

# Prints of Peace



*A note  
from the pastor*

***“This is a trauma in slow motion.”***

That’s one of the ways I’ve been describing the COVID pandemic for over a year now. The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress defines traumatic stress as: *“The emotional, cognitive, behavioral, physiological experience of individuals who are exposed to, or who witness, events that overwhelm their coping and problem-solving abilities.”*

We usually think of a *trauma* as a particular *event*, something terrible that happened to us that leaves open psychological wounds. And that’s true; a trauma is often exactly that. Some people have indeed endured that sort of trauma in the last year – perhaps losing a loved one to COVID, or perhaps healthcare workers witnessing the surge of hospitalizations, and so forth.

But I think that most, perhaps all, of us have endured a different type of trauma throughout the past year, one in *slow motion*. If the lockdown had lasted only a few weeks, like many of us expected a year ago, then it might have been just a blip in our lives we could have looked back on and laughed about. We could have dealt with it and moved on. But this has gone on, and on, and on, and the longer it has gone, the more it has affected us, like dripping water that slowly creates a canyon. We have gone through abnormal circumstances for a very long time, and I believe that it has taxed our coping and problem-solving abilities.

The worst of COVID seems behind us, at least in the United States. We should be re-emerging in the coming weeks and months, able to enjoy many things the way we used to. And that is reason to celebrate! But we should also be aware that trauma leaves marks, deep marks that don’t always heal on their own.

Even when things are back to “normal,” you may find it difficult to concentrate sometimes. You may find yourself more irritable or touchy. You may find it hard to sleep, or hard to stay awake. You may find that you have a fear of particular places, events, or even people. These things are normal reactions to a traumatic situation. And you can get help for them.

I urge you to try to be patient with yourselves over the next few months, and patient with each other. We’re all dealing with things we’ve never experienced before, and even when the pandemic ends, the emotional fallout will last a lot longer. Take time to breathe. Just focus on your breath, and be there with the breath for a minute. Talk to a trusted friend about what you’re experiencing. These simple things might help, but if they don’t, don’t blame yourself. And know that there is help. I am here to listen to you. I am not a trained counselor, but I can listen and offer you the hope of Christ. I can also help you get connected with a counselor, or perhaps a support group.

I’ve got a strong feeling that mental health professionals are going to be busy over the next few years – there’s a whole world of people who will soon be coming out of this slow-motion trauma. There is no shame in needing help, whether short-term or longer. God did not make us in a way that we can do everything ourselves; God made us to be in relationship with one another. Seek that help. If you need help seeking, let me know.

In Christ,

*Rev. Michael J. Scholtes*

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes



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

Judy Rotzell, June 1  
Gordon Brozina, June 2  
Ernest Lohman, June 2  
Cory Jennings, June 3  
Joan Miller, June 4  
Brooks Baker, June 5  
Tina Johns, June 6  
Joanne Robinson, June 7  
Diane Searfass, June 10  
Joyce Minisi, June 13  
Chip Harrison, June 15  
Heather Scholtes, June 15  
Eleanore Reimer, June 19  
Richard Kessler, June 19  
Marion Messinger, June 21  
John Martocci, June 22  
Matthew Dotta, June 22  
Holly Blakeslee, June 23  
Magdalein Streisguth, June 23  
Christopher Brands, June 24  
Jarrett Ott, June 25  
Kathy Lane, June 25  
George Brown, June 28  
Patricia Heard, June 28  
Katie Waszmer, June 29

### **ARE YOU GETTING PASTORMAIL?**

Pastor Scholtes sends out emails to the congregation almost every day. These *Pastor-Mails* 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 be added to the list.

# **COME WORSHIP** *with us!*



**In-person (9:45 on Sundays – OUTSIDE in the grove on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)**

*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.

