

# Prints of Peace



May 2025

Volume 30 Issue 5

## “Why Does He Do That?”

I have recently added something new to worship each week, something I call “Why Does He Do That?” In these brief moments, I interrupt worship for a minute to explain something that we do during worship. This came about because of a conversation we had in the “By Heart” class I led on Wednesday nights during Lent. At one of those classes, I explained why I lead the Confession and Forgiveness from the baptismal font every week. After the discussion, we all thought it might be a good idea to share this with the congregation. So, I did so in worship a week or so later. I thought there might be other questions people have about worship that I could answer, so I’m answering one question each week, pausing worship at the appropriate time to explain it.

Here are some of the questions I plan to answer in coming weeks:

- Why do I wear stoles (the long “scarves” I wear when leading worship), and why do they have different colors?
- Why do I put on a chasuble (the poncho-like garment I wear at communion) halfway through the service?
- Why do the assisting minister and I lead so much from behind the altar?
- Why is the baptismal font in the middle of the room?
- Why are there messages on the hymn boards?
- Why do we recite a Creed each week?

These are questions I came up with through pondering, “What might people be wondering about?” But I would really like to hear *your* questions. What do you wonder about worship? What happens on Sunday mornings that makes you ask, “Why does he do that?” Let me know! Ask me sometime when you see me or give me a call or an email. If you’re wondering about it, chances are someone else is too!

I look forward to hearing your questions, and to responding to them!

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes





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|---|--|
| Thursday, May 01                              | Psalm 30; Isaiah 5:11-17; Revelation 3:14-22                   |
| Friday, May 02                                | Psalm 30; Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:1-11                      |
| Saturday, May 03                              | Psalm 30; Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 14:12-14                        |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (5/4)</b>  | Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9          |
| Monday, May 05                                | Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31                       |
| Tuesday, May 06                               | Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:26-2:1; Acts 26:1-18                      |
| Wednesday, May 07                             | Psalm 121; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11                           |
| Thursday, May 08                              | Psalm 23; Ezekiel 11:1-25; Revelation 5:1-10                   |
| Friday, May 09                                | Psalm 23; Ezekiel 20:39-44; Revelation 6:1-7:4                 |
| Saturday, May 10                              | Psalm 23; Ezekiel 28:25-26; Luke 12:29-32                      |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (5/11)</b> | Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30       |
| Monday, May 12                                | Psalm 100; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Revelation 15:1-4                 |
| Tuesday, May 13                               | Psalm 100; Ezekiel 45:1-9; Acts 9:32-35                        |
| Wednesday, May 14                             | Psalm 100; Jeremiah 50:17-20; John 10:31-42                    |
| Thursday, May 15                              | Psalm 148; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; Revelation 10:1-11                |
| Friday, May 16                                | Psalm 148; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 11:15                    |
| Saturday, May 17                              | Psalm 148; Daniel 7:27; Revelation 11:16-19                    |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (5/18)</b> | Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35      |
| Monday, May 19                                | Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42; Acts 11:19-26              |
| Tuesday, May 20                               | Psalm 133; 2 Samuel 1:4-27; Acts 11:27-30                      |
| Wednesday, May 21                             | Psalm 133; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-28                    |
| Thursday, May 22                              | Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 15:36-41                        |
| Friday, May 23                                | Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:6-8; Acts 16:1-8                          |
| Saturday, May 24                              | Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:9-15; Luke 19:1-10                        |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (5/25)</b> | Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revel. 21:10, 22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29 |
| Monday, May 26                                | Psalm 93; 1 Chronicles 12:16-22; Revelation 21:5-14            |
| Tuesday, May 27                               | Psalm 93; 2 Chronicles 15:1-15; Revelation 21:15-22            |
| Wednesday, May 28                             | Psalm 93; 2 Chronicles 34:20-33; Luke 2:25-38                  |
| <b>Ascension of Our Lord (5/29)</b>           | Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-54        |
| Friday, May 30                                | Psalm 97; Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 22:6-9                   |
| Saturday, May 31                              | Psalm 97; Exodus 33:18-23; John 1:14-18                        |

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



## April Council Highlights

1. Council approved endowment projects of new computers, upgrades to the bell area, and Synod Assembly registration.
2. Don't forget your Weis cards on a Sunday.
3. We received a substantial bequest from the estate of Charmaine Collins.
4. We have a new volunteer coordinator, April Miller. Thanks, April! And thanks to Mark Grusso for serving in this position for the past year!



