Volume 28 Issue 3 March 2023

Prints of Peace



This year, the season of Lent runs from late February to early April, so all of March is part of Lent. This season has had a number of different emphases over the centuries. It has sometimes been viewed as a time of fasting, a somewhat dour season of looking at our own sinfulness and trying to make amends. It has sometimes been viewed as a season to focus on baptism. This was especially true in the early centuries of the church, when adult baptisms often took place on Easter – Lent was a time of preparation for Easter.

This year, we are focusing at Prince of Peace on *self-reflection*. Not so much as a way of looking at our sinfulness and wretchedness but taking a good look at where God has been throughout our lives, throughout the COVID pandemic, throughout both the good and challenging times we've all had. To see where we might have missed God in some moments, and what we can do to notice God's presence better in the future. The past few years, with COVID and other things, have been a slow-motion trauma for us, and it's my hope that some prayerful self-reflection can be a source of healing for us.

At Ash Wednesday worship each year, I invite you to "the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament." Each Sunday in Lent, I'll be focusing my sermons on one of these disciplines. Not as a way to add one more thing to your life, not as a way of guilt-tripping you into following them, but rather as a way to explore how each of these disciplines can be a source of freedom and grace for us, as we grow closer to God's will for us. It's an *invitation*, not a *command*.

On five Thursday mornings in Lent (March 2-30), I'll be leading a discussion of the church year at our Thursday morning coffee hour. This will be an opportunity to see how the rhythms of the year reflect the rhythms of God, and how we might find freedom and grace exploring these rhythms more deeply.

On Sunday, March 12 at 4:00 pm, there will be a special service called *Hope Abides*. This service will be a way to remember and lament all the things we have lost through the COVID pandemic, including the lives that were lost, the isolation we suffered, the effects on our children's education, and more. A light supper will follow.

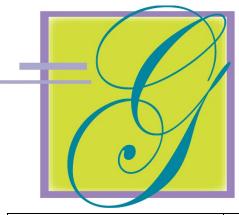
On the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday (April 6), Good Friday (April 7), and the Vigil of Easter (April 9), I will focus on the *gifts of word and sacrament* that God gives us to strengthen us in our journey together.

I hope you can join us for many of these events this Lent. All of the worship services and (hopefully) all of the classes will also be available on the church's YouTube page after their completion on-site.

A blessed, prayerful, thoughtful Lent to you all.

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes





lory to GOD

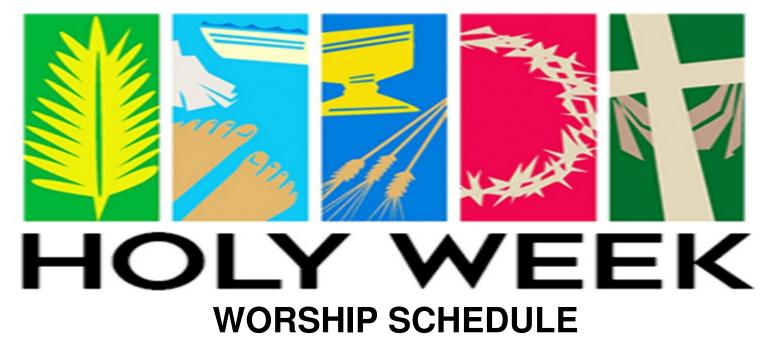
Wednesday, March 1	Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14					
Thursday, March 2	Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7					
Friday, March 3	Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31					
Saturday, March 4	Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10					
2 nd Sunday in Lent (3/5)	Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17					
Monday, March 6	Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6					
Tuesday, March 7	Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13					
Wednesday, March 8	Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53-8:11					
Thursday, March 9	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23					
Friday, March 10	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22					
Saturday, March 11	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6					
3 rd Sunday in Lent (3/12)	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42					
Monday, March 13	Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13					
Tuesday, March 14	Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4					
Wednesday, March 15	Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39					
Thursday, March 16	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32					
Friday, March 17	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9					
Saturday, March 18	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9					
4 th Sunday in Lent (3/19)	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41					
Monday, March 20	Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20					
Tuesday, March 21	Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14					
Wednesday, March 22	Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34					
Thursday, March 23	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11					
Friday, March 24	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19					
Saturday, March 25	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53					
5 th Sunday in Lent (3/26)	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45					
Monday, March 27	Psalm 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12					
Tuesday, March 28	Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10					
Wednesday, March 29	Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33					
Thursday, March 30	Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11					
Friday, March 31	Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30					

Read these on your computer or on your phone!

Go to DailyLectio.net, where you can sign up for daily emails, or download the app for iPhone or Android!



