

Prints of Peace



As you read this letter, our 2023 Stewardship Campaign is well underway, and will be wrapping up soon, on Sunday, February 5. Over the past few weeks, we have explored together the beauty and the majesty of **God's Great Mercy**. God poured this mercy over us in our baptism, and it is still flowing to this day, and will forever.

Together, we are exploring **God's Great Mercy**, through which we have all **received** spiritual gifts. We are learning new ways of sharing those gifts together!

Together, we are exploring **God's Great Mercy**, through which we are **refreshed** by the power of God. Through the power of God on the cross of Christ, we have victory over death, meaninglessness, and despair!

Together, we are exploring **God's Great Mercy**, through which we are **reminded** that we have a calling. God chose **us**, not just me. God chose **all of us**, not just some. God chose and calls us all to serve and to proclaim in our own particular ways!

Together, we are exploring **God's Great Mercy**, through which we are **renewed** by the Holy Spirit. Our baptism just keeps on flowing and flowing like a waterfall. And we are given new life every single day through it.

God's Great Mercy is our Lifeblood. God's Great Mercy is our North Star. God's Great Mercy is the glue that holds us together. God's Great Mercy is the itch that keeps us moving. God's Great Mercy is the shining sun and the mystical moon, the dance of joy and the song of peace. God's Great Mercy provides for us forgiveness and healing and hope and life. God's Great Mercy gives us what we need to endure anything, absolutely anything that life throws at us.

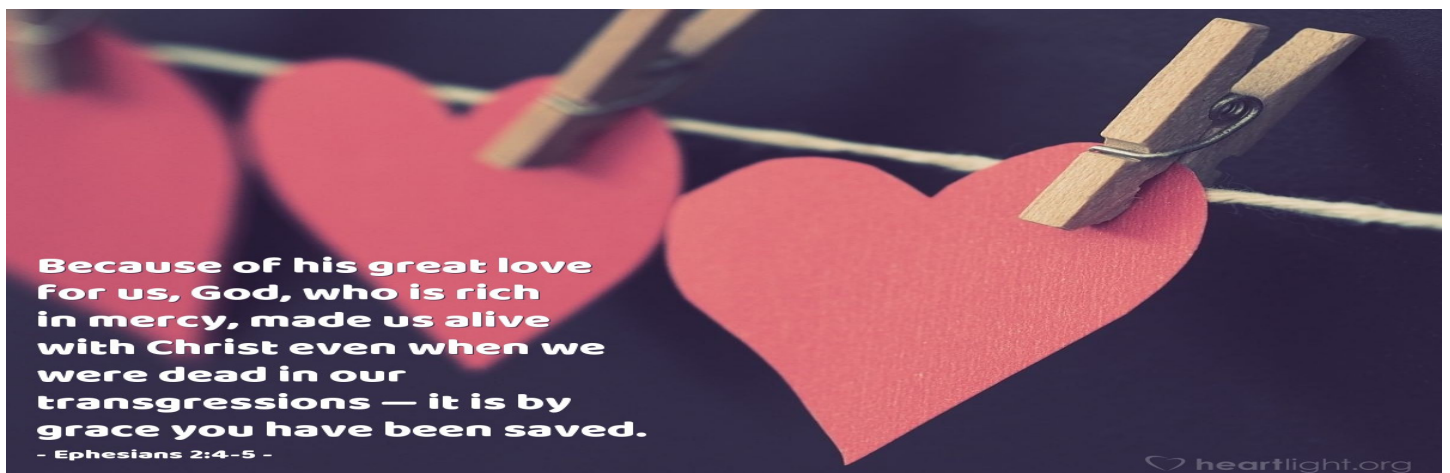
And God's Great Mercy calls us to respond.

How will you respond to this mercy? How will you share it? How will you show your thanks? How will you spread the word? Maybe you know your answer to these questions. If so, then please tell the rest of us, and inspire us! Maybe you don't know. If not, keep heart! Let's keep working on it together.

We are overflowing with mercy. There's so much to go around.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes



CELEBRATE
February
BIRTHDAYS!



- 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
 - Freddy Nemeth, February 7
 - Aiden Smith, February 10
 - 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

In-person (9:45 on Sundays)

All in-person worship services may include alterations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including (but not limited to) altered seating arrangements, the wearing of masks, and so forth. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.

Online / Facebook / Telephone

Watch our worship each week at our website (popbangor.org/video-worship). Or watch it on our Facebook page (facebook.com/popbangor). You can also call in to hear our worship each week at 877-POP-2-POP (877-767-2767). New videos and audio files will be added each Monday.

