

Prints of Peace

From the Pastor...



How can we have Christmas in the middle of a pandemic? Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and happiness and family and food. How can we celebrate that while we're still trying to keep away from crowds, while we're still trying to isolate, while we're concerned about getting the virus, about giving it to someone else?

It's a good question, and one that's likely on the minds of many people across our nation and indeed the world right now. So I'd like to take this article as an opportunity to look for a moment at what *Christmas* is really all about, what *Christmas* really means. It's an interesting topic, because there are so many different ways to think about Christmas, aren't there?

There's **Television Christmas**. Television Christmas is the holiday we see celebrated on sitcoms and "holiday specials." It's the Christmas that gets celebrated by Big Bird and by Mickey Mouse. It's a type of Christmas that never mentions Jesus, never mentions God, never mentions a birth. I love this Christmas, because the Muppets have celebrated it together so many times. (Once with John Denver!) It's a Christmas that's based on love and togetherness, hope and peace. But no mention of where any of that comes from.

There's **Commercialized Christmas**. Let's be honest. On one level, Christmas is all about presents. All about stuff. All about giving and receiving. And who doesn't love opening presents Christmas morning? (Or whenever your family opens gifts.) Who doesn't love seeing someone open that perfect gift you bought for them? Who doesn't love seeing the January credit card bill when it all comes due? Who doesn't love the fact that Christmas-time starts on November 1, so the stores can get more money? Yes, Commercialized Christmas has a companion, called Complain-About-Commercialized Christmas, and people have been talking about the sad commercialization of Christmas since at least the 1890's. That's right, not the 1980's, the **eighteen-nineties**. It's not new.

There's **Children's Christmas**. This one involves somebody named Santa Claus. Who is kind of, sort of, a version of a 4th-century Turkish bishop named St. Nicholas. The history of how St. Nicholas was transfigured into Kris Kringle is complicated and confusing, but every child knows that eight (or nine) reindeer fly around every December 25 to carry his sleigh full of toys.

There's **Family Christmas**. The year my sister joined the Peace Corps, we knew we wouldn't see her in December, so we celebrated Christmas in October that year. My mother said, "It's Christmas whenever my kids are here." There's a type of Christmas that's all about family and togetherness. This Christmas usually involves very specific traditions around food, games, church attendance, and so forth. This is the version of Christmas that gets so very difficult when someone has died, because it's never the same anymore, never quite complete.

There's **Miserable-Nostalgia Christmas**. When I'm feeling especially cynical, I see Christmas as something like this: a time to look back at how much better things were in the past. A time to think about how much better Christmas was in the 1950's, or in our childhood, or whenever. A time to be miserable about how nothing's the way it used to be.

I think there's some truth to all of these descriptions of Christmas. And maybe you can identify more. The truth is, Christmas in America is a very complicated holiday, full of joys and sorrows alike. And this year, probably more sorrows due to the pandemic.

And so I invite you to consider this:

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In a country that knew oppression under the brutal regime of Rome...in a time when violence and suffering was rampant...in a land where prophets had promised release for so many generations, release that had never come...in a place where people were believing that God had finally abandoned them...

...the angel Gabriel came to an unmarried woman, promising that she would bear a son, and she believed.
...an angel of the Lord came to the fiancé of this woman, telling him to marry her despite her pregnancy, and he believed.

...the Lord God Almighty, the Word of God Eternal, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Great I AM, pitched a tent in the town of Bethlehem. The Word of God made flesh. The Love of God made immanent. The Presence of God made *here*.

...in the very place, the very time where God seemed absent, God became present in a way that no one expected. In a way that none of us can ever truly comprehend.

...God arrived to be with us.

Angels sang the news.

Shepherds proclaimed the birth.

Magi bowed before him.

And we sing and proclaim and bow today.

That's Christmas. God with us. Cling to that this strange year. All the other meanings of Christmas pale next to that. God with us.

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 get added to the list.

**Highlights from the November
Congregation Council meeting:**

- Pastor has been elected Dean of the Pocono Mission District.
- Financially, Prince of Peace is stable.

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Helen I. Lane (November 13)



Tyler Flyte is now the head of the Altar Guild. We thank him for accepting this position and thank Sue Reinhart for her dedication and hard work.

