

Prints of Peace

“What are we going to do about Pastoral Care, now that our Pastoral Assistant has retired?”

This has been a question asked many times over the past few months, by many people, myself included. Pastoral Assistant Larry Rissmiller gave us a great gift for many years, serving as a part-time pastoral assistant without pay. Larry and I coordinated to try to ensure that members in acute pastoral need (such as a hospital stay) received regular visits, and we worked with the lay Eucharist visitors to provide regular pastoral care for our homebound members. In addition to this, Larry provided pastoral conversation (counseling) for many people who requested it. Larry and I have very different life experiences, so it is natural that some people felt more comfortable talking to me, while others felt more comfortable with him. I am grateful for the partnership we shared for my first seven years at Prince of Peace. I have estimated that Larry and I split the professional pastoral care of the congregation about 70% (me) – 30% (Larry). That is a huge vacuum to fill.



Many conversations have occurred in various committees (e.g. Mutual Ministry, Health & Wellness, and Congregation Council) about what to do now. Some ideas have been batted around – lifting up and training a lay person to do some of the tasks Larry performed; or trying find a way to afford to pay someone to do this work; or accepting that we will be receiving pastoral care at a lesser level than we have grown accustomed to. We’ve not been able to come to a consensus at this point, in part because we’re all trying to identify just what *pastoral care* means.

Notice above when I said that Larry and I split the care 70%-30%, I described it as *professional pastoral care*. Between the two of us, we accounted for 100% of the *professional* pastoral care here, but by no means did we provide 100% of the *pastoral care*. Because pastoral care is so much broader, so much wider, so much more than what pastors and pastoral assistants do. There is an awful lot of pastoral care done by people like our Lay Eucharist visitors, our Telecare ministry, Mending Meals, our prayer chain, and many, many other things that *you* have been doing.

So here’s what we’re going to do. Congregation Council and I have decided to lead the congregation in a two-month period of **prayer** about what we can and will do to provide Pastoral Care into the future. This two-month period started on Sunday, December 15, and will continue into February. Each week will have a theme focusing on a different element of pastoral care. We will pray about it in worship, and I will provide prayer resources for you to use alone or in small groups throughout the week. I also encourage you to pick up a very short and inexpensive book, ***Caring for One Another* by Edward T. Welch**. (Available at Amazon for \$7.89 for paperback, \$7.50 for Kindle.) To any small groups who plan to keep meeting in the new year, I commend this book to you as a resource.

At the end of the two months, we will offer a time for congregational discussion, to begin to decide what to do regarding pastoral care at Prince of Peace, both *professional pastoral care* and more broadly, care in general. I truly believe that praying *first*, before we have this meeting, will enable us together to make the decisions God is calling us to. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Blessings,

Rev. Michelle Scholtes
Pastor Scholtes

PLANNING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In the year 2022, Prince of Peace will celebrate fifty years of ministry! It will be fifty years since the bold and faithful members of Grace Lutheran Church (East Bangor), St. Paul's Lutheran Church (North Bangor), and Faith United Lutheran Church (Johnsonville) took the scary and exciting step of merging to form a new congregation. Since 1972, this congregation has endured both good and bad times, done amazing ministry, and made a real difference in our community. We will be celebrating this in a BIG way in 2022. Now is the time to start dreaming about what that celebration will look like. At the coffee hour on Sunday, January 19, we will spend time brainstorming about what sorts of events we might provide in 2022. Come on out and share your ideas!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

Ashley Flyte.....January 1
 Rashelle KesslerJanuary 1
 Doris BachmanJanuary 1
 Barry YetterJanuary 4
 Diane HahnJanuary 7
 Scott FraunfelterJanuary 7
 Mary O'Meally.....January 7
 Dollie RomagnoliJanuary 8
 Joyce ChamberlinJanuary 9
 Susan Reinhart.....January 10
 Owen Reinhart.....January 12
 Andrew ItterlyJanuary 13
 Janet Martocci.....January 13
 Hunter Ott.....January 14
 Pearl Labar.....January 15
 Kelli HallJanuary 15
 Karen KarnerJanuary 17
 Ann (Pat) ManickeJanuary 18
 Zoe ScholtesJanuary 19
 Dennis MullenJanuary 20
 Sarah ReinhartJanuary 21
 Ashley Kessler.....January 23
 John Krauss, Sr.....January 23
 Scott SchippsJanuary 24
 Dennis Horn.....January 26
 Jennifer Heitzman.....January 26
 Rosanne Poliskiewicz..January 28
 Meghan McGowanJanuary 28

