

# Prints of Peace



## FROM THE PASTOR

Hard to believe that it's been just about a year since the lockdown started for the COVID pandemic. As I write this in February 2021, I can remember February 2020. We had started to hear stories about a virus that was making its way around several countries. I can remember calling my sister, who lives in Seattle, because Seattle was the first place in the US hit by COVID, over a month before it became so widespread. I re-

member thinking how lucky we were that we lived on the east coast. I remember our parish nurse making announcements that if we just used proper hygiene, everything would be fine. (That was the best health info we had back then!)

But then in March the floodgates opened. I remember March 13, the day the governor declared schools closed for two weeks, and I remember the emergency executive committee meeting we had that evening. I remember finding my video camera and tripod, and how strange it felt to pre-record worship that Saturday afternoon. I thought – so many of us thought – it would only be for a few weeks. We'd be back to normal by Easter, certainly.

Well, we all know how that turned out. We still won't be "back to normal" in time for Easter 2021. It's easy to look back at the last twelve months and mourn how much has been lost. How many people have died or gotten seriously ill? How many funerals have been graveside-only affairs, without the chance for the kind of closure we need? How many holiday parties and weddings have been canceled or severely altered? How much loneliness have people endured? How many people have lost income?

All these things are true. The past year has been extraordinary and difficult. But there have been some bright lights as well. These don't take away the sadness and mourning, or make it unimportant. But the bright lights can help us see that there is hope after all, even amid *this*.

I think about all the ways we've grown as a church. We've learned how to have meetings without being in the same place. Zoom isn't the same as in-person, but it's a reasonable alternative. We've done education the same way: people from six to over eighty are learning online through Bible Studies, Confirmation Classes, and Zoom Zone (our "Sunday School alternative"). We came together to create an outstanding video celebrating Christmas throughout our congregation. We've learned how to worship together while apart. Our online and phone worship have enabled people to feel part of worship who hadn't in years. We have made more use of our beautiful grove than ever before. We have had outdoor baptisms, and car-side communion, and we have shown that our generosity and love can't be stopped, as we continue to provide for the needs of the church, of PUMP, and of so many other things.

How have you grown individually during this year? Again, I am not saying that we should ignore the hurt, or that it isn't real. It's helpful, though, to focus at least sometimes on the good, on the growth. The end of the pandemic is coming. Over time, the hurt will fade. But the growth will stay with us forever. Praise be to God for the growth!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes



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

Stella Nelson, March 2  
Patrick Itterly, March 2  
Gladys Steinmetz, March 3  
Everett Reimer Jr., March 3  
Joe Scholtes, March 3  
Marissa Hill, March 5  
William Heitzman, Iii, March 5  
Kody Garis, March 6  
Lori Kuhs, March 6  
Thomas Chamberlin, March 6  
Sadie Baker, March 7  
Rebecca Flyte, March 9  
Valerie Kessler, March 11  
Tylor Duffin, March 13  
Kevin Gillow, March 14  
James Jennings, March 14  
Olivia Fraunfelter, March 17  
Dennit Golden, March 18  
Gillian Smith, March 21  
Brian Hower, March 25  
Alison Krock, March 28  
Allison Manicke, March 30  
Lois Neiley, March 31

### **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**

c/o Sunrise Of Randolph  
648 NJ 10  
Randolph NJ 07689

#### **Betty Devito (new apartment #)**

692 American Bangor Rd Apt D142  
Bangor PA 18013

### **In-person (9:45 on Sundays)**

*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



### **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.

### **FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Council meetings will focus on determining several objectives for implementation in 2021. More to follow in the coming months.
- Jim Jennings visited with council and explained the financial report with a discussion of what to look for going forward in 2021.



