

# Prints of Peace



April 2025

Volume 30 Issue 4

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer. Spring is finally upon us. Did you know that the word *Lent* comes from an old English word that means “spring?” (Think of *Lent* = *lengthen*, like the daylight is doing.)

Throughout Lent this year, we’ve been looking at ways to deal with the difficult times in our lives. I invite you to continue this journey with me into April. I also invite you to join us for Holy Week, and especially the Great Three Days, the time when we focus most closely on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the culmination of Lent, the high point of the church year, the observance and celebration of our salvation!

Our services are listed below. I hope you can make these services part of your Lenten observance this year. All are welcome.

**Sunday, 4/13, 9:45 a.m.:** Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion. This special Sunday service begins with Palm Sunday, the day we celebrate Christ’s arrival at Jerusalem in glory the Sunday before his crucifixion. The service then pivots to Sunday of the Passion, remembering the story of his arrest and death. This service features palm branches to wave, and the dramatic telling of the Passion story from memory.

**Tuesday, 4/15, 7 p.m.:** Taize Service. The music of the Taize community in France is beloved by Christians around the world. These simple, repetitive, meditative songs can be a deeply moving spiritual experience. We will have a guest guitarist to lead us. **If the weather cooperates, this service will be outside in our grove.**

**Wednesday, 4/16, 7 p.m.:** Stations of the Cross walk. We are blessed with beautifully painted Stations of the Cross on the walls of our sanctuary during Lent. I will lead us in a guided walk through these stations, with prayers and readings for each station.

**Thursday, 4/17, 7 p.m.:** Maundy Thursday, the first of the Great Three Days. We will remember Christ’s institution of Holy Communion, as well as his betrayal and arrest. This service includes laying on of hands for confession and forgiveness, foot-washing, Holy Communion, and the stripping of the altar.

**Friday, 4/18, 7 p.m.:** Good Friday, the second of the Great Three Days. We will remember Christ’s suffering and death for our sins. The service features the Adoration of the Cross and the Bidding Prayer.

**Sunday, 4/20, 6 a.m.:** Vigil of Easter, the third of the Great Three Days. This unique service begins outside with the lighting of the new fire. It continues in darkness with several readings and an affirmation of baptism, culminating in the bright celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Bring bells to ring! If you’ve never attended a Vigil before, try it out!

**Sunday, 4/20, 9:45 a.m.:** Resurrection of Our Lord. Our regular worship service on Easter Day is filled with decorations, songs, and alleluias. Bring bells to ring!

I hope you can join us for worship during Lent and the Great Three Days.

In Christ,

*Pastor Michael J. Scholtes*  
Pastor Scholtes




## Please join us at our Sunday Coffee Hour and bring someone with you!



If you would like to bring something to share for coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway, where you can also sign up to serve as a host. Coffee hours are hosted each week by two or more people. If you have any questions, please contact: Karen Karner, Janet Martocci, Cathy Mullen, Sue Reinhart, or Lynn Rideout. **Please note:** There will be no coffee hour on Palm Sunday or Resurrection Day.

## 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 and are now meeting in the Conference Room. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available.

Kim Jennings continues to facilitate a study called ***In the Footsteps of the Savior***, created by Max Lucado. Have you ever wondered what the Holy Land might have looked like through Jesus' eyes? Max Lucado will take us on a journey following Jesus through his life on earth, giving us a chance to see the Holy Land and guiding us through three distinct aspects of Jesus' life. The arrival of the Savior; Jesus' Ministry and The Crossroads and the Cross.

There will be no POPS gathering on **April 17**. On April 24, Mary O'Meally will lead a project on journaling.

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



**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](http://popbangor.org/video-worship)). Or watch it on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/popbangor](https://facebook.com/popbangor)).

## Health Aid Items for P.U.M.P.

We are going to be collecting health aid items for the next several weeks for P.U.M.P.

Some suggested items include:

toothpaste	toothbrushes	body wash	bars of soap	shampoo
conditioner	Q-tips	men's deodorant	woman's deodorant	hand soap
feminine hygiene products, all types		mouthwash	dental floss	hand lotion
Vaseline	baby wipes	denture cleaner	band-aids	Neosporin, etc.

