

Prints of Peace

*a letter
from the pastor*

This year's Stewardship Financial Campaign is entitled *Giving to God the Things that Are God's*. It was developed in-house by our Stewardship Committee, and was inspired in part by the sermon I preached on

Harvest Home, October 18, 2020. The campaign is designed to work whether you are currently attending worship in-person, or participating via online or phone-in worship. I encourage you to participate fully in this campaign, through devotional readings, worship, and a prayerful consideration of your financial giving to the church. The rest of this letter is excerpts from my Harvest Home sermon. The gospel reading was Matthew 22:15-22, in which Jesus says, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and give to God the things that are God's."

What is it, after all, that we're supposed to bring to God? Jesus offers an answer to that question in today's gospel. He said to the Pharisees, "Give to God the things that are God's."

So, the question is, what things belong to God? Well, Jesus asked the Pharisees whose image was on the coin, and they said, "The emperor." So if the things that bear the emperor's image belong to the emperor, then the things that bear God's image belong to God, right?

And what bears God's image? Genesis chapter 1 says, "God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them."

So we are to give to God the things that are God's. The things that bear God's image. And that's...you. It's you. Everything you have. Everything you do. Everything you are. You are God's harvest. You are the harvest God is bringing in. That's what God wants you to present him with. Yourself.

But what does that mean? Coming to worship? Giving God one hour a week on a Sunday morning, or whenever it is you're watching this? Well, yes, it does mean that, and also so much more.

I pray in the morning for the day ahead of me. I think about all the meetings, appointments, and so forth I have, and I ask God to bless each of them. What if instead of asking God to bless my meetings, to bless my appointments, to bless these things that are mine – what if I offered those things to God? What if I stopped thinking of them as *my* meetings and appointments, and instead saw them as belonging to *God*? What if instead of praying, "God, please bless the sermon that I preach today," as I do every week, what if instead I prayed, "God, this sermon I will be delivering is yours. It belongs to you. My words and my lips belong to you. My thoughts and my typing belong to you. Thank you for enabling me to write it. Enable me to preach it."

And perhaps we're not called to give 10% of our money to God, or even 20%. Perhaps the amount of money God wants us to give is 100%. One hundred percent of our money. Not to the church. But to God. Perhaps part of that 100% includes the church. And part of that 100% includes paying the bills that we need to in order to survive. And part of that includes things we enjoy. Part of that includes taking care of those we love, and part of that includes taking care of ourselves in the future, through saving and investments. Perhaps everything we already spend money on would stay the same, but what would it look like if we saw it all as a way to give to God?

When we start to see everything we have, and everything we are, and everything we do as a gift from God, then we see opportunities all around us to give of ourselves. To give back to God that which is God's.

In Christ,



Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

P.S. Many thanks to the congregation for your generous Christmas gift!



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

- Brandy Hoff, February 3
- Sandra Butler, February 4
- Richard Newhard, February 6
- Richard Reinhart, February 6
- Larry Stauffer, February 7
- Ryan Gillow, February 7
- Keith Heard, February 10
- Raymond Flyte, Iii, February 10
- Emily Brands, February 11
- Brenda Hughes, February 14
- Cathy Steinmetz, February 15
- Victoria Poliskiewicz, February 15
- Shirley Krauss, February 17
- Alan Manicke, February 17
- Linda Kessler, February 18
- Bridget Reto, February 19
- Donna Golden, February 19
- Kathleen Ott, February 20
- June Jones, February 22
- Jill Hill, February 24
- Doris Thomas, February 26
- Michele Harrison, February 26
- Traci Rumsey, February 28
- Carmelo Blount, February 28
- Lauren Harrison, February 28
- Quincy Miller, February 29

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Virgil C. Kasebier, Sr.
(December 23)

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.

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.



2020 Giving Statements

POP would like to take this time to express the many thanks and appreciation to all who have supported our congregation, in our good times and our more trying times in 2020.

We will be preparing 2020 giving statements when requested. Please call Mary O’Meally at 610-708-0003 to request your statement. This year safety is paramount, so we will be mailing your statement.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to all who participated in Sunday's 50th Anniversary Planning meeting on Sunday, January 17th. We now have an Anniversary Task Force dedicated to planning events, displays, and more for next year. The Task Force includes Denny Horn, Jackie Horn, Connie Itterly, John Martocci, and Brenda Stauffer. Please contact any of them if you have ideas or questions.

Looking for a project?



This has been a difficult time for all of us, having to stay home and quarantine, and I'm sure like me you are looking for projects to keep busy. Well, I may have one for you. A few of us have been knitting/crocheting "seafarer" hats for the seamen that stay at the Seafarers International House in Manhattan. This was a project many of us participated in several years ago and was very successful. If this is something you would like to do, and you need yarn and the pattern please contact me at 610-708-0003. As always Social Ministry thanks you for your continued support of our ministries. *-Mary O'Meally*

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

We are in the middle of our annual campaign. We hope you have received a special mailing and are enjoying the gifts of devotionals, a poem and even a copy of the above logo to color or anyway you decide. If you would like copies of the above-mentioned gifts, get in touch with Georgia. There will be another mailing in a week asking you to consider increasing your giving. There is another gift too! We will have an update in March on the progress of commitments made. Let's continue to give to God and receive His blessings!

Thanks!

Thank you for your continued support to the ministries of the church. Last year we saw giving come in by envelopes, mail and the various eGiving options we offer. Just a reminder for 2021. You'll find that ONLINE GIVING ON OUR WEBSITE, TEXT AND MOBILE are secure, fast and easy to use. You have the choice of using your checking or savings account, debit/credit cards. You can choose when to give monthly, weekly, bi-weekly, annually or once. You may also consider making an additional gift from the recent government stimulus payments.

On the following page is information from the ELCA on how your mission support giving is helping to do God's work in the world. So much is happening to make a difference in the lives of others, growing leaders and renewing congregations.

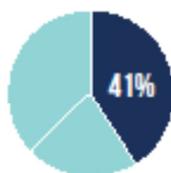
If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at 610-703-0638 or email her at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.



MISSION SUPPORT: A DEEP DIVE

Did you know that ELCA members in more than 8,900 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.7 billion in regular offerings annually to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide? When members give through their congregations, about 5.5% of that money is shared with the local synod, which then shares a portion with the national churchwide office. This unrestricted giving from congregations is called Mission Support. Mission Support gives the ELCA both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world locally, nationally and internationally. Thank you for your faithful support!

YOUR MISSION SUPPORT HELPS FUND THE FOLLOWING CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES:

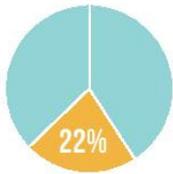


41% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE ELCA IN THE UNITED STATES:

- **Plant and support** hundreds of new congregations.
- **Enable congregations** to renew their ministries and **reach out** to their surrounding communities.
- **Develop and share** resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.
- **Work together** with our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino/Latina leaders and members.
- **Invest** in technology and communication.
- **Grow and sustain** financial resources.
- **Engage** in research and strategic planning.

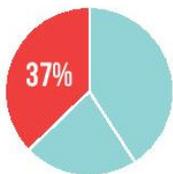


[CLICK ON EACH STORY TO READ MORE!](#)



22% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ADDRESSES ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD:

- As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is in communion with **147 other churches**.
- ELCA synods relate directly to **65 companion churches** through a total of **127 official relationships**.
- The **ELCA accompanies** new Lutheran churches, **expands** ministries and **trains** leaders and evangelists.
- The **ELCA sends missionaries** — including Young Adults in Global Mission — who are the hands and feet of Jesus around the world.
- The **ELCA addresses social issues** and **works for justice**.



37% OF MISSION SUPPORT HELPS DEVELOP CURRENT AND FUTURE LEADERS IN THE ELCA:

- **Prepare** and **implement** a system for recruitment and assignment of rostered ministers.
- **Identify** and **provide** ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.
- **Support** the work of **seven ELCA seminaries** and **26 ELCA colleges and universities**.
- Provide **coordination** and **support** for churchwide ministries.
- Provide **governance** and **leadership**.
- Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith** relations.



Thank you for your ongoing support! For additional resources, go to ELCA.org/SOFIA.

Graceful Generosity

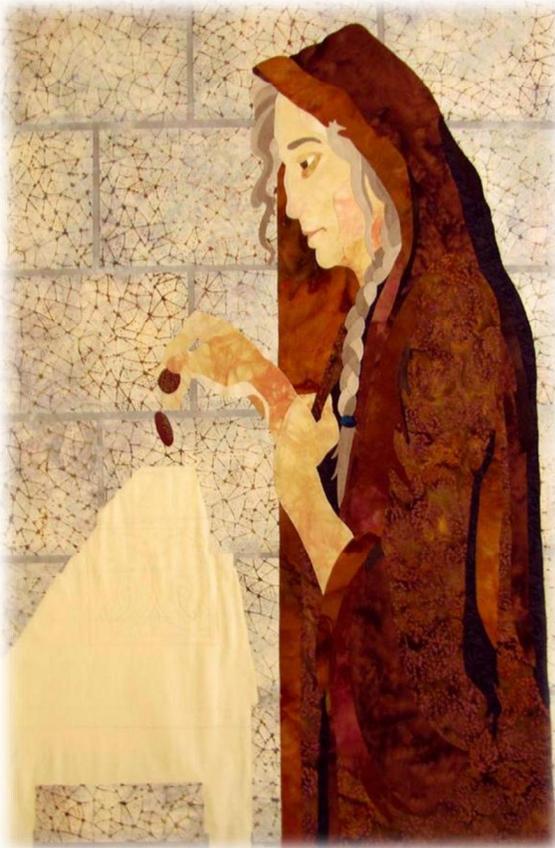
Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

What Is a Steward?

"A steward is more than a servant, slave, or 'organizational church member.' A steward is one who, having received a trust from God, is in partnership with God through Christ for the working out of God's purposes for man and the world" (Joseph F. Jones).

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify who the following person may represent in Scripture?



If you said the widow in the story of the widow's mite, you were right. In Luke 21:1-4 we read, "As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'I tell you the truth,' he said, this

poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.' " Jesus commends the widow, who gave all that she had, not just the excess, as the others did. This story tells us that the level of generosity is much more important than the size of the gift. Even though she gave the last of her money, the widow did not expect to go hungry because she knew God would provide. She gave sacrificially, knowing that God would take care of her. Giving is an act of trust.

Whom or What Are You Trusting?

Lack of trust is a major hindrance to our growth as stewards. Do we trust ourselves, someone else, or things rather than God? If our trust is misdirected, our fellowship with God will suffer, and we will not be fruitful stewards. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Where is our trust?

Having checking and savings accounts with adequate funds is helpful, but we must always remember that wealth in and of itself does not fulfill us nor provide any lasting value, happiness, or security. Money can deceive us in subtle ways. Do you find yourself worrying whether or not you have enough money? Do you hoard it? Is money your security and the topic that occupies your thoughts?

When we give in to our natural tendency to want to accumulate, we begin to think that we need many things. As our incomes grow, so do our wants and desires. We see money as the way to happiness. We think that, when we have money, we have all we need and become self-reliant. Unless we make the decision, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live more simply and care more intentionally for others, we will

spend all that we have on ourselves (we may even spend more than we have).

Our attitude toward money and things can change when we begin to trust God and his presence and provision. As the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:19:

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches.”

When we become more zealous to choose God’s ways, we will experience his promises, comfort, and peace that result. We will find that God’s grace is sufficient for all of our needs.

God will grant us the strength not to succumb to the temptation to trust money and possessions. He will grant us the sight to see the pull that our materialistic world has on us as well as the understanding that we will find lasting peace and contentment only in Christ. As Jesus said: *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20).

On the Lighter Side

Three young boys were bragging about their fathers.

One of the boys said, “My dad works in the office, and he sits behind a desk and makes \$50 an hour.”

The son of an attorney said, “That’s nothing. My dad talks on the telephone for half an hour and makes \$75.”

Not to be outdone, the son of a pastor said, “That’s still nothing. My dad talks for 20 minutes, and it takes four people to collect all the money.”