Giving to God the things that are God's

**“But me, who am I, and who are these my people that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we’re doing is giving back what we’ve been given from your generous hand.” 1 Chronicles 29: 14**



Many hands have helped make this year’s campaign come alive. We would like to thank Pastor Scholtes for his sermon’s and daily emails, Sherry Hock and Jen Baker for the vibrant bulletin board display, Kim Jennings for the paintings on the narthex windows, Traci Rumsey for her poem, Carissa Nemeth for creating the logo and Pastor Joe Scholtes for the devotionals. They have used their God given talents to help us respond to how we give back to God through our talents, time and money. In next month’s issue find out how we ended the campaign with our intentions.



Thank you for your continued giving to support God’s work here and around the world. We have never seen a year like 2020, however our congregation with stood the circumstances by remaining faithful and generous. Our spending plan (budget) turned out different than projected. Our finance committee and Treasurer, Joyce Weishaupt have worked diligently the stay on top of the expenses and income to keep as close to staying on track as possible. Two major fund raising events, the rummage sale and the farm show did not happen this year and as a result income as lower by probably \$5,000-\$8,000. With this lower income and the committee closely watching the expenditures, we ended the year with being in the black. Thank you Finance Committee!

When we are responsible and give to God that which is His, He says “well done, good and faithful servant.” Let’s continue seeking and service Christ in all people through our giving to the ministries of worship, learning and outreach of Prince of Peace.





The holy season of Lent began on February 17, and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 4. Our Lenten worship will be different this year, as we are making some adjustments due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. Here is the current schedule, but please understand that further adjustments may be necessary depending on conditions:

**MIDWEEK LENT:** This year's midweek Lenten worship will be offered **online only**. Each week, Martin and Pastor Scholtes will offer a brief service. The theme this year is **The Promises of God**. Watch for more information in PastorMail.

**HOLY WEEK:** Our Holy Week schedule will be changed this year. Normally, we have worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. This year, there will only be **one** weekday service, on **Friday, April 2 at 7:00 pm**. This service will include elements of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This service will be recorded and shared online as well.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4:** Our **6:00 am Easter Vigil** service will be held **entirely outdoors**, in the grove. The good news about this is that we now have an outdoor heater, and that should make it comfortable! There will also be an indoor service at our regular time of **9:45 am**. The 9:45 am service will be recorded and shared online, and hopefully the 6:00 Easter Vigil as well.



### Easter Meal Drive: Food Collection for P.U.M.P.

The Social Ministry Committee asks for your support during our annual Easter Meal Drive for the Portland-Upper Mount Bethel Food Pantry (P.U.M.P.). This year in lieu of giving out paper eggs we are asking for donations of the following items: instant mashed potatoes; box of scalloped potatoes; canned vegetable; canned fruit, and biscuit mix. Thank you for your generosity each holiday and all year long. You help feed local families who are facing hunger and food insecurity.



Thanks to all who participated in Sunday's 50th Anniversary Planning meeting on Sunday, January 17th. We now have an Anniversary Task Force dedicated to planning events, displays, and more for next year. The Task Force includes Denny Horn, Jackie Horn, Connie Itterly, John Martocci, and Brenda Stauffer. Please contact any of them if you have ideas or questions.







<b>2ND SUNDAY IN LENT (2/28)</b>	<b>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38</b>
Monday, March 1	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12
Tuesday, March 2	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
Wednesday, March 3	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43
Thursday, March 4	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10
Friday, March 5	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
Saturday, March 6	Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8
<b>3RD SUNDAY IN LENT (3/7)</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22</b>
Monday, March 8	Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
Tuesday, March 9	Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28
Wednesday, March 10	Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19
Thursday, March 11	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6
Friday, March 12	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14
Saturday, March 13	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13
<b>4TH SUNDAY IN LENT (3/14)</b>	<b>Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21</b>
Monday, March 15	Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6
Tuesday, March 16	Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
Wednesday, March 17	Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20
Thursday, March 18	Psalm 51w:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13
Friday, March 19	Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4
Saturday, March 20	Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11
<b>5TH SUNDAY IN LENT (3/21)</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33</b>
Monday, March 22	Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Tuesday, March 23	Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24
Wednesday, March 24	Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50
Thursday, March 25	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
Friday, March 26	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18
Saturday, March 27	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
<b>PALM/PASSION SUNDAY (3/28)</b>	<b>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1 – 15:47</b>
Monday, March 29	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
Tuesday, March 30	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
Wednesday, March 31	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/1)</b>	<b>Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY (4/2)</b>	<b>Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42</b>
Saturday, April 3	Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66
<b>RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (4/4)</b>	<b>Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8</b>



## From your Social Ministry Committee:



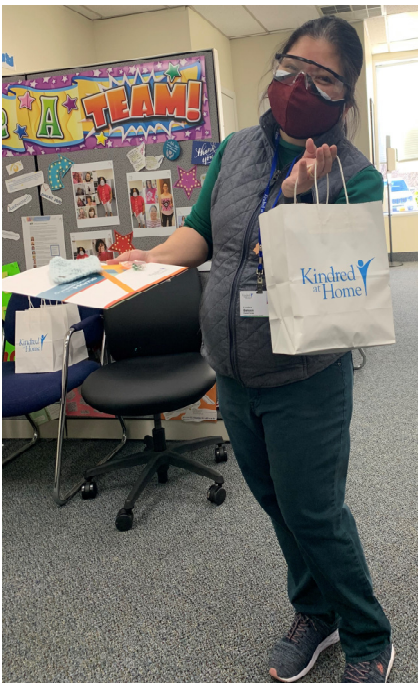
Recently I was approached by Georgia Suranofsky to make mini prayer squares for healthcare workers at Kindred at Home, the home health network where Justine Cesari works. Justine was telling Georgia how concerned her staff is working during this pandemic. Georgia thought the prayer squares would comfort the nurses and staff at Kindred. Along with about 50 prayer squares, your donations of



snacks were also put out for the staff to enjoy. Justine told Georgia her staff were amazed that strangers would do this for them. We were doing what we always do, doing "God's Work With Our Hands", something this congregation is very good at. The second week 40 prayer squares were given to Janessa Baker for the staff in her area at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Pocono. Janessa told me the response to them was amazing, and that she could use more. The following week 40 additional prayer squares were given to her. As chairperson of the Social Ministry Committee, I brought this ministry to the committee and it was agreed that once a month a healthcare facility would receive the prayer squares. The people making the prayer squares are: Sandy Butler, Georgia Suranofsky, Betty DeVito, Sue Reinhart, and myself. If you would like to join us in making the prayer

squares I can provide you with the pattern and yarn if needed. If you want to participate in this ministry but you don't knit or crochet, maybe there's another way you can do so. Religious charms are sewed onto the prayer squares, we are looking for monetary donations to purchase more charms. There will be a receptacle in the Narthex where you can place your donation. Also, if you know of a health care facility that would like to receive them please bring it to my attention. There will be some prayer squares in a basket in the Narthex please help yourself to one. We serve a mighty God! I know He hears us when we pray for the ability to show love in what He has called us to do. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

*-Mary O'Meally*



The March Newsletter is sponsored:  
Happy Birthday to Kody Garis  
from Brooks, Mom, Jayden, Landon,  
Taylor and Mckenna



## Support Prince of Peace when you shop at Amazon!



I would like to let the congregation know how easy it is to help support POP when Amazon shopping. When you go to Amazon and log in, in the search box, type **Amazon Smile**. There is a spot that says you ship, Amazon Smile donates. Click on this box and follow the instructions. When you are prompted, search for Prince of Peace, Bangor. It is that simple! Any questions, please let me know. -**Connie Itterly** at 610-554-238, [tcbpai@gmail.com](mailto:tcbpai@gmail.com)

## Lent: A Season of Hope 2021



For our neighbors around the world Lent is hope that only Jesus can bring. During Lent, let's put God's love into action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. The loss and uncertainty of COVID-19 hit our poorest neighbors around the world hard. Social Ministry is asking you to be the hands and feet of Christ for our "neighbors" by engaging in this project during our Lenten journey this year. This project will continue until Sunday, March