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ Council approved a proposal from Baker Landscaping and Hardscape to create a walkway from the parking lot to the grove through funding with grant applications to the ELCA and Synod. Additional monies would come from Capital Improvement or the Property Committee budget.
- ◆ Council discussed the “New Normal”. Step by step coming back to normal. Committees involved in the rethinking of ways we may change for the future.
- ◆ We have raised well over \$1200 toward our goal of \$1400 for the Zeiser Leadership Fund (\$100.00 for each year Bishop Zeiser was Pastor at Prince of Peace). A few more donations are still coming in. Council has approved using the \$225.00 from an old “Legacy Fund” to put toward the Zeiser Foundation Fund.
- ◆ The Faith Education For All Committee has tentatively agreed to plan a joint VBS with East Bangor Methodist Church in person and outdoors at a neutral site.

### **Turtzo Missionary Bequest:**

This year Social Ministry was given \$4,438.00 to support the work of missionaries. Missionary work has always been special to God. God has always been fundamentally driven by a missionary heart. Therefore, when He calls missionaries to do his work, He is calling people to participate in the work that has driven the history of God's work in the world from Eden to today. The amount was awarded as follows: \$1,500.00 to Gene Williams of Disciple Makers in State College. Their primary goal is to make disciple makers of Jesus Christ among college students, as opposed to only bringing people to faith in Christ. This is a great program for young men and women away from home for the first time. We also awarded in equal amounts of \$1,469.00 to Dr. Mark & Linda Jacobson and Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson. They are currently serving as healthcare workers in Tanzania. Through this generous bequest we are able to continue to do God's work in supporting the work of missionaries. John 20:21 "As the Father has sent me, so I send you"

—Mary O'Meally, Social Ministry Committee

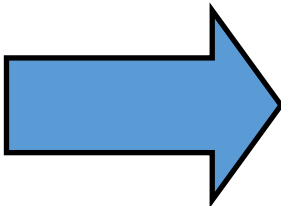
Editor's Note: Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson's latest email newsletter is included with this newsletter.

### **TURTZO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Two of our young adults are this year's recipients of the Anthony D. and Jeanne M. Turtzo Scholarships: **Ashley Flyte** and **C.J. Kizer**. They received their awards during worship on **Sunday, May 16**. Congratulations, Ashley and C.J.!



### **A note from the Reopening Task Force regarding worship:**



As of press time for the newsletter, the guidance and recommendations from the CDC and PA Department of Health are changing quickly. As of now, we can't tell you the plan for worship in June. Up-to-date information will be published in PastorMail and announced each week in worship. Feel free to contact the church office (610-588-2355) if you have questions.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT P.U.M.P**

I know this is not news to many of you, but I just received the following blurb from PUMP, our local food pantry located in Portland. In case you've wondered just what this "PUMP" is we keep talking about, here's some information!

#### **Families need help with food or know of someone who does?**

PUMP (Portland Upper Mt. Bethel Food Pantry) serves limited income families from the communities of Bangor, East Bangor, Portland, Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, and Martins Creek with food supplies. The food pantry is open Mondays from 9 to noon at 111 State Street, Portland (In the Fire Hall building). Clients meeting federal income guidelines can come for food every two weeks. Follow the pantry on Facebook under Portland Upper Mount Bethel Food Pantry.

#### **You can help:**

Non-perishable food donations are also graciously accepted by the pantry. The pantry gives food to about 125 weekly. PUMP is also in need of ongoing financial support and currently needing to buy a forklift and truck. Donations can be sent to PUMP, PO Box 69, Portland, PA 18351, or taken to the pantry on Monday mornings.

—*Pastor Scholtes*



**MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTORY  
UPDATES**

(Please provide any directory corrections or updates to Annette Buss or Pastor Scholtes. They will be printed in the following newsletter.)

Joe Daley: New Phone number 973-989-3969

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**



On Sunday, June 20, we will honor those in our congregation who are graduating. We would like to honor any graduates at all, graduating from pre-school, high school, college, trade school, whatever. (Those graduating from high school and their first college degree will also receive a small gift.)

So, if you or someone you love is graduating any time in 2021 (or graduated in 2020 but weren't included in last year's list), please get the following information to **Pastor Scholtes by June 10**: Graduate's Name... Address... Phone... Email... Graduating from... Degree earned (if applicable)... Future plans...