Please place your donations in the P.U.M.P. drawer labeled "Health Aid Donations" not with the food donations. Thank you for your continued support! This project ends on **Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**.



Donations of individually wrapped candy and small toys are greatly appreciated and will be received **until 3/30/2025** to fill eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 11 a.m. This is a free Event. Food, crafts and prizes are provided. Bring a basket and please wear appropriate footwear. Questions? See Tina Johns.

# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date:	Greeters	Lay Reader	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Power Point and Camera	Acolyte	Offering Counters	Pew Tenders
<b>April 6</b>	Kale Baker, Brooks Baker	Brooks Baker	Laraine Brands	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Kim Jennings	Ben Scholtes	John Suranofsky	Sherry and Maci Hock
<b>April 13</b>	Lisa and Wayne Jones	Kim Jennings	Connie Itterly	Vivian Fahr, Traci Rumsey	Tara Flyte	Fabian Vargas	Chip Harrison	June Jones
<b>April 20</b>	<b>6 and 9:45 a.m. Resurrection Day</b>	Please	Sign-up	In the Narthex	Or call the	Church	Office	Thank you!!!
<b>April 27</b>	Sara Godshalk, Sue Reinhart	Janet Martocci	April Miller	Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes	Tina Johns	Alex Scholtes	Jean Janosa	Rhonda Montgomery
<b>May 4</b>	Georgia and John Suranofsky	Mark Grusso	Tina Johns	Marlene and Butch Stana	Cathy Mullen	Landon Horn	Connie Itterly	Traci Rumsey

## Communion Assistants:

**April 6** Tina Johns, Marlene Stana  
**April 13** Laraine Brands, April Miller  
**April 20** Resurrection Day: Sign-up  
**April 27** Diane Hahn, Marlene Stana  
**May 4** Brooks Baker, Jim Jennings

**April Altar Guild:** Kim Jennings, Sara Godshalk

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

## Bread Baker/Providers:

**April 6:** Pat Manicke  
**April 13:** Nick Walters  
**April 20:** Cathy Mullen, June Jones  
**May 4:** Connie Itterly

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.



## 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 May Newsletter? A yellow 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

April 3 – “The Teacher” by Freida McFadden (Cindy)  
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)



**MARCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

1. POPs Treasures will be purchasing some much-needed new chairs for the fellowship hall
2. Watch for new POP's Treasures signs to come up along the road.
3. Helper's Helpers Sub Fund matched \$300.00 for Valor Veterans Clinic Easter Meals.



**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**, alternatively send a request by e-mail to **poplebangor@gmail.com**. 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:**

Prince of Peace has received another check in the amount of \$347.22 from Weis 1% Donation Program. To date this year, we have received \$901.02 for submitting \$90,103.05 in Weis grocery receipts. 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:**

Just an update to the previous Weis cards sales announcement: there was a clerical error made, and the amount reported was higher than earned. The correct amount earned in 2024 was \$ 1,221.25

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. So, continue buying these cards, and tell a friend. Let's see if we can beat the 2024 profit. *--Kale Baker*





**Thank you** to everyone who helped assemble layettes, made a monetary donation and/or donated items for the Layette Project this year! In addition, we received \$250 from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Thrivent Action Teams, Live Generously program which was used to purchase layette items and postage to ship our kits to Maryland. We also received \$500 from the Prince of Peace Helpers Helper Fund. This was our 18th year and with your support we were able to assemble 54 layettes for those in need. We have made six hundred sixty-six layettes since starting this project in 2006. Thank you!

**--Michele Harrison, Joanne Schipps and the Social Ministry Committee**

**Thank you everyone:** Thank you for the cards, phone calls and to Pastor Scholtes for his visit. Thank you also for the excellent lunch brought to me after the Ash Wednesday luncheon. —**Gladys Steinmetz**

**Thank you:** I would like to thank everyone in the congregation who sent cards and prayers to me during my recent surgery and recovery. Bless you! —**Traci Rumsey**