31st. Each week a specific item will be collected, ie: week 1: bars of soap; week 2; bath towel (52 x 27, dark color); week 3: toothbrushes; week 4: combs; week 5: nail clippers. There will be a white laundry basket in the Narthex for your donations. We are also asking for monetary donations to ship the kits to the LWR Warehouse in Maryland. If you would like to participate in this project, but don't feel comfortable shopping, I will be happy to shop for you. You may give me the money, you can also place your donation in the bucket provided. Thank you for your willingness to participate in this ministry. Questions: see Mary O'Meally or Sherry Hock.

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

*-Anne Frank*

Date:	Greeter	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Usher	Power Point
Sunday, March 7	Brenda Hughes, Connie Itterly	Sherry Hock	Kale Baker	Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn, Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim Jennings
Sunday, March 14	Sue Reinhart Kale Baker	April Miller	Tina Johns	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes, Brooks Baker, Diane Hahn	Jim Jennings
Sunday, March 21	Brooks Baker Diane Hahn	Kim Jennings	Laraine Brands	Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker, Georgia and John Suranofsky	Tina Johns
Sunday, March 28	Mary O'Meally Vivian Fahr	Brooks Baker	Connie Itterly	Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, Kale Baker, Diane Hahn	Antonioli Family
Sunday, April 4 Resurrection Sunday (6 a.m.) Grove	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD, in case the service is to be held inside
Sunday, April 4 9:45 indoor service	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Janet Martocci	April Miller	Vivian Fahr, Brenda Hughes, Sue Reinhart, 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](mailto:PastorMJS@gmail.com).**





**Thank you!**  
**Our congregation**  
**generously**  
**gave \$18,765.98 to**  
**Mission Support**  
**in 2020**

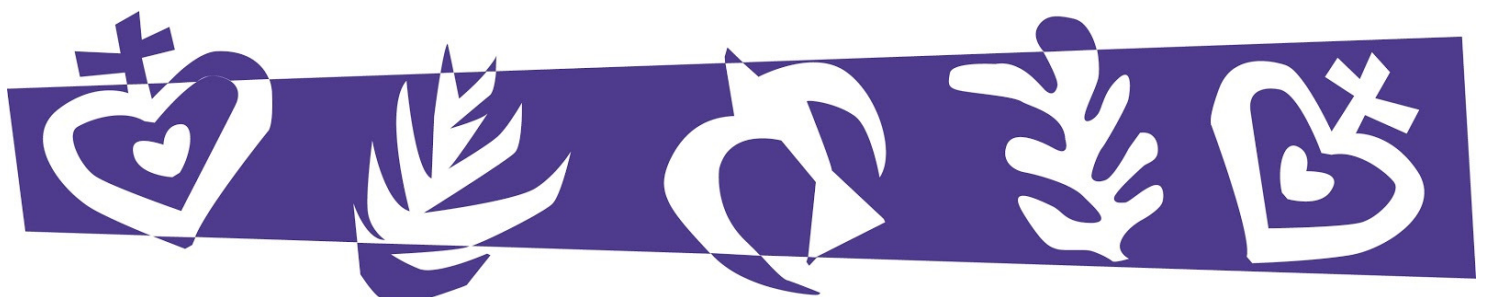
In 2020 the congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod contributed a total of \$1,828,527.57 to undesignated Mission Support. Of this total amount, \$969,119.62 stayed in the Synod and \$859,407.95 was sent on to the ELCA to support various ministries.

This means that 53 cents of every dollar of Mission Support from our congregation supported the Strategic Directions below for mission and ministry right here in the Synod.

- Deepening our spiritual lives and our relationships with God
- Renewing our passion for sharing the good news
- Enhancing the connections among people and communities
- Strengthening ministries to Youth, Young Adults and Families
- Working on all four goals above with financial support to our ministry partners

Thank for your 2020 Mission Support Commitment. You have remained faithful with your generosity during a year filled with uncertainty.