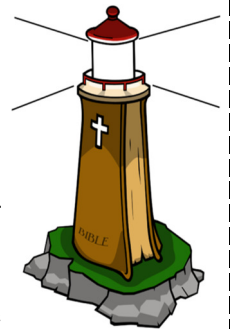
**Spring has Sprung...**

The scout troops are offering help with spring yard work to people in the community, whether members of Prince of Peace or not. They will be available on Saturdays over the next few months. If you, or a neighbor, would like help with this, please contact Dave Karner at davidkarner1@gmail.com or 484-280-8657. Please know, this is a service opportunity for the scouts, not a fundraiser. They're not looking for payment! What a generous way to share God's love with the community!



**Honor Father and Special Gentlemen for Father's Day—June 20th**

Since we are not back to having weekly Announcement Folders just yet, we've come up with 3 special ways to observe Father's Day—in memory of and in honor of Fathers and special gentlemen! The names received will be listed in a display on the bulletin board by the church offices, a special document will be emailed on Pastor's email group and be published in the July Newsletter. The suggested donation is \$1.00 per name, which will benefit the Sunday School. Donations may be placed in the offering buckets or mailed with your offering— just put a note designating that it is for Father's Day. (**Please don't mail cash.**) To make sure that the postal service doesn't delay my getting the names on time: email the names to [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com) or call me at the church office: 610-588-2355 (leave a message and your telephone number if it's after hours) or drop the form in my after hours basket on my office door. - **Annette Buss**



**Deadline for names to be included is: Sunday, June 13th**

*Please print*

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use extra paper if more space is needed.**





I am attempting to compile a list of items that have been donated to Prince of Peace either in Memory of, or in Honor of loved ones. If you have information or photos that would be helpful in this search please let me know. I can be reached by email at [tcbpai@gmail.com](mailto:tcbpai@gmail.com) or cell at 610-554-2381. (Thank you to those that have already reached out to me!) —*Connie Itterly*



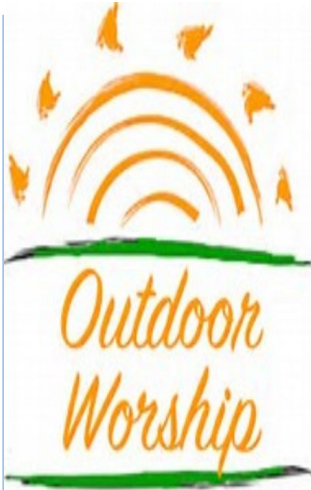
They are trying to have a complete photo library of each confirmation class. The missing years are: 1972, 1982, 1986, 1988-1998, 2009, 2016, 2018, 2019. We can make a copy if you have an original. The committee really wants to have a complete collection. Please contact any of the committee members: Denny Horn, Jackie Horn, Connie Itterly, John Martocci, and Brenda Stauffer.

### OUTSIDE WORSHIP ON JUNE 6

Beginning June 6, we will have our regular Sunday worship outside in the church grove on the first Sunday of each month. Worship will begin as usual at 9:45 am. Please wear a mask, and bring a chair to sit in. (There are some benches, but not enough for everyone.) If you would prefer to remain in your car, that is fine. Speakers will be setup so that you can hear the service, and communion will be brought to you. Unlike the outdoor services we did last summer, these will be **full** services, with sermon, hymns, communion, and so forth. One of the best things about worshipping outside is that we will be able to sing

together!

Depending on how this goes, we plan to do this through the fall. If the weather is inclement on a given Sunday, we will hold worship inside instead.



## Are you willing to help?

It's lawn care season! Can you help to keep our grounds looking wonderful? See John Martocci for details, questions and to sign-up to help!

Thank you to all who help with these important tasks!



**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](mailto:PastorMJS@gmail.com).**

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point
Sunday, June 6 In grove	Brooks Baker, Brenda Hughes	Connie Itterly	Kale Baker	Marlene and Butch Stana, Sara Godshalk, Vivian Fahr,	Jim Jennings (if inside building)
Sunday, June 13	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Sherry Hock	Marlene Stana	Traci Rumsey, Bob Gist, June and Sherk Jones	Cathy Mullen
Sunday, June 20	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	April Miller	Tina Johns	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Antonioli Family
Sunday, June 27	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart	Kim Jennings	Laraine Brands	Sara Godshalk, Vivian Fahr, June and Sherk Jones	Tina Johns
Sunday, July 4 In grove	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Janet Martocci	April Miller	Georgia and John Suranofsky, Marlene and Butch Stana	Kim Jennings (if inside building)

READ

your BIBLE

PRAY

EVERY DAY

and YOU'LL

grow, GROW,

GROW!