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights from December's Congregation Council meeting:

- Motion to direct the Finance Committee to gather information and report back to council regarding costs for an outside audit to be complete in 2021.-APPROVED
- Motion to nominate the names for the internal audit committee: Craig Hughes, Janet Martocci, Joann Schipps -APPROVED
- Thank you to Sue Reinhart, Kerri Miller and Tina Johns for their service on Church Council
- 50th Anniversary Brainstorming Session will be held on Sunday, January 19th during Coffee Hour

FROM YOUR FUN & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Before we know it, the silent auction will be here! The committee needs items to complete/make baskets. On the counter in the Narthex there's a list of items that are needed. Please take the time to look it over and select an item or two to purchase. This event is a major fundraiser for Prince of Peace, the committee can't do it alone, we need your help. You may place your donated items on the counter in the Narthex. The Silent Auction Committee thanks you for your continued willingness to help! Questions: See Mary O'Meally, Valerie Kessler or Jackie Horn.



Weis Register Tapes:

Thank you for your willingness to support this fundraiser! There is now a time frame we need to adhere to, all 2019 register tapes MUST be submitted to Weis before February, 2020. What does this mean for us? In order for Terry Stiso to deliver them to Weis by then, **she needs to have them by January 5th** in order to process them. Questions: see Mary O'Meally or Terry Stiso.



Trees of Life: “Paying Attention”

(This column, written by Joe Scholtes, draws connections between faith and creation.)

In thinking about what to write in this month’s column, I asked the question, “Is there anything in the Epiphany season scriptures which speaks about a connection between faith and creation?” It didn’t take long to see one. The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated January 6, recalls the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus. Their journey was sparked by a star they saw rising, a star they took as a sign that a new king had been born to the Jews.

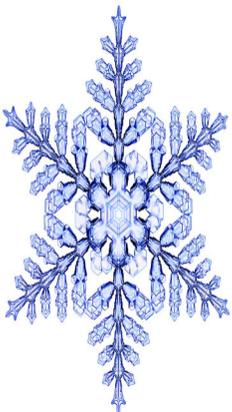
These wise men observed and studied natural phenomena, asking, “What does this mean?” They paid close attention to the world around them. We are wise when we do the same.

And so, might our attentiveness to nature draw us more deeply into the divine? Might taking a walk in the woods teach us to slow down and see the wondrous diversity of life that God has created? Might contemplating the bark of a tree or studying a delicate flower remind us of the detailed intricacies of the Creator’s artwork?

We live in an age when our eyes are often focused on electronic devices. These devices are wonderful tools that enhance our lives. But let us be disciplined to turn them off at times. For life is about much more than virtual reality. There’s a whole natural reality waiting for us to enjoy.



I want to thank everyone for prayers and cards while recuperating from a stroke and surgery. A “special” thanks to Pastor Scholtes for his hospital visits and Cathy Mullen, Sherk and June Jones for the meals. God Bless You All at P.O.P. —*Elwood Hower*



Inclement Weather: If Sunday School is canceled, a phone tree will begin to let all registered parents know. Also, I will send out a mass email, and it will be posted on our Facebook page.

If worship is canceled (which is very rare), I will send out a mass email, and it will be posted on our Facebook page. It will also be reported to Channel 69, which you can check either online or on television. You can also call the church at 610-588-2355. I expect to be there each Sunday by 8:00 or 8:15 whatever the weather. (If it's bad enough that I can't slide across the parking lot, then it's *really* bad!)

Important Note: Worship will only be canceled in very extreme situations. Just because we're open doesn't mean that every road is safe. ***Please use your best judgment when deciding whether to come or not. If it's not safe for you, then please don't come.***

—*Pastor Michael Scholtes*

Become A SPONSOR!