Find out more about what your generous offerings to Mission Support do at the Synod's website: <http://nepasynod.org/resourcesmenu/stewardship/mission-support/>





But God commendeth His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8





DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO  
*Prayer.*  
C O L O S S I A N S 4 : 2

**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)**

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
*Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 2 for details!*  
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- **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  
April 2021 Newsletter is:**

**March 9th.**

*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



# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

## What Have I Done for Him?

Lent is a season in the church year during which we particularly focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us to pay the debt we owed for our sin. We know there is no way we can pay the debt ourselves. Only the sinless Son of God could do that. We have access to heaven only by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

While we cannot repay Jesus for what he has done for us, his love does require a response. Paul, speaking of our ministry of reconciliation, wrote, *"For Christ's love compels us . . ."* (2 Corinthians 5:14). We remain on earth to carry out the tasks which Christ left for us to do: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner, (Matthew 25:31-46). James admonished us that *" . . . faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"* (James 2:17). We provide the funds that support our pastors, teachers, and missionaries. Again, we can quote Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 9:11-12. *"If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?"* Certainly each of us is addressed by the Great Commission: *"Go and make disciples of all nations . . ."* (Matthew 28:19). The following words from Frances Ridley Havergal are a poignant reminder that Christ's love and sacrifice for us require a response:

*Thy life was given for me, thy blood, O Lord,  
was shed*

*That I might ransomed by, and quickened  
from the dead.*

*Thy life was given for me, what have I  
given for thee?*

*And thou hast brought to me down from thy  
home above*

*Salvation full and free, thy pardon and thy  
love.*

*Great gifts thou broughtest me, what have I  
brought to thee?*



We are saved by grace through faith for works. Let us pray for the desire to be good stewards of the gifts of salvation, health and wealth, and time and opportunity which God has given us that we might have a part in the furthering of God's kingdom.

## Second Fiddles Are Needed Too

The conductor of a great symphony orchestra on tour was being interviewed by a young reporter from the high school paper. She was a charming girl with a great ambition to succeed and no experience whatever with great artists.

"My paper would like to know," she began, with an evident effort to appear professional, "what instrument in the orchestra is the hardest to play." Without a second's hesitation the great musician replied, "A second fiddle! And it's that way with life, too. It is always easy to find those who want to play the solos. It is something else to find those who are willing to provide the harmony and the accompaniment." (Roy Smith)

## Meditate on Christ's Sacrifice

Genesis tells us about the creation of the world. "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). It wasn't long, unfortunately, before our perfect world was destroyed when Adam and Eve rebelled against God even though they knew that such an act would lead to death (Genesis 2:17). A just and holy God would have to carry out that sentence, but a merciful and forgiving God would also offer a solution to our sin problem: Enter Jesus, our Savior. This Lenten season, meditate on his sacrifice and thank him for his grace.



### The Nature of a Servant ...

Poor Peter. He was so flustered. They had all met for the Passover, and no one had taken the initiative to perform the lowly task of washing the feet of the disciples. Now, here was Jesus, with the towel around his waist, coming toward

him. How embarrassing! "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus must have known how Peter felt, for he said Peter would understand later.

But this was now, and Peter demurred. *No, you shall never wash my feet.*" Jesus insisted. "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." And Peter's feet were washed.

No one but Jesus knew exactly what lay ahead. Although he had brought up the subject of his death more than once, the disciples didn't comprehend the words. Maybe if they had, they would have acted differently.