Tuesday, June 1	Psalm 20; Exodus 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
Wednesday, June 2	Psalm 20; Numbers 6:22-27; Mark 4:21-25
Thursday, June 3	Psalm 130; Isaiah 28:9-13; 1 Peter 4:7-19
Friday, June 4	Psalm 130; Deuteronomy 1:34-40; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
Saturday, June 5	Psalm 130; Genesis 2:4b-14; Luke 8:4-15
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
Monday, June 7	Psalm 74; 1 Samuel 16:14-23; Revelation 20:1-6
Tuesday, June 8	Psalm 74; 1 Kings 18:17-40; Revelation 20:7-15
Wednesday, June 9	Psalm 74; Isaiah 26:16-27:1; Luke 11:14-28
Thursday, June 10	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Genesis 3:14-24; Hebrews 2:5-9
Friday, June 11	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 1 Kings 10:26-11:8; Hebrews 11:4-7
Saturday, June 12	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Kings 14:1-14; Mark 4:1-20
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinth. 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34
Monday, June 14	Psalm 52; Ezekiel 31:1-12; Galatians 6:11-18
Tuesday, June 15	Psalm 52; Jeremiah 21:11-14; Revelation 21:22-22:5
Wednesday, June 16	Psalm 52; Jeremiah 22:1-9; Luke 6:43-45
Thursday, June 17	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:1-20; Acts 20:1-16
Friday, June 18	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:21-30:15; Acts 21:1-16
Saturday, June 19	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 37:1-13; Luke 21:25-28
<b>Sunday, June 20</b>	Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
Monday, June 21	Psalm 65; Exodus 7:14-24; Acts 27:13-38
Tuesday, June 22	Psalm 65; Exodus 9:13-35; Acts 27:39-44
Wednesday, June 23	Psalm 65; Joshua 10:1-14; Mark 6:45-52
Thursday, June 24	Psalm 30; Lamentations 1:16-22; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Friday, June 25	Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Saturday, June 26	Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:18-22; Luke 4:31-37
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
Monday, June 28	Psalm 88; Leviticus 21:1-15; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Tuesday, June 29	Psalm 88; Leviticus 15:19-31; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5
Wednesday, June 30	Psalm 88; 2 Kings 20:1-11; Mark 9:14-29
Thursday, July 1	Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:1-15; 1 Corinthians 4:8-13
Friday, July 2	Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:16-26; 2 Corinthians 10:7-11
Saturday, July 3	Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:27-34; Matthew 8:18-22
<b>Sunday, July 4</b>	Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
Monday, July 5	Psalm 119:81-88; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Tuesday, July 6	Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:1-13; James 5:7-12
Wednesday, July 7	Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:14-21; John 7:1-9



Spring 2021

## THANK YOU!

### Mission Support Giving



We have often heard that the word “synod” comes from a root that means “walk together.” In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod we walk together to engage in ministries that no congregation can do alone. One of the ways that congregations support the synod’s ministries of outreach, service, and support is by sharing a portion of their offerings in the form of mission support.

Thank you! Your generosity makes a difference. A little over half of your mission support funds ministries on our synod territory. Some of it comes back to congregations or groups of congregations in the form of grants! The rest is sent to the ELCA churchwide organization to support ministries done in our name across the country and around the world.

Follow this link to view a “Thank You” video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWWp3WoTxPI>

Jesus calls his church to look outward to bring his good news to the world. Your faithfulness throughout the year in mission support sharing is one way your congregation answers that call. Thank you!

For more information to share stories of how your giving is doing God’s work, please contact [georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com](mailto:georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com).



**Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Interwoven Intergenerational Ministry.**



**Open Shelf food and hygiene pantry at The Lutheran Center on the Campus of University of Nebraska-Lincoln.**



*Thank you Lord For Mothers  
and Special Ladies*

*The following individuals have made a  
Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School.  
In Loving Memory Of...*

Grace Thompson, Ruth Leidy and Annie Hendershot  
By The Family of Carolyn Leidy  
Helen Lane, Hazel Weidman, Dorothy Lane, Ruth Lane and Irene Weaver  
By Kathy A. Lane  
Betty Leininger  
By Her Daughters  
Romaine Brown, Orvie Wright, Mary Belso, and Anna Suranofsky  
By John and Georgia Suranofsky  
Helen Smith, Ada McLean, and Emma Eichlin  
By Manus Smith  
Joyce Weidlick, Jeanette Johnson, and Ethel Fuls  
By John and Joanne Robinson  
Isabell Shook, Ruth Yetter, and Mary LaBar  
By Sharon and Barry Yetter  
Eleanor Bush and Gert Kuhs  
By Thomas and Meghan McGowan  
Brenda Smith, and Frances Fontanella  
By Ray, Tara, Tyler, Ashley and Lauren Flyte  
All of the women who died from Covid  
By Dennis and Cathy Mullen  
Marian Parsons Saddler, and Esther Hahn Jones  
By Sherk and June Jones  
Divona M. Jennings, Olive Gates, and Beulah Jennings  
By the Jennings Family  
Nora Martocci, Stella Steinmetz and Carmel Longyhor  
By Janet and John Martocci  
Edna M. Smith, Bessie Bartholomew, and Nellie Smith  
By Annette Buss

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*To us you were someone special,  
someone set apart,  
Your memory will live forever,  
Engraved within our heart.*



*The following individuals have made a  
Mother's Day contribution to the Sunday School.  
In Loving Honor Of...*

Wanda Riley, and Theresa Suranofsky  
By John and Georgia Suranofsky  
Saundra Smith and Lori Kuhs  
By Thomas and Meghan McGowan  
Tara Flyte  
By Tyler, Ashley and Lauren Flyte  
Sue Flyte  
By Ray, Tara, Tyler, Ashley and Lauren Flyte  
Joan Miller  
By Sherry, Carissa and D.J.  
Kim Jennings  
By the Jennings Family  
Gladys Steinmetz  
By Tom and Connie Itterly and Family  
Janet Martocci and Christa Smale  
By John Martocci  
Tina Johns  
By Sammi Johns

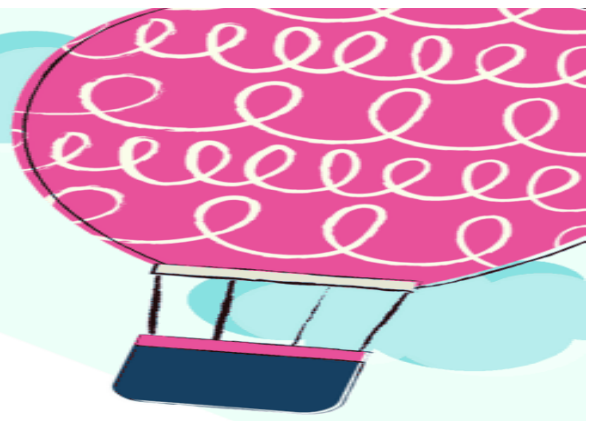
*My  
Mother  
kept  
a  
garden...*

*My Mother kept a garden  
A garden of the heart  
She planted all the good things  
That gave my life it's start  
She turned me to the sunshine  
And encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing the  
Seeds of self-esteem....  
And when the winds and rain came,  
She protected me enough  
But not too much because she  
knew I'd need to stand up  
Strong and tough.  
Her constant good example always  
taught me right from wrong—  
Markers for my pathway that  
will last a lifetime long.  
I am my Mother's garden.  
I am her legacy  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.*

*-Author unknown*

**I FOLLOW  
Jesus, no  
matter  
WHERE He  
LEADS me.**

**MATTHEW 6:20**



**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)**  
**Webmaster: Isaak Griggs—[isaakgriggs@gmail.com](mailto:isaakgriggs@gmail.com)**

**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
*Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 2 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:**

Georgia Suranofsky - President	Dennis Horn
Connie Iterly - Vice President	Luke Hoff
Marlene Stana - 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 July 2021 Newsletter is:**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

*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**

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





**Hope**

*Picture: Tarangire NP, near home*

***May 2021 Update***

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

ELCA Global Personnel



Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

One year ago we were in the midst of wondering whether we should stay in Tanzania or leave in very questionable times. When we think back to "what we knew" then, in the midst of pandemic uncertainty and closing borders, we were living on the edge. Though there are still unknowns and risks, it seems our feet have landed on more certain ground. At the same time, we are aware of great losses for so many of our friends and supporters. Loss of loved ones is at the top of the list. For those of you who have lost close family members or friends, we hope you find comfort and peace.