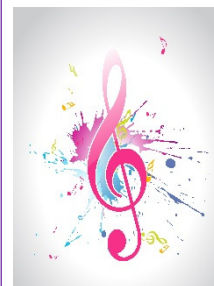
#### **VALOR HOUSE UPDATE:**

First, thank you for donating to this worthy cause. 81 items were donated, along with cash donations, total \$300.00, plus \$300.00 from the "Helpers Helper" sub fund, for a total of \$600.00. I'm sure our veterans will eat well this Easter. Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Social Ministry & the Helper's Helper thanks you for your generous support of this ministry. —**Mary O'Meally**

**Thank You Letters** were received from the Portland-Upper Mt. Bethel Food Pantry (P.U.M.P.) acknowledging monetary donations made in memory of Charmaine Collins and for the food donations. The letters are posted on the Gratitude Board by the church offices. Thank you for your continued support of those in need in our community!

#### **Simple Gifts Concert:**

Two women plus twelve instruments equals one good time when **Simple Gifts** takes the stage here at Prince of Peace on **Sunday, April 6, 2025**, starting at **3 p.m.** Free admission! (A free-will offering to benefit Portland Upper-Mt. Bethel Food Pantry will be received.) Drawing on an impressive variety of ethnic folk styles, and playing a wide variety of instruments, the award-winning duo of Linda Littleton and Karen Hirson plays everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer Freilachs and haunting Gypsy melodies, and much more. Invite a friend! All are welcome!



**Please join us for breakfast and fellowship on Resurrection Sunday, April 20  
between services from 7 a.m. -9 a.m.**

Donations are appreciated: 15 dozen eggs; 25 lb. potatoes; 3- 1/2 gallons 2% milk; 1 Quart 1/2 & 1/2; 4-6 containers of juices: orange-apple-mixed; or monetary donations for other items such as sausage patties. Questions or concerns contact Laraine Brands



#### **CPR CLASS FORMING**

If you are interested in participating in a CPR class (American Heart Association standards) offered here at Prince of Peace, there will be a sign-up sheet on the counter in the narthex. I am looking to schedule the class in late April or early May if there is appropriate interest. Any questions please let me know. —**Connie Iterly**



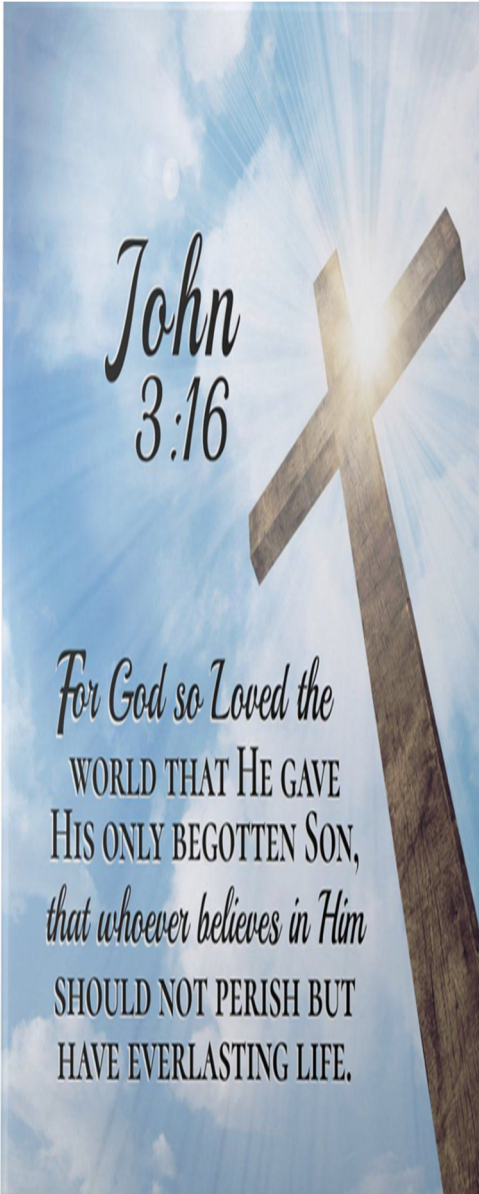
#### **Thrivent Update:**

In 2024 P.O.P. received **\$688** in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. Thrivent is proud to help support the important work you do and hope we can accomplish even more together in 2025. Thrivent Clients are asked to direct their remaining **2024 Choice Dollars®** by **March 31**. An informational flyer with more details is on the counter in the Narthex.