A Task Force was created in January, charged with conducting an organization wide study to identify what structural and operational changes are necessary in order to better align our future anticipated revenues with our future anticipated expenses. This group includes all council members, plus a few other interested and devoted people. The group has now met several times and is currently in the process of getting up to speed with our financial picture at Prince of Peace. It is our expectation that over the next few months, we will be more active in seeking out information from the congregation and offering some suggestions for how to move the financial needle in the right direction. *Pastor Scholtes*



PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: Sunday, April 2, 9:45 am. We will distribute palms and hear the Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew.

GREAT THREE DAYS:

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. We will have confession and forgiveness, the commemoration of the Last Supper, and the Stripping of the Altar.

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. We will hear the Passion of Our Lord according to John, pray the ancient Bidding Prayer, and have Adoration of the Cross.

VIGIL OF EASTER: Sunday, April 9, 6:00 a.m. Our plan this year is to begin this service outside (weather permitting), and then process together into the sanctuary during the service. This service includes Lighting of the New Fire, Affirmation of Baptism, Holy Communion, and more. Bring bells to ring!

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9, 9:45 a.m: This will be a regular service in the sanctuary. Bring bells to ring!

Stewardship News – by Georgia Suranofsky

Thank you to all who participated in our 2023 Stewardship Campaign!

Our Financial Secretary has reported the following numbers:

- ➤ We received 18 completed commitment cards.
- ➤ 11 of these cards reflected an increase in giving, which adds up to a total increase of \$452/month.
- ➤ The total amount pledged monthly is \$4,645., which is more than double what was pledged last year! Just imagine if our commitments met the \$15,416 that is required monthly to meet our budget for ministry!

We are thankful and filled with gratitude for:

- ♣ Volunteer Opportunities
- Each Other
- Friends and Family
- **↓** Time to be still and get to know God





Jars Needed...

The last Sunday of the month, Joyful Noise Sunday, just became even more special and we need jars, any kind of jar (the size of a mason jar) to make it happen. It can be a plain jar, a fancy jar, a self-decorated jar, it does not matter. Just bring one (or two, or more) to church in March. Look for the box to place them in.



Rada Knives:

Are you aware that we sell Rada Knives? Well, we do! We have 23 different types of knives, they are: Granny Paring; Plain Steak Knife; 7" Blade Slicer; Carving Knife; Butcher Knife; Carving Fork; 10" Bread Knife; Super Spreader; Bagel Knife; Pizza Cutter; Super Parer; Turnover; Grapefruit Knife; Vegetable Peeler; Cooks Knife; Party Spreader; Serrated Slicer; Cheese Knife; Cook's Utility Deluxe Vegetable Peeler, and Daisy Scraper. The prices are \$6.00 to \$20.00. Please see Mary O'Meally to purchase a knife or two.



Joyful Noise Update:

How generous were you in 2022? Well, I'll tell you: \$1,499.00 was donated! We were able to support the following organizations: \$25.00 to Young Adults in Global Mission, \$500.00 to PUMP, and \$974.00 to World Hunger. This year, 2023, we will follow the same guidelines we did in 2022, disperse the funds as needed to local organizations, and at the end of the year to World Hunger. Some organizations that come to mind are: Johnsonville Cemetery, PUMP, Slater Family Network, etc. Social Ministry thanks you for your generous and continued support of this, and all our ministries. – *Mary O'Meally*

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.



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

Violet Khan, March 8

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

Aria Hughes, March 20

Gillian Smith, March 21

Brian Hower, March 25

Alison Krock, March 28

Allison Manicke, March 30

Lois Neiley, March 31

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms: Aiden Frederick Miller,

Riley Rose Miller,

both February 12

Funerals: Anne T. Slegel,

January 21

Randal L. "Randy" Ott,

February 16

Worship With Us

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.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Keep an eye out for upcoming new ministries.
- 2. Kale Baker and Tina Johns will attend the upcoming Pocono Mission District Assembly as our voting members.
- 3. Pastor will be on vacation June 13-26.



THURSDAY COFFEE HOUR DURING LENT

Pastor Scholtes is leading the Thursday morning coffee hour programs during Lent (Through March 30). Plan to come out if you're available (10 a.m. –noon, with program from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.)

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 to get added to the list or sign up at our church website (popbangor.org). They are also archived at popbangor.org/pastormail.

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.