Here in Tanzania, the top of our news headlines was the death of our President John Pombe Magafuli. The country held 21 days of mourning and a smooth transition to the incoming, former Vice President, President Samia Suluhu

Hassan. She is the first female president of Tanzania, coming from Zanzibar. We are very hopeful that she will preside with wisdom and grace over this country. There is an air of hope that can be felt in Tanzania, and a deep joy over the peaceful transition that characterizes the people of this country.

In so many ways, hope has risen in our hearts even in the midst of that which remains unknown. As of yet, there is no Covid vaccine available in Tanzania, Covid statistics have not been released since May 2020, and the country still struggles to meet demands on its healthcare system. But there is relief over having survived the last year, and a sense of changes coming. It could also be that hope is rising with the arrival of the long rains as everything has burst out in color! Whatever the reason may be, we hold on to hope.



Dr. Evelyine Mushi

Holding a former NICU graduate (L) and working with Dr. Swanson (R)

In 2019, we recruited Evelyine to work with us after her internship was completed.

Dr. Evelyine Mushi is among the top 1% of all doctors I have ever worked with in Tanzania. All who know her admire and respect her work ethic, intelligence,



dedication, humility, and compassionate care for mothers and their children.

Her story is even more remarkable when one realizes that she became an orphan while still in primary school. Against a backdrop of personal suffering, childhood loss of both parents and 2 siblings, she is a testament to resilience and grace. Evelyine is committed to children, to serving in Tanzania, and to one day becoming a neonatologist -- perhaps the first Tanzanian neonatologist in northern Tanzania! I have been privileged to serve as her clinical mentor, supervisor, and friend. Later this year, we will be sending her off to a 4-year pediatric residency program in South Africa. I couldn't be prouder of her.





POP Editor's Note: This is a premature child photographed in blue light—please see this photo on the web.)

### A NICU Year in Review:

325 babies (a record!)

93% survival (another record!)

144 premature babies (still another record!)

20 area hospitals and healthcare facilities sending us their sickest babies

Our smallest survivor ever, 612 grams (1.3 pounds) - Left Middle Photo

\$160,000 raised to support NICU babies through donors and churches

No baby ever turned away due to money issues

Using only appropriate technology for our setting

Training at every opportunity (bottom left)

Our Motto:

Every Breath Counts, No Matter How Small.

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### **Kids' Corner**

We have come to the end of Caedmon and Indya's Spring Break from their school in Kenya. We've had some small trips, just the 4 of us, but mostly we have been home and the kids have taken a good long rest. In the meantime, the Covid curve took a rise and Kenya issued a lockdown around Nairobi, closing all schools for 6 weeks which meant they began their next term here at home online. This week we received the good news that Kenyan schools are re-opening, and our children will be returning back to their school this coming weekend for their 3rd and final term of this school year.

Caedmon took his ACT a few weeks ago and so begins the journey of searching



for a college. There are many factors to consider and the combination of a pandemic and living an ocean away from the US certainly poses some challenges to visiting college campuses. Meanwhile, he is enjoying his classes (in particular Computer Science and Chemistry), and has found time to camp in the forest or climb the trees (with his rock climbing equipment). Hammocking is so much more fun at 60 feet above the ground!

Indya has also settled in well. Besides her regular classes, she thoroughly enjoyed cooking class (eating her homework was the best!), and sewing has become a new passion. She is now making bucket hats for friends. Though art and pottery are in her future next year, she has a passion for the ocean and marine science. We will see where that takes her! She's been an avid reader this break though it is a rare day that she doesn't draw or paint something new.

