

# Prints of Peace



“Happy New Year”? Is that the right thing to say this time around? I don’t know. Maybe “Hopeful New Year” is more appropriate this year. Or maybe “Better New Year.” Or maybe “May 2020 Never Happen Again.” Or maybe something unprintable here.

As we mark the final days of what was probably the strangest and most difficult year in generations, we look forward to a new year, hopeful that things will get better. We are hopeful that the vaccines will soon be distributed, and that by some time this year the coronavirus will be under control. We are hopeful that our new President and new congress will be able to address the many problems that continue to face our nation. We are hopeful that our economy will bounce back, that those who have been laid off, unemployed, or underemployed will be able to find meaningful, well-paying work. We are hopeful that our children will return to a normal school day, and be able to enjoy a normal year. We are hopeful that we will be able to worship without masks, to sing our favorite hymns, to shake hands and hug for the Peace, to receive real communion bread again.

None of these things are reality as the year begins. But we are hopeful that all of them may be by the time it ends. And they may just be!

But we can’t place our faith in those things. They’re not a guarantee. But there is a guarantee we can place our faith in: God’s unending love for us.

We begin January in the church, as we do every year, with the final few days of the Christmas season. The year begins with the star still shining brightly in the sky, announcing the birth of hope and peace and light. On January 6, we close up the Christmas season with the Feast of the Epiphany, the celebration of Christ being made known to the world, as wise men come from the east to pay homage to the Christ child. We spend the rest of the month in the “Season After Epiphany,” a time when we hear the stories of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, from his baptism to calling the first disciples to his first healing in the Capernaum synagogue.

It’s a month of beginnings in the church: the beginning of Christ’s life, the beginning of Christ’s fame, the beginning of Christ’s ministry. It’s a month full of hope and potential: at this point in the story of Jesus’ life, nobody knows yet what he will become. Nobody knows yet where he will go, what he will accomplish. But we know. We know that all of this is leading to one place: the cross and the empty tomb. And from that cross and empty tomb, we know that light and life and grace and salvation flow freely over us all.

In this month of beginnings in a new year, we don’t know yet what it will become either. Perhaps when we close the book of 2021 in twelve months, we’ll look back and say, “Wow, what a great year!” Or perhaps we won’t. But either way, we will be able to look back and say, “God was with us throughout this year.” And that is good.

May we all have a blessed January, and a blessed New Year. Whatever it may bring.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

## RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral: Carmel M. "Millie" Longyhore (November 27)



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

- Ashley Flyte, January 1
- Doris Bachman, January 1
- Rashelle Kessler, January 1
- Barry Yetter, January 4
- Mary O'Meally, January 7
- Diane Hahn, January 7
- Scott Fraunfelter, January 7
- Dollie Romagnoli, January 8
- Joyce Chamberlin, January 9
- Susan Reinhart, January 10
- Owen Reinhart, January 12
- Andrew Itterly, January 13
- Janet Martocci, January 13
- Hunter Ott, January 14
- Kelli Hall, January 15
- Pearl Labar, January 15
- Karen Karner, January 17
- Ann (Pat) Manicke, January 18
- Zoe Scholtes, January 19
- Dennis Mullen, January 20
- Sarah Reinhart, January 21
- Ashley Kessler, January 23
- John Krauss, Sr., January 23
- Scott Schipps, January 24
- Jennifer Heitzman, January 26
- Dennis Horn, January 26
- Rosanne Poliskiewicz, January 28
- Meghan McGowan, January 28



**In-person (9:45 on Sundays except January 3)**

*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](http://popbangor.org/video-worship).

**Facebook**

Like us at Facebook ([facebook.com/popbangor](https://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.

***Note: The December Council meeting happened after the newsletter deadline. See Pastor's email for information.***

**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](mailto:pastorMJS@gmail.com) to get added to the list.



Thank you for the expressions of sympathy of the death of Carmel Longyhore. They were sincerely appreciated.

***-John and Janet Martocci and Family***

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



### Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you for your offerings in 2020...a most unusual year. We are also thankful for the talents and time you shared in different ways, overcoming many challenges. Your continued support has helped fulfill the ministries at Prince of Peace. For years now we have been understanding our ministries in 3 areas of worship, learning and outreach. We were able to continue all these areas because of your generosity.