### Endowment Trustee Update:

The Helper's Helpers Sub Fund of the Endowment Fund released \$500.00 in February to Lutheran Disaster Response as a match to a challenge to the congregation. The congregation was given the opportunity to donate to the Los Angeles wildfires through Lutheran Disaster Response. Contributions from the congregation totaled \$837.50 plus the \$500.00 from the Helper's Helpers Sub Fund totaled \$1,337.50. If you want to know more about how the Helper's Helpers Sub Fund partners with individual or social ministry projects, please contact Georgia Suranofsky.



John  
3:16

*For God so Loved the  
WORLD THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,  
that whoever believes in Him  
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.*

*Join  
us!*

### The annual Mission District Spring Assembly:

will be held on **Sunday, April 27 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm** at **Zion United Ev. Lutheran Church**, 1919 Rt. 209, Brodheadsville. All active rostered ministers are expected to attend, as well as two voting members from each congregation. (Visitors are also always welcome!)

### Missing Sweatshirt:

On February 21, a dark blue Carhartt hooded sweatshirt was placed in the closet (where we store our pots and pans), near the scout's items. One of the scouts left it behind after their meeting. Unfortunately, 2 days later the sweatshirt was gone. If you happen to know where it may have been moved to, please let the office or Dave Karner know.

### NOTICE FROM COUNCIL

As you know, there are many scams out there, and churches are not exempt from them. Prince of Peace was recently the victim of an online scam. As soon as this was noticed, we reached out to the state police and our insurance company. After all avenues were explored, the total loss to the church is about \$4,500. We have set new policies in place to avoid this happening again. Council is keeping the details confidential, but wanted you to be aware that it happened, and that we have taken action to prevent future losses.



*Easter Blessing*

AND THIS IS THE PROMISE THAT  
HE MADE TO US— ETERNAL LIFE.

~ 1 JOHN 2:25



K	Z	O	U	K	H	J	R	C	Y	J	F	I	N	E	H	Y	K	R	I	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E
D	R	O	B	E	Q	B	T	J	T	O	S	T	D	O	Y	U	V	X	X	C	L	Z	S	E	V	E	I	H	T
E	T	H	R	E	E	D	A	Y	S	S	I	C	L	K	F	I	H	O	V	I	E	J	C	F	A	G	W	A	N
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	S	D	E	L	E	O	U	L	G	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	N	U
T	N	J	T	N	Y	Q	V	Y	C	P	V	R	T	I	C	R	O	W	N	O	F	T	H	O	R	N	S	T	V
H	I	G	H	P	R	I	E	S	T	H	E	R	F	V	G	J	U	D	A	S	I	S	C	A	R	I	O	T	I

ANGELS  
APOSTLES  
BETRAYAL  
BLOOD  
CALVARY  
CROSS  
CROWN OF THORNS  
CRUCIFIXION  
DARKNESS  
DEATH  
EARTHQUAKE  
EASTER  
GOLGOTHA  
HIGH PRIEST  
JESUS CHRIST  
JOSEPH  
JUDAS ISCARIOT  
KING  
LAMB

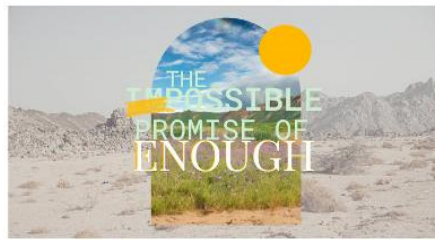


## Social Ministry Project for April-June:

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. Matthew 8:20 "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has nowhere to lay his head." 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.

## 2025 Stewardship Campaign Update and Other News

Let's keep growing as we trust in God's goodness. His promise of **Enough** is ours!



NEW! Take a look at the bulletin board in the hallway to the fellowship hall for a recap of the campaign.

Here is an update on the campaign commitments received:  
55 people made commitments total an increase of \$5,989 for 2025

## THANK YOU!

Other News! During the first quarter of 2025, The Stewardship Committee Helper's Helpers Endowment sub fund has provided matching funds for 3 requests. The total is \$1,300.00. The recipients of the funds were the Layette Shower, Lutheran Disaster Response for California Wildfires and Valor Clinic for Veterans Easter meals. Thank you for your donations!