After many years of sharing our news about POP in a printed monthly newsletter, it is now time to use current means of correspondence which is using the internet. While many of us can view the newsletter on our website or receive it by email, there are some that will

need to have it printed. While we had concerns on whether to continue sponsorship in 2020 for our newsletter (even though we are using the internet), we will still incur costs. Please feel free to continue to support our monthly newsletter by sponsoring it with a generous donation of \$15.00. You will be able to sign up on the sheet in the hallway near the church offices.

Join us for a Baby Shower!

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, following the worship service, from approximately 10:50am – 12:30pm join us in the fellowship hall to assemble baby care kits. Light refreshments will be served. Help create layettes for newborns and their parents. Lutheran World Relief will distribute our gifts around the world.

You can help by donating items for the baby care kits, giving a monetary gift to help purchase items, and/or share your time to prepare the layettes at the baby shower. **Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used.** If you want to make sweaters or diaper, go to www.lwr.org/beinvolved and click on Baby Care Kits for patterns. They specify that we are not permitted to add other items to the kits.
lightweight cotton t-shirts

- long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet (pajama top/pant sets may be substituted)
- receiving blankets up to 52" square
- cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- *jacket, sweaters or sweatshirt with a hood or a baby cap
- socks
- hand towel, dark color recommended
- bath-size bars of gentle soap in the wrapping
- diaper pins or large safety pins

**we have enough sweater, jackets & sweatshirts for 2020*

Look for a display in the narthex where items can be placed.

Call Michele Harrison at 610-863-8398 or Joanne Schipps at 610-588-9968 if you have any questions.

Note: Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. • Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. •





Stewardship of time

O God, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. -Psalm 90:12
What does it mean to count our days? Certainly, the poet who wrote Psalm 90:12 was thinking of more than arithmetic, which may not necessarily gain us a wise heart. Wisdom comes from perspective, from painful introspection and prayerful deliberation.

We count in order to know not only how many days we have *lived*, but to ponder how many days we might have *left*. Counting, we remember that we are finite creatures whose lives march forward in steady 24-hour steps, carrying us from birth to death. Knowing, then, that our days are numbered, we appreciate each one more fully.

We count our days to gain the wisdom that every day is sacred; every day presents opportunities to live more fully in relationship with God and our neighbors; every day is for love and joy and peace and fulfillment. Yet it's all too easy to let the days slip away.

This month consider a focus on stewardship of your time – how you spend every day God gives you. Here is a “to do” list for making the most of every day:

Pray: Begin each day communicating with the creator of the universe, meditating on Scripture or a wise Christian author. Even 10 minutes. End by praying Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Care: Convey through word or deed how much you care about someone in your life. Call up an old friend or relative. Invite a co-worker to lunch.

Help: Look for some way to assist someone. Volunteer. Hold a door open for someone entering a store behind you. Stop for a pedestrian who wants to cross the street.

Enrich: Find something that will deepen your knowledge, understanding or appreciation of the world. Read a poem or book. Listen to a sermon podcast or educational news program.

Stop. That's right, do nothing. For at least 10 minutes (use your smart phone timer) sit quietly, breathe deeply and try to clear the busy thoughts from your mind. Open your spirit to God's presence.

Be healthy: Do something to increase your physical health, such as eating a nutritious meal or taking a walk.

Pray: End every day thanking the creator of the universe for another wonderful day. A day you have counted and that you have made count.

Focus on stewardship of time and see how your own life will change. Make it a permanent part of your discipleship.

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Thank you for the gifts, cards, phone calls, well wishes and surprises for the holiday and new year! Thank you for all the special ways kindness was shown to me. May 2020 be a year full of blessings to you all! —*Annette Buss*

Social Ministry News: Have you missed a Joyful Noise Sunday? Well have no fear! There is a pail on the counter in the Narthex for your change, so you can make a Joyful Noise any Sunday. As a congregation we are very generous helping out local hunger through PUMP, the Joyful Noise money goes to the ELCA for World Hunger. There's another option to make a donation to Joyful Noise, online! On our website there's a link that will take you to VANCO where you can sign-up for a one time or monthly donation. Social Ministry thanks you for doing God's work with a faithful and generous heart.