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

Laraine Brands  
 Blake Kornafel  
 Jean Janosa  
 Linda Waszmer  
 Chris Begies  
 Owen Jennings  
 Paul Martocci-Smale  
 Manus Smith  
 Joan Deichmann  
 Terri Stiso  
 Cahley Van Why  
 Mary Hendershot  
 C.J. Kizer  
 Travis Parsons  
 Richard A. Kessler  
 Christa Martocci-Smale  
 Sandra Smith  
 Benjamin Manicke  
 Meredith Smith  
 Bonnie Buskirk  
 Linda Antonioli  
 Tina Smith

### New Member Class Forming

Pastor Scholtes will be getting a new members class together soon. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Prince of Peace, please let him know!



### Recent Pastoral Act

Funeral:  
 Eleanor B. Golden Hill,  
 March 31



### Sunday School/Youth Group/Confirmation:

**8:30 a.m.**

**Worship On-site  
 (9:45 on Sundays)**

**Online / Facebook**

Watch our worship each week  
 at our website  
 (popbangor.org/video-worship).  
 Or watch it on our Facebook page  
 (facebook.com/popbangor).



### Sunday Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Come join us and bring someone with you! Coffee hours are hosted each week by two or more people. If you are interested in hosting coffee hours, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. Hosting involves setting up coffee and tea and supplying baked goods/snacks. Members of the Coffee Hour Team are available to help if needed: Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen, Sue Reinhart and Lynn Rideout.

**\*\*Please note that Sunday Coffee hours will end on May 18, to resume in September.**



### Prince of Peace Seekers (POPS)

Come and ignite your spiritual imagination! We meet each week for a time of spiritual growth, discussion, and fellowship. We continue to meet from 10-12 in the Conference Room. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available.

During the remaining days when we meet in May, we will be "crafting." We will make cards and journals. Please note that the last day for POPS will be **May 15**. We will meet again in September.

Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Karner or Janet Martocci.

## STEWARDSHIP NEW



Who is a Helper's Helper at Prince of Peace?

**We all are!**

Helper's Helpers *serve Christ in the people* who are on the front lines of many organizations who help those who cannot meet daily needs in life. None of us can do this alone – we continue to remind each other that *none of us is expected to individually support all of these opportunities*. It's as a *community* that we make the difference we do. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**DID YOU KNOW..... our mission support giving** helps young adults at Kutztown University be in community and fellowship together through the campus ministry.

**Joyful Noise Good News!**  
Collection for March totaled \$93.00!  
Year to date total is \$339.00!  
Thank you for your continued generosity!

# THANK YOU!

**THANK YOU:** I'm feeling very blessed to have such an amazing church family in my life. The card shower, and your words of love, support and encouragement are just what I need for this journey I'm on. Thanks again! —*Mary O'Meally*

**THANK YOU:** Thank you for the cards I recently received from Prince of Peace members...Each one was more beautiful than the last. The words of encouragement, the prayers and good wishes meant so much to me. I am so blessed to belong to such a caring congregation, Sincerely, —*Janet Martocci*

**THANK YOU:** I am so grateful for the prayers of the congregation for my unexpected trip to comfort my older brother in Washington State. He suffers from Alzheimer disease and sleeps most of the day now. His wife and family take good care of him. Your prayers gave me strength for the journey and to say farewell. Thank you! —*Lynn Rideout*

**Our Generosity Jar is starting to fill up again!** Thanks for bringing in the acts of generosity you have given, received or seen. Let's continue to look for these wonderful acts that fill our world. You can always reach in the jar and take one out to read. We will be sharing some of the notes on Generosity Sunday. —*Georgia Suranofsky*

# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

| Date:         | Greeters                      | Lay Reader    | Assisting Minister | Ushers                        | Power Point and Camera | Acolyte       | Offering Counters  | Pew Tenders            |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>May 4</b>  | Georgia and John Suranofsky   | Mark Grusso   | Tina Johns         | Marlene and Butch Stana       | Cathy Mullen           | Landon Horn   | Connie Itterly     | Traci Rumsey           |
| <b>May 11</b> | Traci Rumsey, Connie Itterly  | Sherry Hock   | Marlene Stana      | Sue Reinhart, Sara Godshalk   | Tara Flyte             | Fabian Vargas | Tina Johns         | Sherry Hock, Maci Hock |
| <b>May 18</b> | Brenda Hughes, Kale Baker     | Quincy Miller | Laraine Brands     | Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey     | Jim Jennings           | Alex Scholtes | Georgia Suranofsky | Sara Godshalk          |
| <b>May 25</b> | Brooks Baker, Holly Blakeslee | Sara Godshalk | Kale Baker         | Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes | Kim Jennings           | Ben Scholtes  | Brenda Hughes      | June Jones             |
| <b>June 1</b> | Lisa and Wayne Jones          | April Miller  | Connie Itterly     | Kale Baker, Brooks Baker      | Tina Johns             | Fabian Vargas | Chip Harrison      | Rhonda Montgomery      |

### Communion Assistants:

**May 4** Brooks Baker, Jim Jennings  
**May 11** April Miller, Tina Johns  
**May 18** Marlene Stana, Diane Hahn  
**May 25** Laraine Brands, April Miller  
**June 1** Brooks Baker, Marlene Stana

**May Altar Guild:** Carolyn Leidy, Terry Stiso

**June Altar Guild:** Janet Martocci, Susan Reinhart

### Bread Baker/Providers:

**May 4:** Connie Itterly

**June 1:** Sue Reinhart

Would you like to join the volunteer team? Contact the church office at 610-588-2355.

If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, please find a replacement and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change.

### Father's Day: June 15<sup>th</sup>

Would you like to remember/honor your Father and/or Men who are special to you by listing their name in our announcement folder, on the bulletin board and in the Newsletter? A blue sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex. Or, use the form below (use additional paper if needed). Suggested donation: \$1 per name benefits the Sunday School. **Deadline is: Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** Please PRINT:

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored by:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Return this form to:**  
**Attn: Annette Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2445 Lake Minsi Drive, Bangor, PA 18013**

**Real Readers: Join Us! We meet at 2 p.m.**

**Real Readers Book List for 2025:**

**a little bit of everything for everyone. New members are always welcome!**

Questions? Please feel free to speak to Karen Karner, Janet Martocci or Sherry Hoch for information.

May 1 – “The God of the Woods” by Liz Moore (Jean)  
June 5 – “Finding Dorothy” by Elizabeth Letts (Sherry)  
July 3 – “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick (Sandy)  
August 7 – “Tell Me Everything” by Elizabeth Strout (Terry)  
September 4 – “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver (Janet)  
October 2 – “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Molnar (Karen)  
November 6 – “The Housemaid” by Freida McFadden (Mary)  
December 4 – “All He Ever Wanted” by Anita Shreve (Maureen)



**Last Call: The Anthony D. and Jeanne M. Turtzo Scholarship application form is now available for completion.**

All POP college students entering their second, third or fourth year of college/university for the 2025/2026 school year are eligible and encouraged to apply. The scholarship will be awarded to up to three students.

The 2025 application form and instructions can be downloaded from the church website at **popbangor.org**. Or, contact the church office. Completed applications are due by noon on **Monday, May 5th, 2025.**

**--The POP Scholarship Committee**

**weis**

**Thanks For Your Participation  
in the WEIS 1% Program:**

Keep bringing in your receipts. Thank you!!

REMINDER: We can only use receipts for the Bangor Store....All tax, stamp purchases, gift card purchases, alcohol, prescriptions, tobacco and milk are deducted.

**—Janet Martocci**

**Weis Gift Cards:**

These cards can be used to purchase ANYTHING at any Weis store. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. We can continue to earn money for OUR church by simply continuing this convenient way to shop. Continue buying these cards and tell a friend.