### The Campaign

Our stewardship campaign: the first phase, *“Showing my love to serve God”* started back in September of 2020 when we asked members to let us know how they shared God’s love during the year. Many of the answers received were how members helped and encouraged others with issues related to the pandemic. Our faith moves us to respond to the blessings God has given us because we bless others. God has given us so much to share.

*Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

Now we are moving into the second phase of the campaign, *“Giving to God the things that are God’s”*. Our theme was inspired from a sermon Pastor gave on Harvest Home Sunday in October of 2020. During the 3 week campaign beginning January 31st, you will have the opportunity to hear sermons, read devotionals, contemplate a poem, pray about what you will be giving back to God and respond confidentially with your intentions for 2021 giving. We pray that this year’s emphasis will help you answer these questions: *Am I giving to God the things that are His? How am I stewarding these gifts with opportunities to serve and provide?*

Look for a mailing towards the end of January with more information about the campaign.

—Stewardship Committee

*Proverbs 11:25 says, “The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.”*

Date:	Greeter	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Usher	Power Point
Sunday, January 10	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Sherry Hock	Laraine Brands	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Diane Hahn	Jim Jennings
Sunday, January 17	Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr	April Miller	Connie Itterly	Georgia and John Suranofsky, Traci Rumsey, Bob Gist	Kim Jennings
Sunday, January 24	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Brooks Baker	April Miller	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker	Tina Johns
Sunday, January 31	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Kim Jennings	Kale Baker	Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn, Vivian Fahr, Bob Gist	Antonioli Family
Sunday, February 7	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart	Janet Martocci	Marlene Stana	Georgia and John Suranofsky, Brooks Baker, Kale Baker	Jim Jennings

**If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find someone to take your place and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change as soon as possible. For last minute changes be sure to leave the message on Pastor Scholtes’ voice mail (610-588-2355) or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.**

## Layette Shower Update:

We will not be holding the Layette Shower in January 2021. We may decide to hold it later in 2021, but if not we will schedule again for January 2022. If you have items for the baby care kits please hold on to them until we have the event. We are grateful for your support in helping prepare kits for those in need and we look forward to getting together to prepare them in the future.

Information about the Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits can be found here: <https://lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits>

Thank you - *Joanne Schipps and Michele Harrison*



## Finance News



The finance committee would like to extend our many thanks to everyone for utilizing checks for their weekly contributions during covid. We are also thankful to those that have tried out Vanco, for the auto pay option from your checking account. If you are interested in this option, please speak to Georgia Suranofsky about how to sign up.

A few things to remember especially during covid, using a check makes our deposits cleaner and easier. It also allows for tracking by congregants in the case there is a discrepancy. Occasionally we will receive envelopes without a donation. When this happens, we will make an effort to reach out to you, to alert you of the discrepancy, and the contact is for transparency reasons only. We also want to make sure that everyone is aware that all deposits occur on Sundays after worship. When we receive contributions through the mail, they will still be deposited on a Sunday. We never hold money at the church. Also, while Mary O'Meally is our financial secretary, her job is strictly to document your donation. Mary does not handle the money. Please forward all weekly donations to the attention of Annette and she will make sure that finance receives them for deposit.

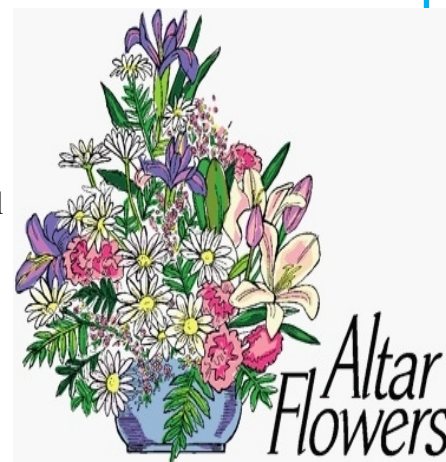
Thank You for your continued support of POP church. —*The Finance Committee*

## Altar Flower Procedure Change

From the Worship and Music Committee and the Finance Committee: There will be a change beginning in 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.