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point and Camera	Acolyte	Offering Counters
March 5	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Sherry Hock	Sarah Harrison	Marlene and Butch Stana	Antonioli Family	Alex Scholtes	Scott Schipps, Jackie Horn
March 12	Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly	Mary Hendershot	Bob Schuette	Sara Godshalk, Sue Reinhart	Cathy Mullen	Isabel Baker	Jim Jennings
March 19	Brenda Hughes, Sara Godshalk	Quincy Miller	Marlene Stana	Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey	John Martocci	Sarah Harrison	Jackie Horn
March 26	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Sarah Harrison	Tina Johns	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Jim Jennings	Landon Horn	Jim Jennings
April 2	Sherk and June Jones	Sara Godshalk	Laraine Brands	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Kim Jennings	Isabel Baker	Jackie Horn

Communion Assistants: 3/5 Tina Johns, Linda Waszmer

3/12 Jim Jennings, April Miller3/19 Laraine Brands, Connie Itterly3/26 Diane Hahn, Brooks Baker

4/2 Tina Johns, Linda Waszmer

Altar Guild March: Tara Flyte and Tyler Flyte **Altar Guild April:** Kim Jennings and Sara Godshalk

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

Pauline Newell 82 E Broad St. Apt A E Stroudsburg PA 18301-2250

WE ARE HAVING A BIRTHDAY SOCIAL THIS YEAR on March 18th, 4—7 p.m. in the POP Fellowship Hall:

Hello everyone. It's time for another Birthday Social. Our Birthday Social is to celebrate with others that share the same month of birth. We ask that everyone socialize with their fellow birthday friends, sparking fellowship with someone you may not know so well. Please put your name, your birth month, and a covered dish that you will be bringing on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The church will provide a birthday cake. If you wish, please bring along some decorations for your table that are appropriate for the month of your birthday. PLEASE join us. It really is a lot of fun. Please sign up by March 10th. If there are not 10 people signed up by then we will cancel it. Any questions see Marlene Stana or Jackie Horn.





LOVE + GREAT COMMUNICATION = A HAPPY MARRIAGE!

Communication is the bedrock of a strong marriage. Enhance your couple communication skills with Marriage Encounter! The next event is scheduled May 5 - 7, 2023 at the Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org, or contact Larr & Denise Etzler at seamsandscissors@yahoo.com or 814-389-2973 for more information. Pre-registration is required – don't miss out!



Join us! Real Readers Book Club

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

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 - "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus



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Join us for Sunday Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

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.

We would like to give a HUGE thankyou to Georgia and John Suranofsky for visiting us the week of my illness. They brought along a meal (from start to finish) and it was extremely delicious. I hope they know how very much their act of kindness and friendship is appreciated.

-- The Stana Family

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, now through 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



From the Fun & Fellowship Committee:

BIRTHDAY SOCIAL--Saturday, March 18th from 4 p.m. *See page 3.* Questions? Contact Marlene Stana 610-588-1229

SHUT-IN BASKETS-- Please donate small items such as tea, small cookie bags, or something you think someone would like. We need identical items for 9 recipients. Please bring in items by Sunday, March 19th.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE--May 5-6, Set-up May 1-4

MOTHER'S DAY TEA-- This will be an open event on Saturday, May 13th that we will be selling tickets for. Please spread the word to anyone interested in this event.

There will be sign-up sheets for these events. Please join in the fun! Questions: see Mary O'Meally. or Jackie Horn.



Weis Grocery Receipts - Keep those grocery receipts coming.... We recently received another check in the amount of \$158.70. Please note: we can only use slips from the Blue Valley store and we cannot use receipts for gift cards, milk, tobacco, sales tax, alcohol and pharmacy items. These items are deducted from the slips. Thank you for your continued support! — Janet Martocci



Thank you to everyone who helped assemble layettes, made a monetary donation and/or donated items for the Baby Care Kits this year! We also received \$250 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Thrivent Action Teams, Live Generously program which we used to purchase supplies and help with shipping costs. This was our 16th year and we had fun assembling 37 layettes. The layettes will be shipped to Lutheran World Relief and then distributed to families in need. We have made 575 layettes since starting this project on 2006. Thank you for your support! --Michele Harrison, Joanne Schipps & the Social Ministry Committee

THE DARKNESS MAY LINGER, BUT HOPE ABIDES: A SERVICE OF LAMENT AND HOPE IN THE FACE OF A PANDEMIC. Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 4 p.m.

We have all suffered in various ways since the COVID-19 pandemic began. We have mourned the loss of life, as well as lived with painful isolation. Our children's education has suffered. Our mental health has declined. And so many other things. But there is hope: God has promised to provide for us through everything we face. God has done so, even if we haven't always seen it, and will continue to do so. This special worship service is designed to honestly lament all that we've lost over the past three years, and at the same time celebrate the hope and peace that is here for us. All are welcome. This service is for the whole community, so please invite your friends and neighbors. A free light supper will follow. If you can, please contact the church office to register for the supper so we can plan appropriately. But even if you can't register, please come.

