and having our first get together this week to dive into the book and the six essential strategies so that we might continue to engage people of all ages in the life of the church. We hope to create excitement and vitality for people of every age on the disciple's path engage in leadership, and God's ministries in action. For Easter there are various exciting things happening... Among them, Christ Lutheran will have its first **Outdoor Sunrise Easter Service**, and stations of the cross set up in the outdoor areas. We've invited people from the congregation and community to pick up a devotional, and take a self-guided prayer walk any day during Holy Week. **We are also re-establishing a congregational care team** and adding some new ways for folks to minister to one another. We also experience new life in getting back to many of the already established life-giving ministries here! Thanks be to God for new life, new creation, and new beginnings!

Meet Eric Gombert

I was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley where I graduated from Whitehall High School. College years found me at Westminster Choir College, completing my degree in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ. During the thirty plus years since, I've taught both piano & organ, directed a community chorus, performed with regional ensembles, worked in business with roles including payroll, accounts payable, & technology, and served both part-time and full-time as musician for Lutheran congregations. All of this has come together to a place in my life when I am actively utilizing my gifts in both the musical & administrative areas. As **Director of Operations at the Synod**, I am responsible for overseeing building resources & technology, & the functions of bookkeeper and financial administrator. My husband, Matthew, and I have been together since 2000 & married since 2015. We are actively involved with raising our Great Dane puppy, wiping dog drool from everything, including the ceiling, roasting coffee, and tending our organic garden.