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



# TREASURING GOD'S WORD

Friday, January 1, 2021	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
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (1/3)</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18</b>
Monday, January 4	Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17
Tuesday, January 5	Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31
<b>EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (1/6)</b>	<b>Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12</b>
Thursday, January 7	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 9:10-19a
Friday, January 8	Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Timothy 4:11-16
Saturday, January 9	Psalm 29 ; 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Luke 5:1-11
<b>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (1/10)</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-15; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11</b>
Monday, January 11	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12
Tuesday, January 12	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16
Wednesday, January 13	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34
Thursday, January 14	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
Friday, January 15	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25
Saturday, January 16	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY (1/17)</b>	<b>1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinth. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51</b>
Monday, January 18	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
Tuesday, January 19	Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11
Wednesday, January 20	Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17
Thursday, January 21	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20
Friday, January 22	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7
Saturday, January 23	Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY (1/24)</b>	<b>Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20</b>
Monday, January 25	Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Tuesday, January 26	Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42
Wednesday, January 27	Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a
Thursday, January 28	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18
Friday, January 29	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17
Saturday, January 30	Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY (1/31)</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28</b>



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

**Web-site: [www.popbangor.org](http://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](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:**

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 February 2021 Newsletter is:**

**Tuesday, January 12th**

*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

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**Authorized Organization’s**

**Name and Address:**

PRINCE OF PEACE  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 2445 LAKE MINSI DRIVE  
 BANGOR, PA 18013-5418

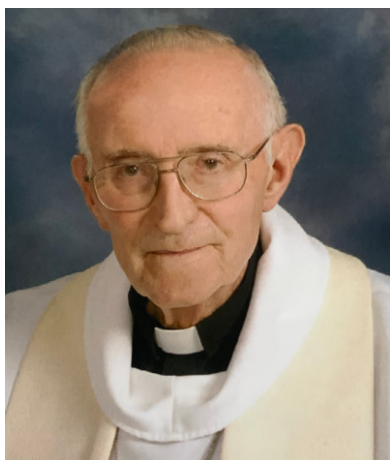
# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### A Note from the Bishop Elect

Dear Friends in Christ - The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany proclaim the good news: "Christ with us" and "Christ revealed to us!" I cling to these words. I long to hold tight, loved ones who must stay apart for a time: my parents, siblings, nephews and nieces. And I grieve for those we have lost, cry out for an end to this present suffering. But I also hear this great promise with new ears and insights: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2 NIV). Let us trust that the Light of the World is here already, and yet his coming is on the cusp, ready to start making all things new. In the coming days, I so look forward to sharing the vision that God is ready to reveal, for new life and renewed purpose across our Synod. More to come: keep watch! - Chris deForest, Bishop Elect

### The Rev. Richard H. Stough Honored for Navy Chaplaincy



The Rev. Richard H. Stough was recently recognized for 30 years of service as a U.S. Navy Chaplain with a \$1,000 contribution to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment Fund in honor of his service. The Endowment supports word and sacrament ministry candidates who will minister to military service members, and those who will serve as Veteran's Administration Chaplains or as Federal Prison Chaplains.

Because of its role in lifting up the Endowment Fund, this synod is designated an "ELCA Medallion Synod." Congregations can become "ELCA Medallion Congregations" by similarly supporting the Endowment Fund. Contact the synod office for more information.

### Learning Ministries Day 2021 - Registration Deadline is Jan. 15

On Saturday, January 23, Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever; and you are invited! We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Online registration will be open until the end of the day on January 15, 2021. Checks must be received to the Synod Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15. Workshop descriptions and the registration link can be found on the synod website at [godslove.org](http://godslove.org).

## Hope, Reading Receives NAACP Community Impact Award



Food distribution staff at Hope

On Saturday, November 14, the Reading Chapter of the NAACP met for its 33rd annual Freedom Fund Gala - virtually, of course. Meals from "Grill Then Chill" were delivered to the homes of attendees. Following the meal, awards were presented to local organizations for their racial justice efforts. The Gala theme was, "We Are Done Dying."

Among the recipients of the 2020 Community Impact Award is a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod - Hope Lutheran Church in the Northwest section of the City of Reading. The award citation reads, in part, "We are thrilled to honor the church's dedication and commitment to making a difference with programs supporting the fullness of life for the residents living in our community."

Hope hosts the largest food pantry in the Helping Harvest Food Bank service area. Additionally, Hope's Table community outreach ministry provides a weekly meal for area residents; and Hope sponsors Café Esperanza, a One World Everybody Eat affiliate. The congregation has also offered summer and after-school programs for the multicultural children and youth who live in the neighborhood.

Pastor Mary Wolfe, who accepted the award on behalf of the congregation, commented, "We are so honored to be considered for this award. Hope has been enriched in many ways through the relationships we have been privileged to form with all of our neighbors."



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