**--Kale Baker**

**Our Social Ministry Project Continues Through June:**



Valley Youth House is a shelter for young people, often, when youth arrive at the shelter their only possessions are the clothes they are wearing. The shelter makes up "welcome baskets" for when youth arrive so that they can be given a warm welcome and a basket of items they can call their own (as well as take with them when they exit the shelter). The list of items is long, 17 items, Social Ministry is asking only for the following 10 items: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss; wash cloth/soap and soap holder; chap stick; bath towel; razors (male & female); deodorant (male & female). This was a project we did a couple of years ago and it was very successful, I have no doubt it will be again with your support. Valley Youth house provides a place for youth to live and get rehabilitated. Questions, see Mary O'Meally, Sherry Hock and Holly Blakeslee. If you prefer not to shop a committee member will be happy to do it for you. Most items can be found at Dollar Tree.

**Matthew 8:20**

**“Foxes has holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has nowhere to lay his head.”**





## Endowment Fund News

The Office and Technology Sub Fund of the Endowment Fund released \$1,617.00 in March for the purchase and set up of a new computer system in the office. The computer in the office needed to be replaced to keep up with the advancements in technology over the years.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**You can use online giving to make a gift to the Endowment Fund at any time.**

#### Here is how easy it is:

1. Go to the Church website: [popbangor.org](http://popbangor.org)
2. Choose "GIVING", then in the middle of the page click on the button to make a contribution
3. Choose Endowment Fund, click on the button to start giving
4. On the next page, if you already have an account, log in or click on sign up to open a new account in the top right-hand corner of the screen
5. Follow the directions to complete amount, frequency and date to make payment, click add to basket
6. The next page show your basket, if amount is correct, click on continue to payment button
7. On the next page, choose the option to pay by credit card or checking account. If you are setting up a new account, you will have to enter this information. Click on the button to continue to review.
8. On the final page, review and click on submit.

If you need assistance or want information on how to contribute via text messaging or mobile phone, contact Georgia Suranofsky.



### Mother's Day is just around the corner: May 11th

Would you like to remember/honor your Mother and/or Women who are special to you by listing their name in our announcement folder, on the bulletin board and in the Newsletter? A green sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex. Or, use the form below (use additional paper if needed). Suggested donation: \$1 per name benefits the Sunday School. **Deadline is: Sunday, May 4th.** Please PRINT:

**In Memory of:**

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**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sponsored by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Return this form to:**  
**Attn: Annette Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2445 Lake Minsi Drive, Bangor, PA 18013**



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)  
Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013  
Office Phone: 610-588-2355  
**Website: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)**

**Online Coordinator: Heather Scholtes**

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
**Sundays at 9:45 a.m. – Join us!!**  
  
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes**
- **Volunteer Pastoral Assist. Larry Rissmiller**
- **Minister of Music: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Bookkeeper: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally**
- **Custodian: Brittnee Evans**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Saviet**
- **Administrative Assistant: Annette Buss**

**Congregation Council Members**

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Larry Rissmiller, President | Jackie Horn     |
| Kale Baker, Vice President  | April Miller    |
| Tina Johns, Secretary       | Brenda Hughes   |
| Allison Manicke, Youth      | Wayne Jones     |
| Jean Janosa                 | Kerri Miller    |
| Mary O'Meally               | Holly Blakeslee |
| Rev. Michael J. Scholtes    | Justine Saviet  |

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!**

June 2025 Newsletter is:

**Tuesday,**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

**\*\*Please submit items in a Word Document  
not PDF format, thank you!\*\***

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

**OUR PURPOSE**  
**STATEMENT**

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





## Saying Yes to God: A Personal Witness to Licensed Lay Ministry

*Written by: Michael Haspe, Licensed Lay Ministry Candidate*

I am a lifelong member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tamaqua, PA, where I currently serve as the Christian Education Director. I felt my strongest pull to ministry during the pandemic. It was during the shutdown that God began to utilize me in new ways. I was one of four people—including the Pastor, camera operator, and organist—tasked to broadcast our services live. During this time, I learned to serve as a Cantor, Lector, and Communion Assistant, and I found I really enjoyed being a part of worship leadership. When the congregation came back, the anxiety I had previously experienced (even though I really wanted to) was gone. I finally felt free to step into the roles God had been preparing me for all along.