Hannah is pressing through challenging exams and long research papers and is eagerly awaiting bluer skies and warmer temperatures in MN. St. Olaf College in MN continues to have strict Covid protocols in place, which has been a bit isolating though she has had a few opportunities to see extended family. She was able to receive her first Covid vaccine in April, and the second is soon to follow. She has found a number of international students to whom she has connected which has lifted her heart. She will finish her first year the end of May (and what a challenging one it was!)



We are always grateful for your interest and support. We have a few requests for you to keep in your prayers:

- Jodi's work permit and resident permit renewal to be granted (thank God that the nursing license has been granted and should be "in hand" next week!)
- Wisdom for Steve as he makes many decisions regarding the future direction of the NICU and local physician/nurse training.
- Ongoing financial needs and fundraising efforts for the needs of the Pediatric Department, NICU, hospital bed fees for malnourished children, and salary support for pediatric trainees.
- Covid vaccine to become available to Tanzanians
- Health and well being for all our family and protection for the kids as they travel back to Kenya.
- Thank God with us for the glorious rain and the growing crops.

With gratitude,  
Jodi and Steve Swanson



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



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We are supported through the gifts of churches with the ELCA. Churches and individuals can donate to our support through the ELCA:

[elca.org/missionarygiving](https://elca.org/missionarygiving)

find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship

Information regarding tax-deductible contributions for pediatric work can be found at:

[www.tanzanianchildren.org](http://www.tanzanianchildren.org)

All funds are received through Global Health Ministries (GHM), and directed in entirety towards clinical pediatric training of doctors and nurses in Tanzania, care of babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), medications, bed fees and food for malnourished children.

Donations inside and outside USA can also be received through:

[www.tanzanianchildren.com](http://www.tanzanianchildren.com)

**Your support makes this work possible!**

GHM will send you a tax deductible receipt.

**Our mailing address is:**

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# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## Synod Assembly 2021 & MinLab

We'll be gathering together virtually to conduct the business of this church all the while we're working toward "Growing Young and Vital". Our assembly is virtual to protect the most vulnerable around us, but we will be holding an in-person Ministry Laboratory (MinLab) on August 14, 2021. The MinLab will be held at the Lutheran Center. It's open to anyone, even people who were not voting members to the Synod Assembly. The Lab will allow participants to engage, in real time, with ministry ideas, congregations already participating in ministry projects, and allow space for participants to experiment with ideas, eat good food, and have fun!

Together we'll wonder about how we're healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger. More information coming soon!

## ELCA Elects The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer, First Trans Bishop



CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — **The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer (they/their)**, San Francisco, Calif., was elected May 8 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Rohrer is the first transgender bishop in the ELCA. The election took place during an online synod assembly.

Rohrer was elected on the fifth ballot, with 209 votes. The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson, pastor of University



## ***Are you doing ministry with LGBTQIA+ youth?***

### ***Would you like to do more?***

June is **Pride Month**, which is a time for Queer Folx to celebrate their gender identity and sexuality with other Queer Folx and allies. In celebration of pride month, people around our synod are reading *Made Known and Loved*.

*Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry* builds on experience and wisdom developed through The Naming Project, a ministry created at the intersection of youth, faith, and LGBTQ identity. Ministry cofounder Ross Murray shows congregations how to examine their values and create a program that affirms LGBTQ youth in their faith and their identity, accepts and welcomes diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and equips future leaders for the church and the LGBTQ community.

*Available at Augsburg*

Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley in Berkeley, Calif., received 207 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco since 2014 and as community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department since 2018. They served as executive director of the Welcome Ministry in San Francisco from 2002 to 2014, assistant night minister for the San Francisco Night Ministry from 2013 to 2018 and community garden coordinator at Project Homeless Connect from 2010 to 2012. Rohrer also served as pastor of a multiparish call serving the homeless and hungry at Welcome Ministry from 2006 to 2014.

Rohrer received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana University in Sioux Fall, S.D., in 2001, a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2005, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2017. Rohrer is currently a doctoral candidate in transformative studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Augustana is one of 26 ELCA colleges and universities.

Rohrer's installation is scheduled for Sept. 11 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek, Calif. The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud has served as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod since 2008 and will retire June 30.