Dear Friends,

Prince of Peace will have a worship service on Wednesday, February 26, at 10:30 a.m. The service will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. A luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. Although this service and luncheon are geared to our home-bound members and senior members of our congregation, anyone is welcome to attend.

If you plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. service and luncheon, reservations can be made in one of the following ways:

- Call Carolyn Leidy at 610-588-7562 and give your name and the number attending. If I'm not home, please leave a message on the answering machine.
- Call the church office: (610) 588-2355 and leave your name and number attending.
- Complete the form at the bottom of this page, and drop it in the collection plate by Sunday, February 23rd.

If it is at all possible, please make your reservation by Sunday, February 23rd. While reservations are not necessary, they are appreciated so that the proper amount of food can be prepared. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

Thank you,
*Carolyn Leidy and
Your friends at Prince of Peace*

Cut here —> _____

Ash Wednesday Luncheon Reservation

Name _____

Total # of People Attending: _____



1 2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Your marriage relationship is something that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2020 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage! The following Northeast US Weekends have been scheduled:

- * April 24-26, 2020 at Country Inn & Suites, Ithaca, NY. A hotel with lots of country charm in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York.
- * May 1-3, 2020 at Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. A recently-renovated hotel, home of the unique, tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- * October 2-4, 2020 at Comfort Inn Latham-Albany North--just 10 miles north of Interstate 90 near Albany, the vibrant capital of NY.
- * October 16-18, 2020 at Olmsted Retreat. A stunning, hotel-style retreat Center in the Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Please go to the national website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org to see the very reasonable group rate for each Weekend. You may make your payment for the cost for your lodging and 5 meals for each of you plus the registration fee with your credit card, or you may mark the option to send a check. Scholarships are available for those in need who request them at the website. Registrations are limited by the size of the conference rooms, so to be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience at www.GodLovesMarriage.org . For questions please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.



The Real Readers Schedule for 2020

- March 5: Where the Crawdads Sing by Della Owen (Sandy)
- April: The Lying Game by Ruth Ware (Charmaine)
- May 7: The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (Mary)
- June 4: If the Creek Don't Rise by Leah Weiss (Sherry)
Ice Cream Social at Church
- July 2: The Rooster Bar by John Grisholm (Joy)
- August 6: The Secret Wife of Aaron Burr by Susan Hallowell Scott (Wanda)
- September 3: The Paris Seamstress by Tashia Lester (Janet)
- October 1: The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson (Cheryl)
- November 5: River Bodies by Karin Katcher (Terry)
- December: A Cedar Cove Christmas by Debbie Macomber (Joan)
Meeting at Cheryl's House

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!

DATE 2020	POWER POINT	USHERS	GREETERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LAY READER	BREAD BAKER	ACOLYTE	ASSISTING MINISTER
Saturday, January 4	Antonioli Family		Butch Stana					Marlene Stana
Sunday, January 5	Cathy Mullen	Keith Heard, John Martocci, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker,	John and Georgia Suranofsky	Tina Johns, Kelly Hill	TBD	TBD	Jessica Reinhart	Ben Manicke
Sunday, January 12	Tina Johns	Sara Godshalk, Robert Gist, Cathy Mullen, Juanita Hower	Neil and Petrina Billger	Jim Jennings, Diane Hahn	Tony DeVito	TBD	Samantha Gurski	Everybody
Saturday, January 18	Cathy Mullen		Butch Stana					Marlene Stana
Sunday, January 19	Owen Jennings	Hughes Family	Sherk and June Jones	Kale Baker, Linda Waszmer	Chip Harrison		Gillian Smith	Tina Johns
Sunday, January 26	Kim Jennings	Linda Waszmer, Heather Scholtes, Sue Reinhart, Tina Johns	Mary O'Meally	Jim Jennings, Juanita Hower	Brooks Baker		Zoe Scholtes	Erinn Stanmets
Saturday, February 1	Antonioli Family		John and Georgia Suranofsky					Marlene Stana
Sunday, February 2	Cathy Mullen	Sherk and June Jones, John and Georgia Suranofsky	Vivian Fahr and Kathy Griggs	Tina Johns, Connie Itterly	Kelly Hill	TBD	Quincy Miller	Kale Baker