Looking ahead: Save the date — Egg Hunt, for all ages—Palm Sunday, April 2 after the service. A Hot Dog lunch will be provided along with some crafts for the children to do in addition to the egg hunt. There will be prize eggs and prizes. Everyone should bring a basket to collect eggs. **Needed**: Donations of individually wrapped candies (at church by March 26th), volunteers to set-up the egg hunt, kitchen helpers, and helpers with crafts, **To volunteer to help or if you have any questions see Tina Johns.**



Join Us For Breakfast

Looking ahead: Resurrection Day Breakfast — **April 9. Breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.** Donations are needed: 20 dozen eggs, 20 lbs. potatoes, 1 gal. 2% milk, 2-1/2 gal. of half and half, 1 lb. of stick butter, 2 bottles orange juice, 1 bottle apple juice, 2 – 24 oz. pancake syrup, large fruit salad and homemade baked items. Contact Laraine Brands at 908-310-1196 or larainebrands@gmail.com to let her know what you would like to donate.

Did you know... that gifts may be made to the Endowment Fund at any time?

Milestone gifting is an opportunity to make a gift to honor an event that happens in your life of family and friends. Use this link to see more about gifting. http://youtu.be/gj_FsRJM7y0. Please talk to Denny Horn, Jim Jennings or Georgia Suranofsky, the trustees, if you would like more information or have any questions.

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MARY NAILS **PASSOVER** PIECES OF SILVER PIERCED PILATE RESURRECTION ROBE ROMANS SACRIFICE SIMON OF CYRENE SOLDIERS SON OF GOD **SPEAR** STONE TEMPLE THIEVES THREE DAYS TOMB



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville) Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013 Office Phone: 610-588-2355

Website: www.popburangor.org Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes lotsofsocks@live.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule: Sundays at 9:45 a.m. - Join us!!

Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

home: 610-588-2314 - PastorMJS@gmail.com

- Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik
- Bookkeeper: Jovce Weishaupt
- Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally
- Custodian: Brittnee Evans
- Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895,

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

Congregation Council Members:

Connie Itterly - President Brenda Hughes Traci Rumsey - Vice President Jackie Horn Tina Johns - Secretary Kerri Miller Kale Baker Dave Karner Sara Godshalk Marlene Stana Rev. Michael Scholtes Kathy Williams

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!

April 2023 Newsletter is:

Tuesday, March 13th at Noon

You may email your submissions to poplcbangor@gmail.com Or give a handwritten items to

Annette Buss

Items received after the deadline will go into next month's newsletter.





Love for the Least

The Global Missions Team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA, led an advent appeal this past holiday season to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, which was established by ELCA medical missionary Dr. Mark Jacobson, and also had the opportunity to lead the church's worship services on their annual Global Missions Sunday, held this year on January 22, 2023, to share about this ministry with those in attendance.

When a baby is born prematurely in Tanzania, it is considered as good as dead. Premature babies there are often referred to as 'stillbirths.' This was not acceptable to the staff of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Fifteen years ago they began to offer neonatal intensive care, and pediatrician Dr. Steve Swanson joined the program in 2011. Initially they were only able to save 4% of the babies. Today they serve almost 400 babies annually, and the survival rate in 2022 was 92%.

The care at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU is the best in Tanzania, and in most of East Africa. No baby is turned away because of inability to pay or insurance status. The five doctors and 26 nurses who staff the NICU do not just care for the tiny infants, but for the parents as well. A hospital bed and meals are provided to every mother with a baby in the NICU and both parents are encouraged and coached on how to interact with their babies.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit raised \$3,785 from their Love for the Least appeal to be directed to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania, and 175 preemie knit or crochet hats were lovingly crafted for the NICU infants, which they hope to send to Tanzania. These hats can save lives by helping to keep the babies warm.

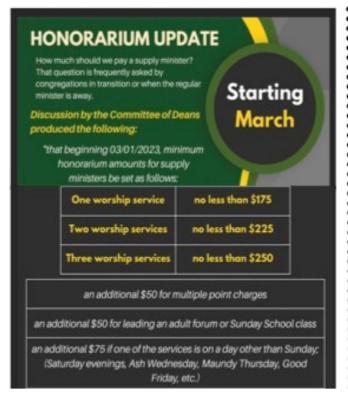


ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together!

BEING PUBLICLY INCLUSIVE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP YOUR CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO BE THE COMMUNITY CHRIST CALLS YOU TO BE!

Become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Reach out to Stacey Burke in the synod office (stacey@nepsynod.org) for more information.



FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE NEWS AND STORIES FOLLOW US ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OR VISIT US AT GODSLOVE.ORG