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals: Leslie Ott, December 23 (non-member)
 Pearl LaBar, January 5
 Beverly Dyer, January 12 (non-member)

- JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**
- New council officers:
 - President: Connie Itterly
 - Vice-President: Traci Rumsey
 - Secretary: Tina Johns
 - The Endowment Fund received gifts of \$20,940 through December!
 - Council liaisons were assigned to committees for 2023:
 - Worship & Music– Kathy Williams & Tina Johns
 - Social Ministry – Marlene Stana & Sara Godshalk
 - Stewardship - Brenda Hughes
 - Health & Wellness - Traci Rumsey
 - Evangelism – Tina Johns & Kale Baker
 - Faith Education for All – Brenda Hughes
 - Property - Dave Karner
 - Finance – Connie Itterly & Kathy Williams
 - Scholarship - Dave Karner
 - Fun & Fellowship - Kerri Miller
 - Communication & Technology - Kale Baker
 - Staff Support – Jackie Horn & Marlene Stana



From the Fun & Fellowship Committee:

This committee has planned many fun events for 2023: Scott Schipps will have a hobby fair on **February 19th**; a birthday social (cake and covered dish) on **March 18th**; prepare shut-in baskets on **April 1st** and a Mother's Day tea on **May 6th**. These are just a few events we have planned; more information will be available! Make sure you check the upcoming newsletters and announcement folders for updated information.



Thank you for your willingness to serve!!! If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find someone to take your place and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change as soon as possible.

For last minute changes be sure to leave the message on Pastor Scholtes' voice mail (610-588-2355) or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point and Camera	Acolyte	Offering Counters
February 5	Scout Sunday: Scouts	Scouts	Kale Baker	Vivian Fahr, Bob Gist	Cathy Mullen	Sarah Harrison	Bob Gist, Jackie Horn
February 12	Sara Godshalk, Vivian Fahr	Georgia Suranofsky	Marlene Stana	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	John Martocci	Alex Scholtes	Georgia Suranofsky, Jim Jennings
February 19	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Kale Baker	Tina Johns	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim Jennings	Izzy Baker	Chip Harrison, Jackie Horn
February 26	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart	Connie Itterly	April Miller	Sherk and June Jones	Jim Jennings	Landon Horn	Connie Itterly, Jim Jennings
March 5	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Sherry Hock	Sarah Harrison	Marlene and Butch Stana	Antonioli Family	Alex Scholtes	Scott Schipps, Jackie Horn

Communion Assistants: 2/5 Diane Hahn, Tina Johns
 2/12 Connie Itterly, Jim Jennings
 2/19 April Miller, Diane Hahn
 2/26 Laraine Brands, Brooks Baker
 3/5 Tina Johns, Linda Waszmer

Altar Guild February: Connie Itterly, Diane Searfass **Altar Guild March:** Tara Flyte and Tyler Flyte

Join us! Real Readers Book Club

The book club will meet at 2 p.m. on the dates below to discuss the following books:

- February 2 – “When We Believed in Mermaids” by Barbara O’Neal
- March 2 – “Three Weeks With My Brother” by Nicholas Sparks
- April 6 - “The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post” by Allison Pataki
- May 4 - “Storm’s Fury” by Mary Stone
- June 1 – “George Washington’s Secret 6” by Brian Kilmeade
- July 6 – “The Nature of Fragile Things” by Susan Meissner
- August 3 – “Snow Creek” by Greg Olsen
- September 7 – “Founding Mothers” by Cokie Roberts
- October 5 – “The Thursday Murder Club” by Richard Osman
- November 2 – “Cape Menace” by Amy Reade
- December 7 – “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho



Safe Harbor Outreach:

The Social Ministry Committee wishes you all a very Happy & Healthy New Year! We were very busy in 2022, and asked a lot from you, as always you gave generously, and supported all our projects and ministries. We hope to continue our great outreach with a collection for Safe Harbor, now through March 26th. There will be a basket in the Narthex to place your donations of soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, q tips, and feminine hygiene products. Questions: see a member of the committee.

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” ~Galatians 6:2

Endowment Fund Notes

At our Annual Congregational Meeting members voted in favor of the creation of two new Endowment Sub Funds. The Outdoor Enhancement Sub Fund will receive 10% of the 2023 Annual Endowment disbursement and the Office Technology Sub Fund will receive 25%. In addition, the Non-Budgeted Property Expense Sub Fund will receive 65% of the Annual disbursement. Per the new policy governing the Endowment Fund, this property related sub fund is a permanent sub fund and required no approval from our membership. These Sub funds will hold monies until they are needed to cover future expenses associated with any projects in these categories.