Is that what we say when we miss opportunities to be servants? "Well, if I had known ..." We do know, though. We have the benefit of hindsight, which, we have heard, is 20/20. We know we have a Savior who has conquered death and Satan, and so we take Jesus' command to his disciples as a command to us as well. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

### We Pray

Lord, I am like those disciples ... looking around to see who will serve me instead of whom I can serve. Forgive my stubbornness and pride. Teach me to love and serve as you did that others might see you through me. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!*



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

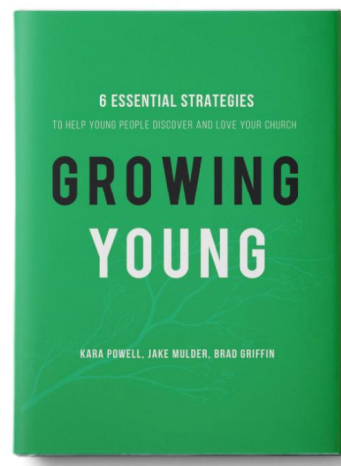
## Save the Dates: June 3-5, 2021

### Synod Assembly 2021

We are still moving forward on our Synod Assembly for June 3-5, 2021. The theme will be "Growing Young and Vital" and will feature new ideas for ministry around three *vital signs* – healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger. By the first week in March, a final decision will be made about whether the Assembly will be all online, or in-person at the Kalahari resort – even if that may mean delaying some portions to a later date. It will depend on the progress of the vaccine distribution and how well we can make arrangements that keep everyone safe. **SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST CONCERN.** Registration will begin after March 31. We will also know by the end of March, more details about the program and the hours of each day's schedule. For now, save the dates and stay tuned for more information coming soon, over the next few weeks.

## Growing Young

Want to reverse the effects of aging? Need more energy in your life? Sick of fine lines and wrinkles? Check out Growing Young! **What is Growing Young?** It is a movement in NEPA and throughout the greater ELCA and beyond that is based on a book of the same name which studied churches of all sizes, denominations and locations throughout the country who are maintaining and attracting youth and young adults in their congregations.



The authors of Growing Young have identified **6 key strategies** that these congregations have and that others congregations can utilize to help youth and young people discover and love the church. They are: **Unlocking keychain leadership, Empathizing with today's young people, Taking Jesus' message seriously, Fuel a warm**





### **Meet Deacon Travis Woodfield, Director of Congregational Legacy**

Hello! I have been fortunate to have a colorful adventure of a life, so, here's a little of my story. I studied Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University. I've been fortunate to have life experience ranging from a fishmonger, admissions counselor, Franciscan friar, hospital chaplain, and Campus Minister. I also have a MDiv. from Wake Forest University. Studying at Wake allowed me the chance to intern and work with the Center For Congregational Health. While I was working there, I found a vocation that combined many of the things I was interested in. When I was a hospital chaplain, I loved getting to walk alongside people when they were making meaning of changes in their life. I am honored that I get to do the same with churches in their meaning-making work, whether that be launching to a new vision, reconsidering what ministry the church is called to, or even considering what end-of-life care and legacy-making might look like.

Rachael, my wife, and I have been married 7 years. We have one cat who runs the house. In my spare time I love to play video games, cooking dinner, and playing guitar. I am also an amateur magician. When I get the pleasure of meeting you ask me if I have a deck of cards and I'll show you something!

**community, Prioritize young people everywhere, and Be the best neighbors.** These are not just strategies to help you attract young people, but are also 6 great strategies for great ministry, regardless if another young person ever walks through the doors of your church building or logs onto your worship service.

Growing Young cannot help you personally look or feel younger; it will not get rid of your wrinkles. But these strategies can help your congregation feel and be younger by reigniting energy in your members and attracting new younger worshipers that will reverse the effects of aging within our congregations.

**For more information about Growing Young, read the book "Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church" by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad M. Griffin from Fuller Youth Institute.**

**Join the "Growing Young" BOOK STUDY hosted by Sammy Kelly and YoYoFa**

The first, third, and fifth Wednesdays of the month starting March 3rd at 12 p.m. (March 3, 17, 31, April 7, 21, May 5, 19). All at 12 p.m. and all via Zoom.

For more information or to sign up contact [sammy@nepsynod.org](mailto:sammy@nepsynod.org) or sign up for the "Youth" emails for updates and links, which can be accessed through our Synod website.