**? DID YOU KNOW...** Our mission support giving help Bear Creek Camp provide a variety of environmental education programs.

### Joyful Noise Good News!

Collection for February totaled \$138.00!

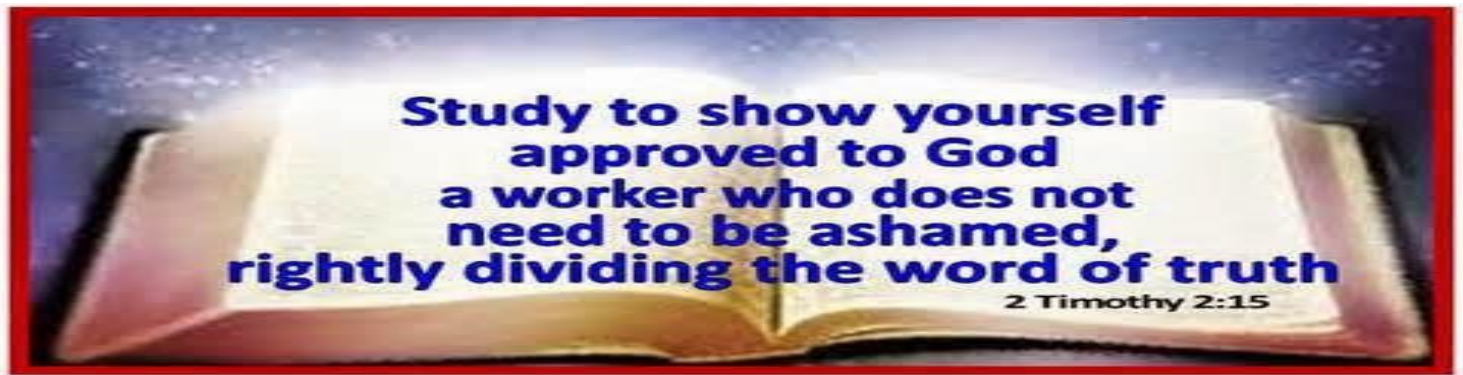
Year to date total is \$246.00!

Thank you for your continued generosity!



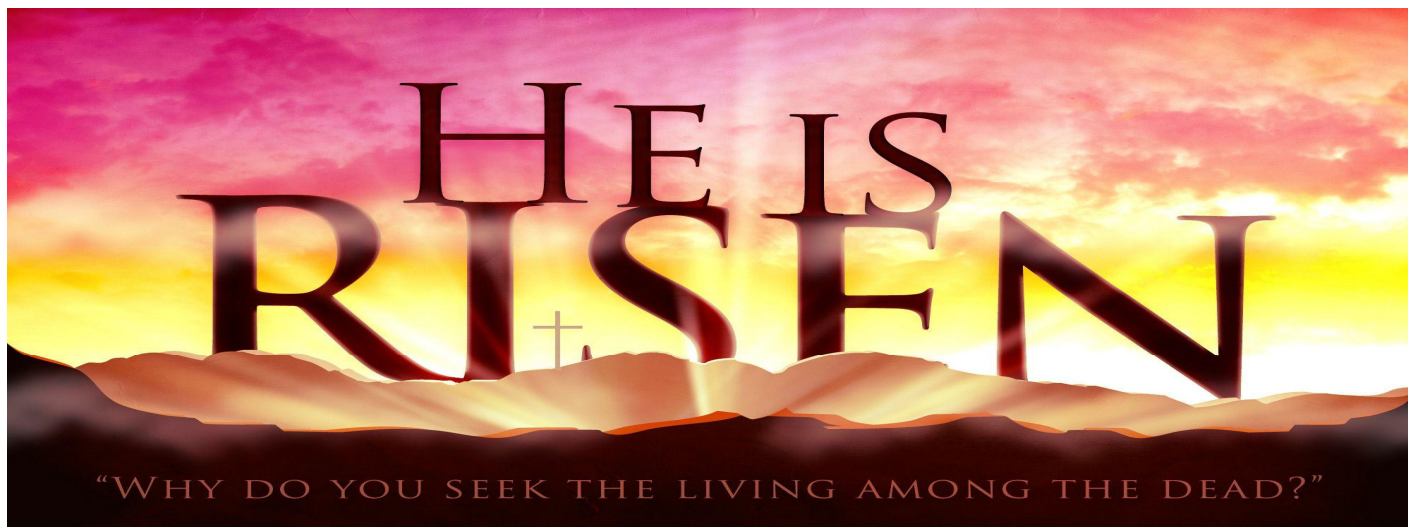
This is a heartfelt thank you to all who attended the luncheon after the morning Ash Wednesday service. Of course, a special thank you to those who helped setup, prepared the food and helped clean-up. This is truly NOT a one-person accomplishment. As I retire from coordinating this luncheon, I am grateful for all the women that I worked for and with previously. Working together provided invaluable information and hours of happy kitchen experiences. We served everything from BBQ to full turkey dinners over the years. I can't remember how many years. So, to the next coordinator, please ask any of us who have "been there" for help. We want this gathering for fun and fellowship to continue after the Ash Wednesday morning services. Thank you again for all the happy memories. —**Carolyn Leidy**