Yet how did I get here? Near the end of 2020, I witnessed an unexplainable life-saving miracle. It was then I felt the urge to share my testimony and to preach. At the time, there was no Synodically Authorized Lay Minister (SALM) or Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) program in place, and I didn't feel called to rostered ministry. I wasn't sure what path was right for me, but the desire to be in deeper service was undeniable.

Then, in 2023, my partner of 19 years was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. My world collapsed. I had a good cry with my Pastor and told her that even though I trusted God, I was afraid. She encouraged me to go home and rest and assured me we would talk more the next day. The very next morning, she called me with news: the synod had approved the LLM program. I knew in that instant it was God commanding my attention.



It felt as though God was saying, "Michael, during this time of uncertainty and fear, YOU WILL FOCUS ON ME." I shared this with my Pastor, and no sooner did it come out of my mouth than my fear turned to calm. There aren't words to describe the sense of peace and clarity that followed.

So that's what I did. I enrolled in the LLM program and kept my eyes LASER focused on God. The anxiety didn't return. Late last year, my partner underwent major surgery to remove the cancer. The pathology report stunned the medical team—what had looked and behaved like Stage 4 cancer was downgraded to Stage 2. Today, my partner is cancer free. While doctors still can't explain it, I can. I had just witnessed a second miracle.





So that is why I am here, and that is why I am so passionate about the Licensed Lay Ministry program. It has given me a pathway to serve others and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, while I continue to discern whether rostered ministry might be the next step. For years, people in my church and community have said to me, “Michael, you are a Pastor.” And whether that becomes a career goal for me or not, this program enables me to explore ministry in meaningful ways. Through it, I can share the Gospel and lead others to Christ.

It’s no secret there is a shortage of Pastors. Being a Licensed Lay Minister allows me to serve in ways that are within my current gifts while also challenging me to grow in areas I may have once feared. LLMs can help address the pastoral shortage across our synod. No congregation is too large or too small to benefit from the presence of a lay minister. I believe the LLM program can be a catalyst to grow our churches, open new doors, and revitalize ministries.

The LLM retreats have been one of my favorite parts of this journey. The preaching retreat especially stands out. It provided me with practical tools to write and deliver sermons with confidence. I now feel my preaching is more focused and effective because of what I learned there. Pastor Peggy Wurtele has been a huge inspiration to me. Her motto—“Proclamation, Proclamation, Proclamation!”—encourages us to seize every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and remind people that grace is FREE and abundant through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a perfectionist, I hold onto her other phrase too: “...and Jesus loves us anyway.” It helps me focus less on small details and more on the heart of the message. That reminder has been freeing and empowering.

I want to leave you with a few questions. Ask yourself honestly: “Do you love Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the free gift and promise of grace and eternal salvation? Do you love telling others about Jesus? Do you love people?” If you answered yes to any—or all—of these questions, then the LLM journey might be right for you. Talk to your Pastor or the LLM Coordinator. Take time to pray and discern if this is your next faithful step.

One excuse I frequently hear is, “I would love to do this, but I’m too old.” Let me tell you—you are NEVER too old to proclaim the Good News! Your ministry could change someone’s life. If you’re even a little bit curious about LLM, talk about it. Ask questions. You might be surprised where God is leading you. The most surprising thing I’ve learned is the impact one message can have. I’ve preached dozens of sermons, and the most humbling moments come when someone quietly tells me that something I said encouraged them, gave them hope, or inspired them to try something new. That’s the greatest reward of all.

*Discover how Licensed Lay Ministry is equipping lay leaders for faithful service. Learn more at [godslove.org/LLM](https://godslove.org/LLM), or email Licensed Lay Ministers Coordinator, Pastor Jira Albers at [llm@nepsynod.org](mailto:llm@nepsynod.org)*

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod’s lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport)