

# Prints of Peace



We are where we are,  
however we got here. What  
matters is where we go next.

-Isaac Marion

I already knew what this newsletter article would look like a few months ago. It was going to be called, “Where do We Go from Here.” I was planning to write about how great the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were in 2022 (and they were!), and then ask the questions, “Where do we go now? What do we focus on in our fifty-first year and forward?”

But things changed, and I already know what we’re going to focus on in our 51<sup>st</sup> year. If you attended the annual congregational meeting in November, you do too. Our focus during 2023 will be to look closely at our finances, and make some changes, because we have been funding our ministries in a way that won’t be sustainable for much

longer. For more than ten years, Prince of Peace has been able to thrive despite unbalanced budgets, through careful watching of expenditures, and also through occasional dips into our investment portfolio. But there isn’t enough left in the investments for more than a few more dips. The truth is this: in the very near future, we have to either increase our revenue or decrease our expenses. That might sound like bad news – and in a way it is. But there’s also good news, and also some *really good* news.

The good news is this: We are working on this **now**, **before** the crisis hits. Congregation council has created a task force that will work diligently throughout 2023 to identify ways to address this. I don’t know yet what those ways will be. But I know this: if it’s going to work, we’ll need to do a few things. First, we’ll need to be **creative**. Second, we’ll need to be **open to new ideas** and **willing to sacrifice**. Third, we will need to **work together**. And fourth, we’ll have to be **prayerful**. I firmly believe that through prayer, we can get our hearts and minds in line with God’s plan for us; and if we do that, we will succeed in this beyond our wildest dreams. However, I also believe that if we fail to connect with God’s will, we’ll just be spinning our wheels, and it won’t go anywhere. The good news is that we have some time to prayerfully and thoughtfully work on this – it’s not an emergency at this point. (But it will become one soon if we do nothing.)

And here’s the *really good news*. God has a plan for the future of ministry here in Johnsonville and beyond. The future of God’s people, and God’s plan to make a difference in this community, are not in question. **God will be here, and so will God’s people**. The question is this: what role will *we* play in that future? In fifty years, in 2073, God will be doing amazing things around here, just as God is doing amazing things now. But they likely won’t be the same things. With prayer and openness, we can get on board with those plans now, and we can live into that future together.

So, I’m seeing this process as not primarily about figuring out how to “pay the bills,” but rather how to live into God’s creative and redeeming future for this community. Where do we go from here? Will you join me?

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

## ECCLESIASTES 3:11

<b>Name of Jesus (1/1/23)</b>	Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Monday, January 2	Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12
Tuesday, January 3	Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22
Wednesday, January 4	Psalm 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31
Thursday, January 5	Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2
<b>Epiphany of Our Lord (1/6)</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Saturday, January 7	Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21
<b>Baptism of Our Lord (1/8)</b>	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
Monday, January 9	Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48
Tuesday, January 10	Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13
Wednesday, January 11	Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21
Thursday, January 12	Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12
Friday, January 13	Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5
Saturday, January 14	Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Epip. (1/15)</b>	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Monday, January 16	Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40
Tuesday, January 17	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4
Wednesday, January 18	Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17
Thursday, January 19	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24
Friday, January 20	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10
Saturday, January 21	Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. after Epip. (1/22)</b>	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
Monday, January 23	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14
Tuesday, January 24	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18
Wednesday, January 25	Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79
Thursday, January 26	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12
Friday, January 27	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24
Saturday, January 28	Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Epip. (1/29)</b>	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
Monday, January 30	Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25
Tuesday, January 31	Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6

*Read these on your computer or on your phone! Go to [DailyLectio.net](http://DailyLectio.net), where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!*



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

Ashley Flyte, January 1  
 Doris Bachman, January 1  
 Rashelle Kessler, January 1  
 Bethany Reinhart, January 3  
 Winter Johns, January 3  
 Barry Yetter, January 4  
 Mary O'Meally, January 7  
 Diane Hahn, January 7  
 Scott Fraunfelter, January 7  
 Eli Hughes, January 8  
 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  
 Alex Scholtes, January 19  
 Dennis Mullen, January 20  
 Sarah Reinhart, January 21  
 Ashley Kessler, January 23  
 Rhonda Montgomery, January 24  
 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)**

*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.

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- We created a task force that shall include the council members to conduct the organizational wide study as mandated at the congregational meeting.
- Completion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE**

New address:  
**Sherry Hock**  
 126 Belvidere St.  
 Apt 114  
 Nazareth, PA 18064  
 (same phone number)

**Fun & Fellowship News:**

Rada Knives will be available to purchase when coffee hour starts on January 8th, they will then be in the fellowship hall. The intent of the committee is to deplete our current inventory, we need you to do this. Tell your friends they may want to purchase a knife or two. Preferred type of payment are checks unless you have the exact amount in cash. Questions: see Jackie Horn or Mary O'Meally





**Sunday Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall begins again on January 8.** 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](mailto:pastorMJS@gmail.com) to get added to the list or sign up at our church website ([popbangor.org](http://popbangor.org)). They are also archived at [popbangor.org/pastormail](http://popbangor.org/pastormail).

### **This Month We Are Thankful and Filled with Gratitude For:**

- January 1: Pastors, the Deaconess Community and Lay Leaders
- January 8: First responders
- January 15: Doctors, Nurses and Healthcare staff
- January 22: Farmers and Ranchers
- January 29: Warm days and cool nights in summer



### **From the Fun & Fellowship Committee:**

This committee has planned many fun events for 2023, we start the year with a game night with appetizers on January 21st. 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 in the new year. Make sure you check the newsletters and announcement folders for updated information.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Gifts may be made to the Endowment Fund at any time. At the annual meeting we made some decisions about how the sub funds would be used in 2023 for property and other ministries. On November 6<sup>th</sup> we also heard about "Milestone Giving" as an opportunity to make gifts to honor an event that happens in your life of family and friends. Use this link to see more about gifting.

[https://youtu.be/gj\\_FsRJM7y0](https://youtu.be/gj_FsRJM7y0)

## **THANK YOU**

A letter was received from the Rev. Scott Anderson on behalf of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church to thank the congregation of Prince of Peace for the donation of \$300.00 in memory of the Rev. Barbara Shade. Your generous contribution will help St. Paul's to continue to honor her memory. He thoughtfully included a copy of her funeral bulletin, which includes her obituary. The letter and funeral bulletin are on the Gratitude Board between the church offices.

**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.**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Power Point and Camera</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Offering Counters</b>
<b>January 1</b>	Mary O'Meally, Holly Blakeslee	Mary Hendershot	TBD	John and Georgia Suranofsky	John Martocci	TBD	Jackie Horn, Jim Jennings
<b>January 8</b>	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	April Miller	Sarah Harrison	Brenda Hughes, Kale Baker	Kim Jennings	Sarah Harrison	Chip Harrison, Jim Jennings
<b>January 15</b>	Brenda Hughes, Brooks Baker	Kim Jennings	Connie Itterly	Sherk and June Jones	Jim Jennings	Alex Scholtes	Connie Itterly, Jackie Horn
<b>January 22</b>	Sherk and June Jones	Brooks Baker	April Miller	Marlene and Butch Stana	Tina Johns	Izzy Baker	Scott Schipps, Jim Jennings
<b>January 29</b>	Sara Godshalk, Vivian Fahr	Janet Martocci	Marlene Stana	Sue Reinhart, Traci Rumsey	Antonioli Family	Landon Horn	Brenda Hughes, Jackie Horn
<b>February 5</b>	John and Georgia Suranofsky	Georgia Suranofsky	Kale Baker	Vivian Fahr, Bob Gist	Cathy Mullen	Sarah Harrison	Bob Gist, Jim Jennings

**Communion Assistants:** 1/1 April Miller, Linda Waszmer  
1/8 Jim Jennings, Diane Hahn  
1/15 Tina Johns, Laraine Brands  
1/22 Connie Itterly Brooks Baker  
1/29 April Miller, Jim Jennings  
2/5 Diane Hahn, Tina Johns

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

### **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, beginning January 8th ending on 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.



## Because of God's Great Mercy Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign

You won't want to miss hearing Pastor's sermons with beautiful colored illustrations from the Saint John's Bible over 4 weeks, beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. Each week there will be a special feature to make this year's campaign a time for you to consider how you will commit to being the steward God wants you to be.



Weekly Devotionals by Pastor Joseph Scholtes and a poem written by Traci Rumsey will give you "food for thought". Watch for a mailing or an email message to announce the campaign and another mailing a few weeks later with information about how to make your commitment of 2023.

*Gracious God, instill in us your love that lasts forever.  
Our money is yours. Let us use it to further your work  
while enjoying some of it for ourselves. Amen.*

**Come along with your family at Prince of Peace to live out your baptism  
as a church in the world who is committed to  
seek and serve all people through your generous support.**



### **Join us! Real Readers Book Club 2023**

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

- January 5 – "My Name is Mary Sutter" by Robin Oliveira
- 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







Brothers and Sisters at Prince of Peace,

Thank you for continuing in generous partnership with Disciple Makers. Wow, what an amazing thing that God gives us this work to do and church families to come alongside us. We eagerly prepare for our fall conference. Last year, one of our dear students became a Christian at the conference. This year the theme is: “Hope out of Heartache”, based in Ruth! In Love, --*Gene and Megan Williams*



### Help us Prepare Baby Care Kits!



On Sunday, January 29, 2023, from 8:30-9:30 a.m., join us in the fellowship hall to assemble Baby Care Kits. Lutheran World Relief will distribute our gifts around the world to newborns and families in need.

You can help by donating items for the layettes, 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](http://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.



#### Kits will include:

lightweight cotton t-shirts, long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet (top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers 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 baby cap, socks, hand towel, dark color recommended, bath-size bars of gentle soap in the wrapping (like Ivory or Dove), diaper pins or large safety pins

Look for information in the narthex where items can be placed. Call Michele Harrison at 610-863-8398 or Joanne Schipps at 570-460-1065 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.



Join us for a 6-week study on the Book of Esther, from January 12-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 read through the story together, watch some video and discuss this amazing woman. Georgia Suranofsky will be our facilitator for the study.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)

Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013

Office Phone: 610-588-2355

Website: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)

Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes

[lotsofsocks@live.com](mailto:lotsofsocks@live.com)

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**

*Sundays at 9:45 a.m. –Join us!!*  
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- **Pastor:** Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314, [PastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

**Congregation Council Members:**

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Connie Itterly -President | Jackie Horn– Treasurer |
| Traci Rumsey -V-President | Tina Johns -Secretary  |
| Kathy Williams            | Brenda Hughes          |
| Dave Karner               | Sara Godshalk          |
| Kale Baker                | Kerri Miller           |
| Pastor Michael Scholtes   |                        |

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!** February 2023

Newsletter Deadline is:

**January 10th at Noon**

You may email your submissions to [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

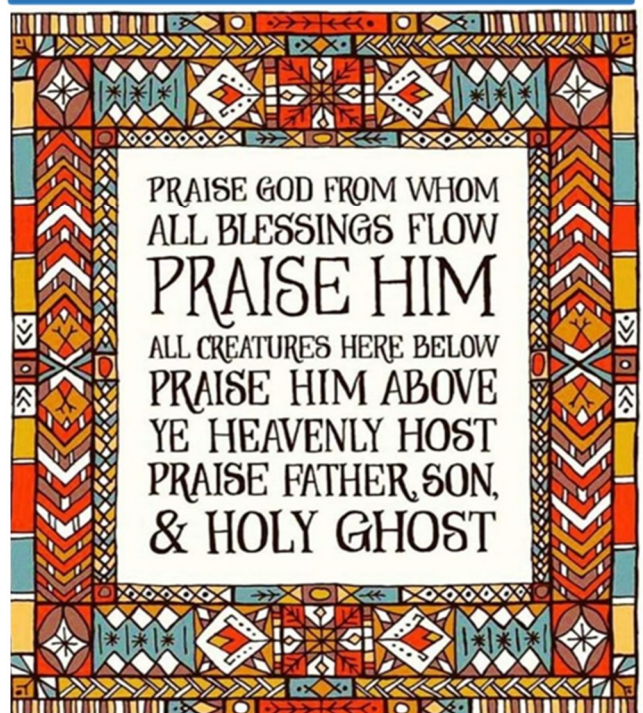
Or give handwritten items to

Annette Buss

**\*\*Items received after the deadline will go into next month’s newsletter.\*\***

**OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*We, the people of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, will actively seek and serve Christ in all people.*







# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



## Generosity and Vitality in the **NOW** Normal

A Stewardship Extravaganza

**January 21, 2023** | Trinity, Lansdale



Generosity And Vitality In The NOW Normal  
Sponsored by the Southeastern PA and Northeastern PA  
Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, January 21, 2023

8 A.M. To 4 P.M.

Trinity Lutheran Church

1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

An In-Person Only Event

Cost: \$40 per person (includes lunch)

FREE for SEPA/NEPA Synod seminarians and first-call  
pastors

Engage with outstanding church leaders in plenary  
presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



*Keynote:*

Ryan Burge: "The Nones:  
From The Overlooked  
Category to Impossible  
to Miss in Less Than  
Fifty Years"

# Register Now!

Join us!

## LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/  
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
2023

JUNE  
1-3



ELCA

### A Fresh Look for the ELCA

The ELCA has released refreshed branding featuring a cleaner look and a modified color scheme. Learn more at [elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding](https://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding). The new logos should be used in digital media including websites, email, and social media. Printed materials may be used until they are depleted.