This Month We Are Thankful and Filled with Gratitude For:

- February 5: God's creation.
- February 12: Animals, fish and birds.
- February 19: Little children to love and nurture.
- February 26: Aging adults to love and care for.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5 is our annual Scout Sunday. Members of Troops 41 and 941 will be present and participating in worship that morning. Come on out and celebrate the great relationship we have with our scouting program!

Join us for Sunday Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Over the years we've enjoyed getting to know each other better and meeting new people, so come again and bring someone with you! Bakers will be called to bring something to share for coffee hour. Coffee hours are hosted each week by two people. If you are interested in hosting coffee hours, or being added to the Baker List, please contact Coffee Hour Team: Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen or Sue Reinhart.



ARE YOU GETTING PASTORMAIL?

Pastor Scholtes sends out emails to the congregation almost every day. These *PastorMails* contain information about upcoming events, about recent decisions made in the church, and generally help to keep us all connected. If you are not receiving them, please send him a note at pastorMJS@gmail.com to get added to the list or sign up at our church website (popbangor.org). They are also archived at popbangor.org/pastormail.

February Prayer Prompt:

Dear Lord, help me love
as you love me.



THURSDAY COFFEE HOUR DURING LENT

Pastor Scholtes will be leading the Thursday morning coffee hour programs during Lent (February 23 – March 30). He doesn't yet know what he'll be doing each week, but it will hopefully be interesting! Plan to come out if you're available (10 am – 12 noon, with program from 10:30 – 11:30), and if you have any good ideas, let him know asap!



Prince of Peace Seekers (POPS)

We continue to meet Thursdays from 10 a.m.—Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available. We meet each week for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, or Cathy Mullen.

Join us as we continue our study in the Book of Esther through February 16. During POPS Coffee Hour – Thursdays 10 a.m. to Noon.

We will enter into an exotic and fanciful Persian kingdom complete with a dim-witted king, a defiant queen, an egotistical lieutenant and a loyal uncle. With lavish banquets, extreme beauty treatments and dangerous liaisons at every turn, can the beautiful and courageous Esther avert disaster for her people? All this occurs in a Biblical book where God is never mentioned. Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe helps us dig deeply and lovingly into this complex story with its fascinating study of power, corruption, violence, and courage. Bring your bible every week as we will read through the story together, watch some video and discuss this amazing woman. Georgia Suranofsky is our facilitator for the study.

**Join us for
Ash Wednesday Worship
with Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes
on February 22
at 10:30 a.m.
and 7 p.m.**



We will be coming together for a time of fellowship and a luncheon after the Ash Wednesday 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome! A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex counter! Or, RSVP by **Sunday, February 17th** to Carolyn Leidy at 610-588-7562 or call Annette at the church office 610-588-2355. (Signing up helps with preparing the proper amount of food.)

Financial Secretary Update:

Wishing everyone a Hopeful and Happy New Year! If you would like a statement for your 2022 offerings, please email me at mary0107@ptd.net, or approach me at church. *-Mary O'Meally*

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

The calculations on the year-end balance of The Endowment Funds and new donations for 2022 have been completed for distribution to the sub funds. The balance of the Fund on 12/31/22 was \$217,396.19 with the 5% distribution = \$10,900 (rounded up). The new donations for 2022 totaled \$20,920.00 with the 20% distribution = \$4,200 (rounded up). Total distributions to the sub funds = \$15,100.00. Following is the amount going to each sub fund.

Property Expense fund (Permanent Fund)	= \$9,815.00	65%
Office Technology fund	= \$3,775.00	25%
Outdoor Enhancement fund	= \$1,510.00	10%
Total	\$15,100.00	100%

Please remember that donations can be made to The Endowment Fund at any time. For your convenience, there is a box of envelopes labeled “Endowment Fund” on the counter in the Narthex. Contact one of the Trustees, Jim Jennings, Georgia Suranofsky or Denny Horn with any questions you may have on how the fund operates.

“By God’s Great Mercy” Stewardship Campaign Update



What are your spiritual gifts?

How are you refreshed with God’s power?

How are you reminded you have been given a calling?

How are you renewed by the Holy Spirit?

We hope you found this year’s campaign meaningful to help you decide how to continue to be God’s steward including your financial commitment for the mission and ministry of Prince of Peace this year. We heard through Pastor’s sermons and brought to life through the illuminations from the Saint John’s Bible how we are blessed “By God’s Great Mercy”.

You should have or will receive shortly a letter about your commitment for this year. Please return the bottom portion by February 5th with your commitment by placing it in the offering plate, mailing to the church or using our VANCO giving options. These options can be on your mobile phone or by going to our website. Look for the “Giving” heading to view our newly designed giving area. It is filled with the mission and ministry opportunities to support.