Altar Guild is in need of additional staff to fill vacancies. You are assigned with a partner and usually have one month of the year to serve. It usually requires about 2 hours of your time per week. We all work together and welcome new members.

ALTAR GUILD

If you are interested in helping to serve Prince of Peace in worship or have questions please see Tyler, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen or Pastor Scholtes.



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

- Mark Cotturo, December 1
- Elwood Hower, December 3
- Nicole Slegel, December 3
- Velma Shook, December 4
- Anthony Devito, December 8
- Juanita Hower, December 11
- Grace Fraunfelter, December 16
- Jean Callie, December 16
- Danielle Schipps, December 16
- Jaron Hughes, December 17
- Kathy Williams, December 18
- Samantha Streisguth, December 19
- Sandra Brodt, December 21
- Janice Kiefer, December 22
- David Karner, December 22
- Carolyn Leidy, December 24
- Robin Ott, December 24
- Patricia Antonioli, December 26
- Brenda Dotta, December 27
- Stephanie Fraunfelter, December 29

WORSHIP *With* US

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. For detailed information, see the "re-opening" document provided with the October newsletter. 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.

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.



Are you planning to attend the Christmas Eve special gathering? Would you be available to help? Please contact Pastor Scholtes for details. Thank you!

| Date: | Greeter | Lay Reader | Assisting Minister | Usher | Power Point |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Sunday, December 6 | Mary O'Meally, Diane Hahn | Kim Jennings | April Miller | Vivian Fahr, Bob Gist, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker | Jim Jennings |
| Sunday, December 13 | Georgia and John Suranofsky | Brooks Baker | Kale Baker | Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart | Kim Jennings |
| Sunday, December 20 | Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey | Connie Itterly | Marlene Stana | Kale Baker, Brooks Baker, Georgia and John Suranofsky | Tina Johns |
| Sunday, December 27 | Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart | Georgia Suranofsky | Tina Johns | Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey, Bob Gist | Antonioli Family |
| Sunday, January 3 | Kale Baker, Brooks Baker | Sherry Hock | Laraine Brands | Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Diane Hahn | Jim Jennings |

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly 2020 by Brenda Stauffer

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly began on Friday evening, October 16th with worship. Bishop Zeiser led this service and gave his final message to the people of this synod as he ends his second term as bishop. He then called for the Order for Opening the Assembly, and a review of the Rules of Procedure for an Online Assembly were presented and the Adoption of the Program were approved and then business of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod began.

The First Plenary Session was a busy one. Mr. William B. Horn III, Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and our Churchwide Representative was introduced to the assembly. He will be instructing us and overseeing the Process for the Election of a Bishop. We were now ready for the First Ballot for Bishop.

Greetings and reports were given by leaders from a few Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod ministries. Reports were given by Bishop Zeiser, Kristen Edelman-Weiner, Synod Council Vice President and Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Council Secretary. There were three resolutions for the Committee of Reference and Council to bring before the assembly. The resolution for the Reinstatement of the SALM or Similar Program and the resolution Regarding Youth and Young Adult, Persons of Color, and/or Persons Whose Primary Language is Other Than English Representation at Synod Assembly were approved as printed. The resolution to Engage the Current Diminishing Numbers of Those Serving as Pastoral Leaders was discussed at length and was later approved during the assembly. For your information there has been a fund set up for Bishop Zeiser and his wife Linda, called the Samuel and Linda Zeiser Fund for Leaders Scholarship and each congregation or individuals are invited to make a generous gift to this fund.

We ended the evening with the Nominating Committee reporting that after all the nominations there are seventy-eight names on the ballot for Bishop. If someone was nominated and they are not interested in continuing with the nomination they could have their name removed from the list by Sunday morning.

Plenary Session Two was held Sunday afternoon, October 18th and it was another busy day. The Nominating Committee reported that after names were removed there were nineteen names left on the Second Ballot for Bishop, so we voted. There was an address by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Vice President, Mr. William B. Horn III and comments by Mr. Jim Jennings, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Council. Greetings from Executive Director of Bear Creek Camp and greetings from Portico Benefit Services were extended. Report of the Synod Treasurer, the 2021 Spending Proposal and the 2021 Compensation Guidelines were approved. During each session there was a video entitled Celebration of our Ministry Together. The first video was Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton talking about and thanking all congregations for their Mission Support dollars and how those dollars are used to help in all kinds of situations around the world. Some videos were of congregations in our synod and how they are doing ministry in their communities. Another one was the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Celebrating 50 40 10, a celebration of women. The 50th anniversary of the United States Lutheran Churches' decision to ordain women. The 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color and the 10th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's decision to officially ordain people in same gender committed relationships. All of the videos were very informative and exciting to see.

We ended the afternoon with the Nominating Committee reporting there are seven names left for the Third Ballot for Bishop. So, voting members could learn more about the nominees they wrote a biographical sheet, did a two-minute address by video and there was a question and answer time.

Our first plenary session was held on Saturday morning, October 24th. We began with Mission District Caucuses, that is voting members meeting by zoom in Mission Districts they were representing to talk about the nominees. When we came back together, we did the Third Ballot for Bishop. There were also two Synod elections we needed to take care of; Synod Council-Lay Female-3 Year Term and the Discipline Committee-Clergy. The Nominating Committee came back with the results of the Third Ballot for Bishop and there are now three.

Every year during the Synod Assembly there is a Recognition of Those Celebrating Major Roster Anniversaries and this year there were thirty-four anniversaries. Beginning at fifteen years and going to

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and including seventy years. Also, pastors new to the Synod and pastors who have retired were introduced to the assembly.

Our second plenary session for today began with a three-minute statement from the nominees and then we did the Fourth Ballot for Bishop. Introductions of candidates for the roster were made and a report from the outgoing Candidacy Committee chair was given. A report of the Synod Women of the ELCA was given. The Nominating Committee reported that we are down to two nominees. The Fifth Ballot for Bishop was taken. The Nominating Committee announced we have a new Bishop. The Rev. Christopher DeForest is our new Bishop. He will be installed as Bishop on December 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at the Lutheran Center and the service will be live streamed.

I know this seems rather long, but it went by quickly. The online assembly went smoothly for the most part. Just a few glitches, but they were fixed quickly. All the documents we needed to have for information were handy on the computer and the voting part was very easy with LUMI.

Larry and I thought it was really nice having a front row seat in a comfortable chair and being in a comfortable temperature was great. There were some things I missed by not being there in person, but it was a good assembly and we elected a new Bishop.

WEIS GIFT CARDS!! ARE BACK!!!!

Reserve your cards today! We are making sure you are prepared for the holidays! If you would like to give Weis cards away as gifts, we will have them! If you would like some for yourself, we have you covered! Just call Jackie Horn at 610-810-7268 or the office 610-588-2355. Reserve yours today.

We will have them in an envelope with your name with the amount requested for easy pickup. Please write a check (preferred) for payment and you can pick up at church or on Sunday after worship. Get yours today!



Stewardship Thought for December

How do you use your perfect gift?

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. -Ephesians 2:8a*

True confessions: I've never worn the jaunty Christmas tie my son bought me five years ago. It's a waste, I know. At the end of every December I shake my head and say, well, maybe next year. We ought to make good use of our gifts, but most of us have a few Christmas presents, given and received in love, that are forlornly collecting dust in a drawer or closet.

That's not very good stewardship. More important than a bottle of perfume or a loud tie, how are you stewarding that most precious of all Christmas gifts—the new life you have through faith in Jesus? Do you cherish it, honor it, make the most of all it has to offer? Because it is truly amazing.

New life. Too many Christians focus exclusively on the AFTERlife that begins when we die. But that's missing out on the joy, peace and fulfillment that Jesus promises us today, what he describes as life abundant. You've doubtless seen evidence of this life in the cheerful eyes and peaceful smiles of holy people you've encountered. Light seems to radiate from them. I want that life. Don't you?

The abundant life is Jesus' free gift, but it doesn't come automatically. It grows with us as we grow in faith through prayer, scripture study, worship, service and generosity – the disciplines of faith. In doing so, we align our hearts and souls with God's purposes and fulfill ever more closely those two holy commandments to love God and neighbor.

This year, don't let your faith end up like a jaunty Christmas tie, hanging unused in the closet. Make the most of it and live into the new, abundant life Jesus promises to us all. It's the number one stewardship lesson.



“Gabriel!”

That’s the title of 2020 Advent Devotions written by Joe Scholtes, which will tell stories of four individuals who have the same name: one an angel, another a college professor, and two who are elderly men. All four Gabriels speak a message of good news. If you are not already on Joe’s email devotions list, you can be added by contacting him at eaglejoe48@live.com.

ON-LINE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR: We’re also going to prepare a video to celebrate Christmas in our congregation. And we need YOUR help for this. We have a few people ready to come to your house and take photos and/or video of your Christmas decorations and Christmas traditions. Just contact Pastor Scholtes to schedule a time. We are looking for photos of your tree, your decorations, your family. We are looking for video of you singing a Christmas song, or baking your favorite Christmas cookies, or opening an Advent calendar, or engaging in any Advent/Christmas tradition at all. The more the better! We’ll add this to some Christmas music that Martin plays, as well as a Christmas conversation (“sermon”) with Kermit the Frog, and some special surprises. Please be a part of it! **Contact Pastor Scholtes to schedule a visit, or just send him your own photos or videos at pastorMJS@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions: Tuesday, December 15th.**



**From your Social Ministry Committee: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
—Hebrews 13:16**

Romans 1:12 "Each of us will be a blessing to the other." Well, it's that time of year again, time for us to give back to others since God has blessed us all year. This year due to COVID buying Christmas gifts for PUMP may be a bit more challenging, that's why we're giving you the option of taking a gift tag, or making a monetary donation, using the box in the Narthex, through the offering plate or online giving. There are several people in Prince of Peace willing to purchase the gift for you if you're not comfortable shopping. If you want to participate in this much needed ministry, pick a gift tag, approach a committee member, give them the money and tag. Your gift will be purchased and wrapped and brought to church. You will then receive a phone call telling you what item was purchased. Wrapped gifts with the tag attached must be returned to church by **December 20th**. If it's more convenient for you someone will come to your home to pick up the gift. Questions: Contact Mary O'Meally 610-708-0003, Sherry Hock, Brenda Stauffer, Holly Blakeslee 484-903-8591, and Marlene Stana 610-588-3262. You may approach anyone of us, along with Georgia Suranofsky 610-703-0638 with your gift tag and money. As always we thank you for your continued and generous support of this and all our ministries. This committee wishes you all a calm and blessed Christmas filled with the true peace of Christ our Lord. Let's pray for a better 2021!!

CHRISTMAS 2020 AT PRINCE OF PEACE ...



We will offer our annual “**Blue Christmas**” service, designed for people who find the holidays difficult, on Sunday, December 20 at 3 pm. This quiet, hope-filled service is offered with people in mind who have suffered a loss, such as a family death, a divorce, a deployed family member, or anything else that causes the holidays to be a struggle. If that describes someone you know, please consider inviting them. This service will be in-person, indoors, following the same guidelines as we do on Sunday mornings. It will also be recorded and shared online that evening for folks who would like to participate from home.

MEALS AT THE MANGER

Attending the Christmas Eve service? Don't forget Meals At The Manger. Every year we at Prince of Peace bring nonperishable food items to this service, placing them in the manger right outside of the church door. But it might be some place else this year. Don't worry –we'll let you know!

These items will then be taken to PUMP our area food bank. There are many in need this year, so let's all be modern day wise men (and women) and bring our gifts to share for all.

*—Thank you and Merry Christmas
from the Social Ministry Committee.*



CHRISTMAS  EVE

Thursday, December 24 @ 4 pm.

Our worship at Prince of Peace will be outdoors, in the church parking lot. Why? Because we can safely **sing** outdoors! (We have learned that singing indoors is tremendously unsafe, and can spread the coronavirus, even while wearing masks. Outside we won't have that problem.) But it will be amazing! Martin has provided us with a brass quartet from Scranton who will help lead the singing. The service will be an adapted form of **Lessons and Carols**. Essentially, we will hear the Christmas story in all its glory, and sing out all the familiar Christmas carols we associate with Christmas Eve worship. Attendants will help you park, and you are invited to either stay in your car or sit/stand near your car. (Bring your own chairs and masks.) We also invite you to bring along a candle to light for the singing of *Silent Night*. (A battery operated candle would be a fine choice if you prefer. We will have glow-sticks available for those who don't have candles.)



*The following individuals are fondly remembered by family and friends
and contributions have been made in their name for All Saints Day.*

In Loving Memory of:

Earl and Gloria Steinmetz Sr., and Earl Steinmetz, Jr.

By Brenda and Larry Stauffer

Paul and Elizabeth Stauffer and Dona Stocker

By Larry and Brenda Stauffer

John H. Suranofsky and Franklin T. Brown, Jr.

By John and Georgia Suranofsky

Joyce Weidlick

By the GoWams

Peg Golden

By the GoWams

Arlington and Joyce Weidlick, Ethel Fuls, Edwin and Jeanette Johnson

By John and Joanne Robinson

My parents, Esther and Stanley Godshalk and my brother, Allen Godshalk

By Susan Reinhart

Betty Leininger

By Louise Brown

Helen and Delmore Smith, Ada and Manus McLean, Emma and Russell Eichlin, Manus and Leona McLean

By Manus Smith

My beloved husband Junior Paul Romagnoli

By Dollie R. Romagnoli

Covid victims

By Brenda and Craig Hughes

Jennie

By William Kasebier

Arlington and Joyce Weidlick

By Chip and Michele Harrison

David Wesley Jones

By Sherk and June Jones

Leroy and Isabel Shook

By Mr. and Mrs. Barry Yetter

Grace and Frank Thompson

By Carolyn Leidy

All who have died with Covid

By Cathy Mullen

Marwood Hill

By Wilma Hill

Isabel Shook

By Janet Martocci

Loved Ones

By Doris Bachman

Pauline Lenhardt

By Gladys Halfpenny

Stefanie A. Purvis

By Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duran

In Loving Honor of:

Theresa C. Suranofsky and Wanda M. Riley

By John and Georgia Suranofsky

Spending Time With The Word . . .



*Is Time
Well Spent*

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, December 1 | Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10 |
| Wednesday, December 2 | Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38 |
| Thursday, December 3 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 |
| Friday, December 4 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26 |
| Saturday, December 5 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33 |
| Sunday, December 6 | Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8 |
| Monday, December 7 | Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42 |
| Tuesday, December 8 | Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18 |
| Wednesday, December 9 | Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17 |
| Thursday, December 10 | Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11 |
| Friday, December 11 | Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16 |
| Saturday, December 12 | Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32 |
| Sunday, December 13 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28 |
| Monday, December 14 | Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17 |
| Tuesday, December 15 | Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4 |
| Wednesday, December 16 | Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13 |
| Thursday, December 17 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4 |
| Friday, December 18 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14 |
| Saturday, December 19 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52 |
| Sunday, December 20 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 |
| Monday, December 21 | Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-14 |
| Tuesday, December 22 | Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13 |
| Wednesday, December 23 | Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11 |
| Thursday, December 24 | Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20 |
| Friday, December 25 | Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14 |
| Saturday, December 26 | Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 |
| Sunday, December 27 | Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 |
| Monday, December 28 | Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18 |
| Tuesday, December 29 | Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50 |
| Wednesday, December 30 | Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13 |
| Thursday, December 31 | Psalm 148; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19 |
| Friday, January 1 | Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21 |
| Saturday, January 2 | Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18 |



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

Web-site: www.popbangor.org

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

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

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 January 2021 Newsletter is:

Tuesday, December 8th

*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

Moving Forward as Church Together

A Farewell from Bishop Zeiser



I want to say thank you to all who served the assembly as voting members. Your patience, your willingness to accompany this synod in a new direction, and your faithful participation to the end of the assembly are important components of this synod's strength, and sure signs that "We Are Church Together".

During Assembly 2020, it was especially encouraging to see such a gifted slate of nominees and candidates for the office of bishop. Thank you to all who were open to the stirring of the Holy Spirit by allowing their names to go forward in the balloting.

I have known Bishop-elect deForest for ten years, and I have worked with him as he helped envision, plan, and produce our last six synod assemblies. Now, he and I have been, and will be, working together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. I know that God has given Christopher substantial gifts to serve in this office and to work with the Rostered Ministers and congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod. Just as I look forward to my retirement, I also look forward to Christopher's leadership as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

A Greeting from Bishop Elect deForest

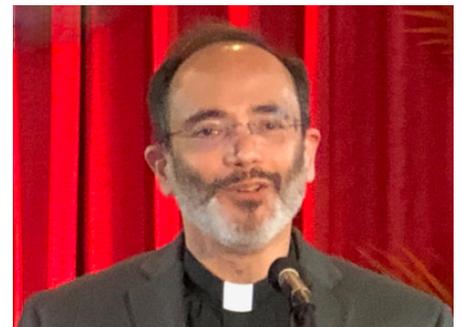
These are challenging times. I don't need to tell all of you what that means. But these are also times to give deep thanks. And to hold tight to the promise that Jesus is here, and Christ is coming. Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Ash Wednesday. Lent. Holy Week. Easter. They are all coming. They will be here, soon. Not to bring us more anxiety and more things to do. But to bring us love, joy, peace, and hope.

This is also a time of opportunity: to heal, to grow, to dream, and to act. Working alongside Bishop Zeiser, I hope to hear from many different voices to seek their wisdom, guidance, expertise and involvement going forward. I'll be hearing from our Synod staff. From congregational leaders.

From other synods and their leaders. From other faith communities. And from the others who were nominated to this office of Bishop at last month's Online Assembly. And I can promise you that I will be praying, listening, and learning, in these days to come, to help us all discern how to be, and to act, and to remain: Christ-centered, Spirit-Led, and God-Reliant.

And so, I am here to commit to you that when I take office on January 1st, 2021, I will begin my tenure as your Bishop by taking a sabbath rest. I will not come into the Synod offices or do any work until Monday, January 11. No email. No social media. Only time for rest, with my family, and with our God. I want to start my time working with you as the most sabbath-rested servant-leader I can possibly be.

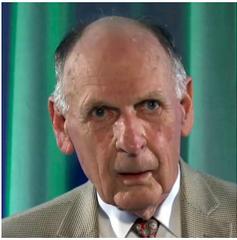
And then, after resting, let us return - refreshed, and ready to go where the Spirit is leading, centered in Christ, relying on God. We wish you blessings, love, joy, peace and hope, in this season and into this bright new year. God bless.



Online Assembly 2020 - We Did It!

Our Synod was the first in Region 7 to hold an online assembly, and it went really well.

Elections were held. Resolutions were adopted. Reports were received. Events were celebrated.



Elections. The process for electing a bishop was overseen by Mr. Ed Cool and by Mr. William "Bill" Horne II, Vice President of the ELCA, who also brought greetings and a report from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pastor Christopher deForest was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod on the 5th ballot, with 260 votes. Pastor Ryan Hersch, of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, received 222 votes. The other five candidates were Pastors Charles Grube,



Becca Middeke-Conlin, Nelson Quiñones, Susan Ruggles, and Martha Sipe.

Additionally, Pattie Corcoran, Joshua Fink, Pastor Gregory Frey, and Louise McCoughan were elected to the Synod Council either by their Mission District or by the Assembly; and Dr. Margaret Ann Rapp and Pastor Michael Ware were elected to the Synod Discipline Committee.

Worship. Assembly worship was coordinated by Deacon Michael Krentz, who also composed a hymn "We Are Church Together" especially for Assembly 2020. Opening worship was a Service of the Word and included participants from around the synod, as well as a sermon by Bishop Zeiser. There was also music and prayer throughout the course of the Assembly.



Celebrations. A highlight of the first Friday evening was a video celebrating 50/40/10, the 50th anniversary of U.S. Lutheran churches' decision to ordain women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to officially ordain people in same-gender committed relationships. The Assembly also recognized major anniversaries of rostered ministers, especially those celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry.

Vice President Kristen Edelman-Weiner's Report. Vice President Kristen emphasized the importance of "Moving Forward as Church Together." Using the metaphor of an old tree line on her property and the efforts she made to revive it, Kristen acknowledged that new growth doesn't happen easily. It requires hard work; attention to caretaking; patience; the willingness to take risks and encounter failures; and above all, faith in God's promises and an optimistic hope in the future God intends for us.



**Because of COVID-19 safety concerns,
Bishop-Elect deForest will be installed at a future date.**

Please visit the synod website at godslove.org for updates.

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