January 2020 Altar Guild: Tara and Tyler Flyte
February Altar Guild: Diane Searfass, Connie Itterly
Offering Counters:

1/5/2020: Ben Manicke
 1/12: Chip Harrison
 1/19: Dave Karner
 1/26: Georgia Suranofsky
 2/2: TBD

****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. Thank you!**



**PRAYER PROMPT:
 THANK YOU LORD, FOR THE PROMISE OF
 NEW BEGINNINGS AND HOPE.**

IMPORTANT: Everyone that uses this building is responsible of turning off lights, locking or checking doors, checking the restrooms before leaving the building. Please consider this as your home when you are here and treat it as such. — *The Property Committee*



January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Happy New Year! CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED!	2	3 9:30 a.m. GEMS: Bulletins	4 5:30 p.m. Worship and Holy Communion
5 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	6 5 p.m. Daisy Troop 6:30 p.m. Cub Pack 41 7 p.m. Troop 941	7 6:30 p.m. 4-H 6:30 p.m. Social Ministries 7:30 p.m. Faith Education for All	8 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	9 10 a.m. Coffee Hour and Activities	10 9:30 a.m. GEMS: Bulletins	11 11 a.m. POP-HQ
12 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion Installation of Council Members 11 a.m. POP-HQ	13 5 p.m. Daisy Troop 6:30 p.m. Cub Pack 41 7 p.m. Troop 941	14 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 p.m. 4-H 7 p.m. Venture Crew 41	15 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Property Committee	16 10 a.m. Coffee Hour and Activities	17 9:30 a.m. GEMS: Bulletins Set-up for Pin- ewood Derby	18 8 a.m. Pinewood Derby 5 p.m. Blood Pressure Screening 5:30 p.m. Worship and Holy Communion
19 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings 9:45 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY—Church Offices are Closed. 5 p.m. Daisy Troop 6:30 p.m. Cub Pack 41 7 p.m. Troop 941	21 10 a.m. GFWC Set- up, luncheon and meeting 6:30 p.m. 4-H 7 p.m. Stewardship Committee	22 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	23 10 a.m. Coffee Hour and Activities 2 p.m. Staff Meeting	24 9:30 a.m. GEMS: Bulletins	25
26 8:30 a.m. Layette Shower Set-up 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion, Make a Joyful Noise Offering Layette Shower after service	27 5 p.m. Daisy Troop 6:30 p.m. Cub Pack 41 7 p.m. Troop 941	28 6:30 p.m. 4-H 7 p.m. Pocono Mission District 7 p.m. Venture Crew 41	29 6:30 p.m. Worship and Music 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	30 10 a.m. Coffee Hour and Activities	31 9:30 a.m. GEMS: Bulletins	February 1 5:30 p.m. Worship and Holy Commu- ion

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

Web-site: www.popbangor.org
Web Master: Jackie Horn
Jackie's Email: baskets@epix.net
jljelinekh@gmail.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
5:30 pm 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month
9:45 am each week

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**Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**  
**Organist/Music Leader: Martin Yazdzik**  
**Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt**  
**Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally**  
**Sexton: Brittnee Brown**

**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:**

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Dennis Horn-President             | Kathy Williams |
| Georgia Suranofsky-Vice President | Scott Schipps  |
| Connie Itterly-Secretary          | Dave Karner    |
| Marlene Stana                     | Sue Reinhart   |
| Traci Rumsey                      | Chip Harrison  |
| Bruce Antonioli                   | Luke Hoff      |
| Benjamin Manicke-Youth Rep.       |                |
| 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  
January Newsletter is:**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

*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.**

**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:**  
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Name and Address:**  
2445 LAKE MINSI DRIVE  
BANGOR, PA 18013-5418