OR, TRY SOMETHING REALLY NEW! Take a picture with your phone of the QR code below, next click on the message that comes up and you can do your giving. The ease of using these giving options consistently, allows you to pay by charging your checking account or credit card. Not sure, ask Georgia Suranofsky.

Thank you...The Stewardship Committee

Excerpt from a letter Received from P.U.M.P:

To Prince of Peace:

Thank you for your generous donation. Please be assured it will be put to good use in providing food and other necessities to hundreds of families in the Slate Belt. The need for these services continues to grow every month.

With the assistance of our many dedicated volunteers, we consider it a privilege to continue this mission in which we provided services to 400+ families a month. This service would not have been possible without the late Sherma Godshalk, who started this food pantry due to her endless desire to help those that are in need. However, it wouldn’t be possible to continue without your support. Thank you again for donating to the Portland-Upper Mt. Bethel Food Pantry, Inc.





Wednesday, February 1	Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26
Presentation of Our Lord (2/2)	Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Thursday, February 2	Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5
Friday, February 3	Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18
Saturday, February 4	Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8
5th Sun. after Epiphany (2/5)	Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Cor. 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20
Monday, February 6	Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10
Tuesday, February 7	Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Wednesday, February 8	Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30
Thursday, February 9	Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16
Friday, February 10	Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17
Saturday, February 11	Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9
6th Sun. after Epiphany (2/12)	Deut. 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
Monday, February 13	Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8
Tuesday, February 14	Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13
Wednesday, February 15	Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12
Thursday, February 16	Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7
Friday, February 17	Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28
Saturday, February 18	Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13
Transfiguration Sunday (2/19)	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
Monday, February 20	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
Tuesday, February 21	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
Ash Wednesday (2/22)	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, February 23	Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
Friday, February 24	Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
Saturday, February 25	Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7
1st Sunday in Lent (2/26)	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11
Monday, February 27	Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
Tuesday, February 28	Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to DailyLectio.net, where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!



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

Website: www.popburangor.org
Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes
lotsofsocks@live.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!

- Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**
home: 610-588-2314 - PastorMJS@gmail.com
- **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
 - **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
 - **Financial Secretary: Mary O’Meally**
 - **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
 - **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895, cesarijustine1080@gmail.com**
 - **Administrative Assistant: Annette Buss**
- Admin. Asst’s Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am–Noon Thursday: 1 to 4 pm
Admin Asst’s email: poplcbangor@gmail.com

Congregation Council Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Connie Itterly - President | Brenda Hughes |
| Traci Rumsey - Vice President | Jackie Horn |
| Tina Johns - Secretary | Kerri Miller |
| Kale Baker | Dave Karner |
| Sara Godshalk | Marlene Stana |
| Rev. Michael Scholtes | Kathy Williams |

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!

March 2023 Newsletter is: Tuesday, February 14th at Noon

*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 next month’s newsletter.****





SYNOD NEWS



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

FriEDEN'S: An Amazing Garden Story

A few weeks after the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I called a neighbor in town who had a garden in her front yard. It's Shartlesville, and the PA Dutch are used to their yards looking *just so,* so I knew this was a brave woman who loved gardening vegetables more than public opinion. I also knew she didn't have room for pumpkins in her small yard, so I called and proposed we plant some viney crops up on our church property. She agreed and even had the seeds, gardening skills, and ideas, so after consultation with council, the garden was born. We sent our crop to the neighboring UCC congregation's food pantry, and with the excess had physically- distant free produce giveaways.

In 2021, we expanded the garden by half, to about 50 by 75 feet. We watered each plant via a recycled gallon milk jug with a pinprick in the bottom. The plants were happy, but our backs were not. It took 45 minutes to an hour to water all the jugs, which we did nearly every day because the garden is in full sun. The black plastic we used for weed suppression became a slip-and-slide while we irrigated.

In 2022, we were able to install a drip irrigation system that did not require filling milk jugs and weed suppression fabric that was not slippery. The fabric required using a blow torch to make holes for planting but will be able to be used for multiple years. The irrigation only required turning on the spigot and letting it run for several hours, which was a true God-send because we had some unexpected health issues on the garden team that limited our volunteer force! It was an extraordinarily dry summer, so the grant came just in time.

This past summer we had 21 people volunteer in the garden, took produce to 5 food pantries or senior centers, including Cafe Esperanza in Reading, and welcomed 29 people into the garden at a joint VBS. Not only are we feeding our neighbors with free, fresh, pesticide-free produce, but we are also getting to know our neighbors, developing new connections in the congregation among volunteers, teaching children about food insecurity and the joy of gardening, and passing on agricultural wisdom.

Submitted by Pastor Inge Williams

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY



2023

GOING
BEYOND
DEATH
TO LIFE

JUNE
1-3

What's happening at Kalahari?

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning
this incredible event!*



SO, LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.