Tuesday, April 01	Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10;
Wednesday, April 02	Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17;
Thursday, April 03	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24;
Friday, April 04	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1;
Saturday, April 05	Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57;
<b>5th Sunday in Lent (4/6)</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8
Monday, April 07	Psalm 20; Exodus 40:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25;
Tuesday, April 08	Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-28;
Wednesday, April 09	Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34;
Thursday, April 10	Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 53:10-12; Hebrews 2:1-9;
Friday, April 11	Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 54:9-10; Hebrews 2:10-18;
Saturday, April 12	Psalm 31:9-16; Leviticus 23:1-8; Luke 22:1-13;
<b>Palm/Passion Sunday (4/13)</b>	Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14 – 23:56
<b>Mon. of Holy Week (4/14)</b>	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
<b>Tues. of Holy Week (4/15)</b>	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
<b>Wed. of Holy Week (4/16)</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday (4/17)</b>	Ex 12:1-14; Ps 116:1-2,12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-17,31b-35
<b>Good Friday (4/18)</b>	Isa 52:13 – 53:12; Ps 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1 – 19:42
<b>Holy Saturday (4/19)</b>	Job 14:1-14; Ps 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66
<b>Res. of Our Lord (4/20)</b>	Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18
Monday, April 21	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 10:16-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8;
Tuesday, April 22	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a; Revelation 12:1-12
Wednesday, April 23	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 2 Samuel 6:1-15; Luke 24:1-12;
Thursday, April 24	Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:1-23; Acts 5:12-16;
Friday, April 25	Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:19-32; Acts 5:17-26;
Saturday, April 26	Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:32-51; Luke 24:36-40;
<b>2nd Sun. of Easter (4/27)</b>	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
Monday, April 28	Psalm 122; Esther 7:1-10; Revelation 1:9-20;
Tuesday, April 29	Psalm 122; Esther 8:1-17; Revelation 2:8-11;
Wednesday, April 30	Psalm 122; Esther 9:1-5, 18-23; Luke 12:4-12;

*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!*



**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**

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

- **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**
- Admin. Asst's Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday,  
 Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.–Noon  
 Thursday: 1 to 4 pm  
**Admin. Asst's email:** [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

**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!**

May 2025 Newsletter is:

**Tuesday,**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

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

*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 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.***







# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## 6261:

### Something New, Yet Something Old

*Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission*



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.



The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this “fasting” call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang “Lord, We As One United,” a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit [godslove.org/6261mc](https://godslove.org/6261mc) or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at [kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org). Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

**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).

**More  
DOT CONNECTING  
DETAILS  
AVAILABLE**

**NOW AVAILABLE:**

- Full Assembly Agenda
- Presenters
- Rates
- Pre-Assembly Information Dates
- Election Nomination Form
- Resolution & Memorials Forms



[godslove.org/assembly2025](https://godslove.org/assembly2025)

*Connect the Dots  
Apparel!*



A portion of every sale goes to the 2025 Northeastern Pa Synod Assembly Offering