A Stewardship Thought

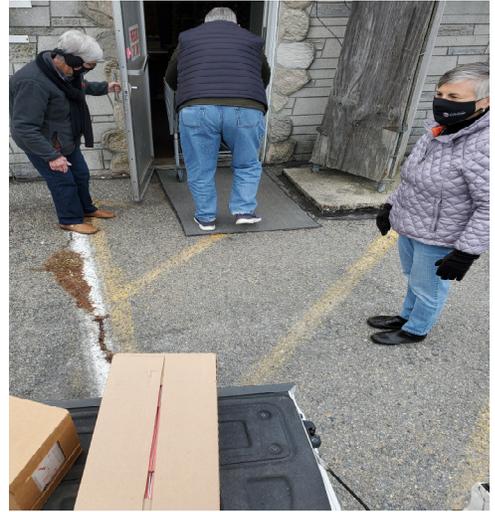
Our relationship with Christ makes it possible for us to be content in all circumstances. Without Christ we will never be satisfied. We are, by nature, people who have insatiable appetites for more things, success, and power. A relationship with Christ quenches our worldly appetites and brings about a redirection of interests to eternal things. We become willing to accept God’s will and learn to be satisfied with what God gives us.

A Christian steward does not dedicate his time, talent, and treasure that they may become God’s, but because they are God’s.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



**P.
U.
M.
P.**



He who is generous will be blessed. For he gives some of his food to the poor. -Proverbs 22:9

We are a blessed congregation! After buying Christmas gifts for PUMP through an action team from Thrivent, we had money left over. It was decided we would use the money to buy food for PUMP. On Friday, January 8th, along with Georgia and John Suranofsky, and Brooks Baker, we picked up from Weis the following items: 200 lbs. of flour and sugar, pancake mix, cake mix, frosting and vegetable oil. These are items that are needed and rarely donated to the food pantry. We have been informed that they are also in need of: brownie mixes, and condiments, ie: mayo, ketchup and mustard. This was a large donation but please don't let it stop you from bringing in "your" donation, it's your weekly donation that continues to stock the food pantry. Social Ministry thanks you for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Questions: see Mary O'Meally

WEIS Market Gift Card/Receipt Program:



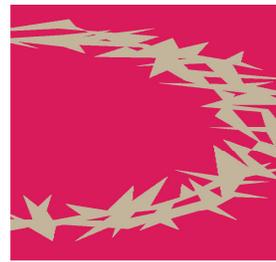
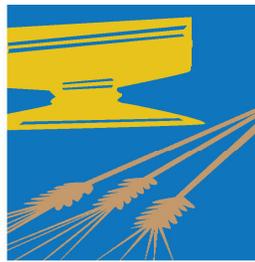
Many thanks to all that support our WEIS/MR.Z program. While we always strive to have the Weis cards available for purchase, we are continually collecting Weis receipts. We are having a cut off right now for receipts from the Bangor store by the end of January. So, please get your receipts to us so it can be included in the current count. Please remember we can not use the receipts where our gift cards were used to purchase items.

Thank you for the kind words, well wishes, emails, phone calls, cards and gifts from individuals and from the congregation for Christmas.

Thank you for being so gracious to me!
Your kindness is very much appreciated!

Thank you so much! -Annette Buss





LENT

The holy season of Lent begins this year on Wednesday, 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:

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17: We will have two in-person services on Ash Wednesday, at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. There will not be a luncheon this year. Ashes will be administered in an altered way. Holy Communion will be served. **The 1:00 pm service will be recorded and shared online that day. If you intend to watch (or listen) at home, you are invited to pick up a small container of ashes at the church ahead of time, and administer the ashes yourself at the appropriate moment.** These ashes should be available by Sunday, February 14 at the latest.

MIDWEEK LENT: This year's midweek Lenten worship will be offered **online only**. Each week, Martin and Pastor Scholtes will offer a brief service. The theme this year is **The Promises of God**. Watch for more information in PastorMail.

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 **6:00 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 6:00 Easter Vigil as well.

Highlights from the January Council Meeting:

Committee liaisons were assigned for 2021:

Faith Education for All – Ben Manicke and Dave Karner	Technology/Communications – Bruce Antonioli
Social Ministry – Marlene Stana	Health and Wellness – Chip Harrison
Finance – Connie Itterly	Worship and Music – Kathy Williams
Stewardship – Scott Schippis	Property – Denny Horn
Fun and Fellowship – Luke Hoff	

- We discussed a bit about the upcoming 50th Anniversary, and highlighted the special congregational brainstorming meeting on January 17.
- Our treasurer reported that we ended 2020 in the black financially!



4TH SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY (1/31)	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
Monday, February 1	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26
Tuesday, February 2	Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Wednesday, February 3	Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20
Thursday, February 4	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15
Friday, February 5	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16
Saturday, February 6	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14
5TH SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY (2/7)	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinth. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
Monday, February 8	Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7
Tuesday, February 9	Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41
Wednesday, February 10	Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12
Thursday, February 11	Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 11:26-40; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
Friday, February 12	Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 14:1-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-20
Saturday, February 13	Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 16:1-7; Luke 19:41-44
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (2/14)	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Monday, February 15	Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4
Tuesday, February 16	Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-16
ASH WEDNESDAY (2/17)	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, February 18	Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10
Friday, February 19	Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
Saturday, February 20	Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (2/21)	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
Monday, February 22	Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
Tuesday, February 23	Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a
Wednesday, February 24	Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11
Thursday, February 25	Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31
Friday, February 26	Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
Saturday, February 27	Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (2/28)	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
Monday, March 1	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12
Tuesday, March 2	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
Wednesday, March 3	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43
Thursday, March 4	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10
Friday, March 5	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
Saturday, March 6	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8

Let's show them our appreciation!



We are all grateful for the amazing job health care workers have been doing during the pandemic. We talked with our Parish Nurse, Justine Cesari, about how we might bring a little joy to her team at Kindred at Home with their demanding schedules. She told us that they are deployed to homes of patients and they only come to the office to get supplies. She has a room set up for them with “goodies” to grab-n-go. Below are the items we would like to supply and how to do it.

Mary O’Meally will also be making “Prayer Clothes” for them.



1. Bring adult type individually wrapped snack items (granola and protein bars, pretzels, crackers) to the church and place them in the receptacle marked “Caring for healthcare workers” underneath the coat rack.
2. Place a cash donation in the container marked “Caring for healthcare workers” by the entrance to the sanctuary.
3. Mail your check to the church or use one of our e-giving options to make a donation. Please indicate that it is for “Caring for healthcare workers”.

If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com or Connie Iterly at tcbpai@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for living our purpose statement to “Seek and serve Christ in all people.” - **Thanks! Prince of Peace Health and Wellness Committee**

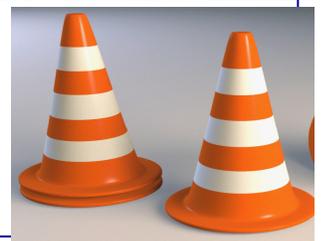


Lent: A Season of Hope 2021



For our neighbors around the world Lent is hope that only Jesus can bring. During Lent, let's put God's love into action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. The loss and uncertainty of COVID-19 hit our poorest neighbors around the world hard. Social Ministry is asking you to be the hands and feet of Christ for our "neighbors" by engaging in this project during our Lenten journey this year. This project will start on Sunday, February 21 and end Sunday, March 31st. Each week a specific item will be collected, ie: week 1: bars of soap; week 2; bath towel (52 x 27, dark color); week 3: toothbrushes; week 4: combs; week 5: nail clippers. There will be a white laundry basket in the Narthex for your donations. We are also asking for monetary donations to ship the kits to the LWR Warehouse in Maryland. If you would like to participate in this project, but don't feel comfortable shopping, I will be happy to shop for you. You may give me the money, you can also place your donation in the bucket provided. Thank you for your willingness to participate in this ministry. Questions: see Mary O'Meally or Sherry Hock. "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." -**Anne Frank**

If you come to the front door of the church right now, you'll see two orange cones there. They stand at spots where the sidewalk is currently uneven, and they're calling you to caution to prevent trips. The reason for the uneven pavement is settling from the major electrical work we had done a few years ago, when a portion of the sidewalk was temporarily removed to make way for a conduit. Property Committee is working on a long-term solution, but for now, please use caution.



Support Prince of Peace when you shop at Amazon!



I would like to let the congregation know how easy it is to help support POP when Amazon shopping. When you go to Amazon and log in, in the search box, type **Amazon Smile**. There is a spot that says you ship, Amazon Smile donates. Click on this box and follow the instructions. When you are prompted, search for Prince of Peace, Bangor. It is that simple! Since I signed up in mid December, I have raised \$2.24. I know that doesn't sound like much, but imagine where we would be if all Amazon shoppers in our congregation supported this program! Any questions, please let me know. -**Connie Itterly** at 610-554-238, tcbpai@gmail.com

The Altar Flower Procedure Has Changed

From the Worship and Music Committee and the Finance Committee: There is a change for 2021 concerning payments for the altar flowers. When you sign-up to sponsor altar flowers for worship, you must contact JC Bloom to place your order. At the time of your order, please make your payment directly to the florist for the altar flowers for the week of your choice. You may also spend more for your arrangements if you wish. POP will no longer be the go-between of the congregant sponsor and the florist for ordering and payment. If there is a week that no altar flowers are ordered and paid for, we will use our silk arrangements as a fill in.

Lori Heitzman will still be providing the sign-up chart on the bulletin board by the church offices and follow up with you. When we resume announcement folders, your sponsorship and dedication will be noted in the announcement folders.

Those providing altar flowers will have the option of taking home the altar flowers after the service or donating them to shut-ins (one or both vase).



Your understanding regarding this update is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Horn.

Date:	Greeter	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Usher	Power Point
Sunday, February 7	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart	Janet Martocci	Marlene Stana	Georgia and John Suranofsky, Brooks Baker, Kale Baker	Jim Jennings
Sunday, February 14	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Georgia Suranofsky	Laraine Brands	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Diane Hahn	Kim Jennings
Sunday, February 21	Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr	April Miller	Connie Itterly	Georgia and John Suranofsky, Sue Reinhart, Brooks Baker	Tina Johns
Sunday, February 28	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kale Baker	April Miller	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker	Antonioli Family
Sunday, March 7	Brenda Hughes, Connie Itterly	Sherry Hock	Kale Baker	Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn, Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim 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.



For GOD

SO LOVED

the world that

He gave His ONE

and only SON

that whoever

BELIEVES

in HIM

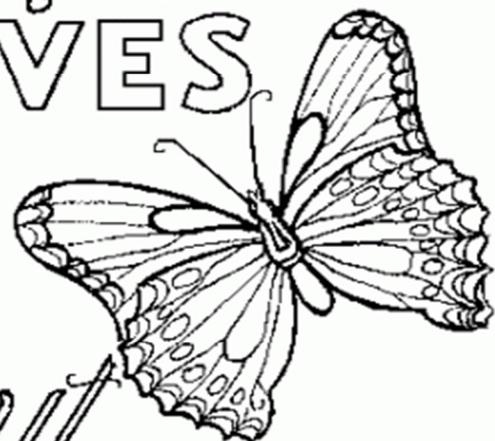
shall not

perish but

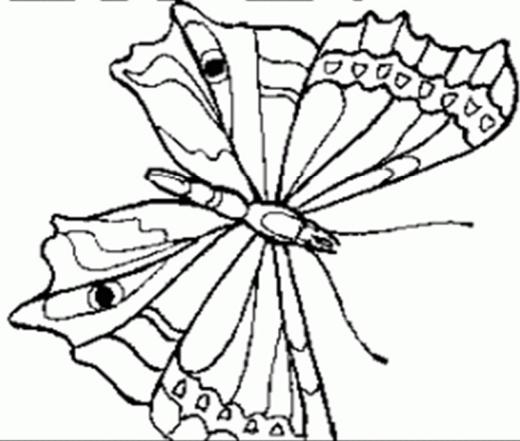
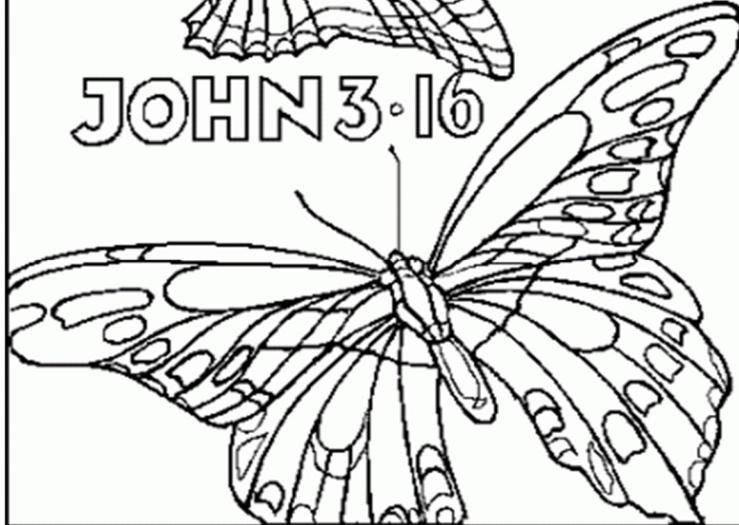
have

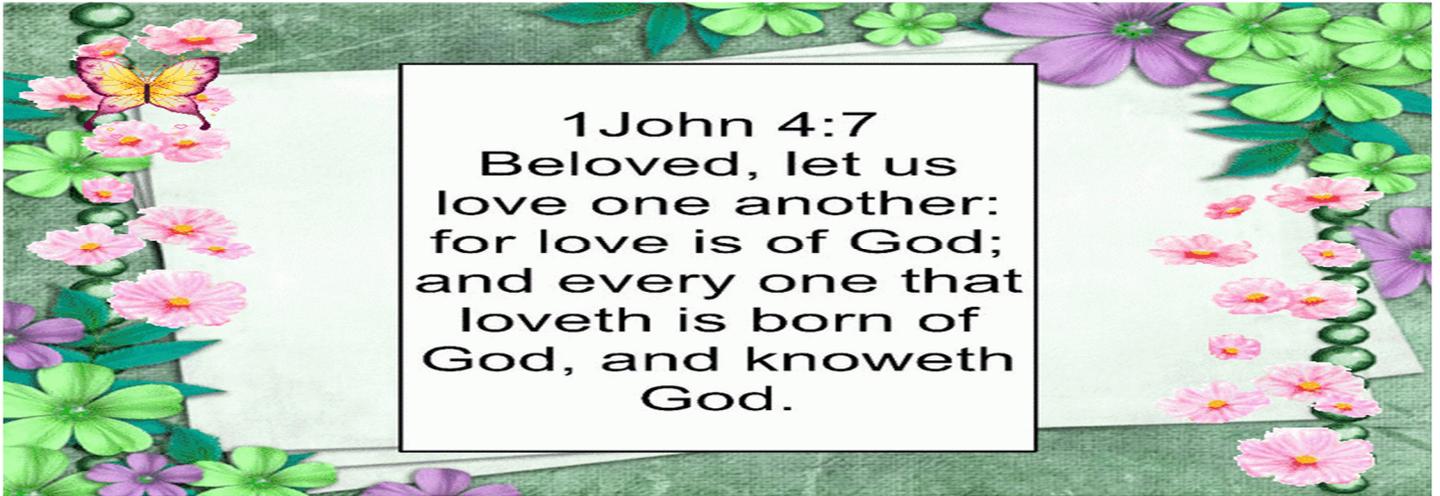
ETERNAL

LIFE.



JOHN 3:16





1 John 4:7
Beloved, let us
love one another:
for love is of God;
and every one that
loveth is born of
God, and knoweth
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!
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314,**  
**[PastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

**Church Council Members:**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Georgia Suranofsky - President | Dennis Horn     |
| Marlene Stana -Vice President  | Luke Hoff       |
| Connie Itterly- 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 March 2021 Newsletter is:**

**Tuesday, February 9th**

*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 the next month’s newsletter.\*\***

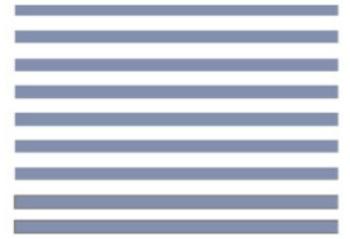
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**Authorized Organization’s**

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



## From Our Bishop: Vital Signs for Now

As I write this in January, I have no way of knowing what our situation – national, state, or local – will be like. But I have no doubt in two truths. First, God will be with us and for us. Second, the big challenges will still be upon us. As people who believe in and follow Jesus, we always have these promises: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.* This means, wherever we are, and wherever we're headed, that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

In the midst of all we face, across this Synod – our congregations, leaders, members and ministries – are playing *vital roles* in God's work to bring life out of death, love out of hate, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow. The Holy Spirit is revealing *vital signs* in our midst because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. So, I ask you: as part of the Body of Christ, *what are our vital signs right now?* How are we doing these three things:

### *Healing the hurting? Loving the land? Engaging the stranger?*

As a Synod going forward, I'm calling these three, our *Vital Signs for Now*. Ways we are called by our God to address this moment through which we are now living:

- **Heal the Hurting** can include helping all of us, suffering through this pandemic. Those who are facing economic struggle. Those who are also ill from other afflictions, including addiction, anxiety and depression. Those having a hard time finding health care and security. And those in pain and fear from our large divides over politics.
- **Love the Land** can include the realities of climate change. The need to make our communities more livable for everyone. And deciding what is best to do with our buildings and properties, to bring more life to our neighbors as well as ourselves.
- **Engage the Stranger** can include anyone who feels estranged, inside and outside our churches. It includes all the ways that have made us estranged from each other and our core Christian values: the lack of welcome for all people, especially foreigners and our LGBTQIA+ siblings; racial injustice and white supremacy; the disregard of facts and the lack of listening to the "other side".

In these first days and weeks of 2021, as a Synod, let us work on these three things. And let us share with each other, what is working and how the Spirit is moving and leading. Let's tell each other and ask your pastors and councils to share with our deans and Synod staff. We will then share with the whole Synod. Let's go and grow more alive and vital, together, as church, by the grace of our great God.

**Bishop Christopher deForest**

## Vital Signs!

When Pastor Michele Kaufman decided she wanted to have Palm Sunday and Easter services in-person last spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop, she and members of the congregation decided to hold drive-in services on the church grounds. Jim Doxsey, a member of the congregation, purchased a low-frequency FM radio transmitter so members could listen to the service inside their vehicles. The concept worked well, and the outdoor services continued throughout the spring and summer.

In the spring, the congregation completed work on a prayer garden at the rear of the church where Pr. Kaufman conducted the services. Recently, the church moved its 9 a.m. service indoors, but kept the 11 a.m. gathering outside. As late fall arrived, the congregation came up with an idea to allow the pastor to continue to conduct the outdoor service, even in inclement weather.

## They built her a Pastor Pod.

"The 9 a.m. service was moved indoors, maintaining social distancing and requiring masks," Pr. Kaufman said. "But we wanted to keep one of our services outdoors because several members of the congregation were dealing with cancer and other health problems. We wanted to make sure they could attend services but be safe."

The approximately 6x8 foot "Pastor Pod" is located adjacent to the church parish hall. It was constructed using two-by-four supports, has a platform, and a roof – the entire structure enclosed in plexiglass.



The congregation and surrounding community embraced the concept of the Pastor Pod with great enthusiasm. "We have people from as far as 25+ miles traveling to worship with us. We have several families from neighboring congregations and different Christian traditions attending on a regular basis because of the safety factor. The creativity and **innovation and resilience** this congregation has displayed in these trying times has been an inspiration. It has been our modern-day Reformation! We are church in every sense of the phrase!" reported Pr. Kaufman.

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop

Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy and economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut was not indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I learned to appreciate the rhythm of daily life, shrimp and grits, theology, and Friday night cookouts. Since ordination, I've served St. James, Hobbie and St. John, Mohnton. I continue to be gobsmacked for the gift to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

*Pastor Rachael Dietz*



I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, roast coffee regularly, and travel through life curiously.