



Tidings of Peace

December 2020



Worship in December

*Outdoor Worship
With Holy Communion
11 am*

*Online Worship at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>*

Sunday, December 6

*Second Sunday of Advent
Comfort, Comfort My People*

Sunday, December 13

*Third Sunday of Advent
Testify to the Light*

Sunday, December 20

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Magnificat*

Sunday, December 27

*First Sunday of Christmas
Community Christmas*

Also in December

December 1st

Racial Justice Meeting

December 10th

Book Group

December 10th

Advent Retreat

Experiencing the Holy Days of Advent In New Ways

We made it through Holy Week and Easter during the pandemic; I'm convinced we can make it through Advent and Christmas.

The following pages include all of the offerings for this upcoming season. No, it won't be what we're used to, but I am excited for the worship, devotional, and gatherings planned. Advent is the church's new year. As we start this new liturgical season, unlike Holy Week and Easter, we know how to do this in a pandemic. Yes, we'd wish to be together, but our offerings will still help us prepare for the coming Christ and celebrate his birth.

As we're finding this year, we may experience these holy days in even more meaningful ways. So make use of all that is offered.

I'd like to say thank you to the Advent team that is making everything happen: Vicar Kayla, Martha Winder, Wendy Schutzer, Nancy Durie, Pastor Dale, Doug, and Kathy. My prayer is that this season will instill hope into the darker corner of our lives.

— Pastor Froehlke

See pages 5 & 6 for Advent and Christmas Season Schedule

Announcing the Return of Choir Thursdays in Advent

If time away from weekly singing has your vocal health a bit rusty, then join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm during Advent for half-hour choir rehearsals via Zoom. I'll start with breathing exercises and vocal warm-ups. Then we'll sing some hymns and liturgy together. Then we'll rehearse a choral selection. (The catch is that all the singers will be muted on the zoom call...so only you will hear yourself sing. But everyone will be able to follow me and participate at home.)

I'll be sending out a church-wide email invitation to this after Thanksgiving. All are welcome, not just the choir. We'll do these on December 3, 10, and 17 and see how we like doing them.

Peace, Doug

Thank You's ...

Thank you so much for remembering me with the altar flowers from Sunday, November 1st. I miss being at the service and seeing everyone. I look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Thanks again, Edna Rowland

I would like to send my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the POP family for the encouraging card I received. The timing of receiving the lovely card was perfect, at a time when spiritual uplifting was needed.

Wishing you all a very blessed Thanksgiving.

— Liz Zarillo

Generosity Today

I want to thank the congregation for sharing your intent of giving for 2021 and for supporting our Stewardship emphasis *Generosity Today*. I am amazed how the ministry of Prince of Peace continues to impact both our own lives and the life of our communities.

In this pandemic, the world needs God's good news more than ever. While many forces call us to be afraid, to hold on to what we have, the church witnesses to the abundance of God's mercy that we are called to generously share.

Thank you for your generosity as we engage our ministry for the coming year.

— Pastor Peter

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to loismcase@gmail.com.

Deadline for the January issue is Sunday, December 27

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Vicar Kayla Hopgood
Field Ed Student Rebecca Laabs
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
Victoria Chow-Torres, Church Musician
Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Elizabeth Wagner (President)
Nancy Durie (Vice President)
Kim Contini
Charlie Frantz
Mary Ellen Glickson
David Jeedi
Martin Rexroad
Wendy Schutzer
Sabrina Teekah
David New, Secretary (non-voting)

December Events

Expectant Hope: An Advent Retreat

Thursday, December 10
10:00 am. to 12:00 pm

We gather in this season of preparation to focus on Mary and her sense of expectant hope.

What are you hoping for this Advent? What might God be bringing to birth in you?

If you are interested in attending, please email Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org.

Book Group

If interested in receiving an invitation to our Zoom book club, please contact Phyllis Church at 609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com

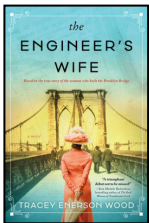
December 10

At present the book group is hoping to meet for a Christmas luncheon at the Springdale Golf Clubhouse at 1895 Clubhouse Drive in Princeton on Thursday, December 10th at 12:30 pm. R.S.V.P. to Martha Winder at maw14jpw@aol.com if you would like to come. \$10 will cover the cost of the luncheon.

January 14

Zoom Meeting at 7:30

The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Wood



Perhaps you know that John and Washington Roebling designed and built the Brooklyn Bridge, but did you know that Washington's wife, Emily, is listed on the plaque as one of the builders as well? When her husband, the chief engineer of the bridge, is injured on the job it falls to Emily to take his place. Untrained for the task, but under his guidance, she assumes his role, despite fierce resistance and unbelievable obstacles. This novel is her story.



Gathering at the Manger Christmas Eve

If you take a look at Prince of Peace's Advent and Christmas calendar on pages 5 & 6, you will see all of the ways in which we will be preparing for and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. All of these gatherings will take place online, except for one.

On Christmas Eve we will have the opportunity to *Gather at the Manger*. We will meet at the Nativity on the church grounds from 4:00 to 5:00 pm to light candles and sing Christmas carols. As always, please wear your mask and maintain social distance.

As the wise men brought their gifts to the manger, we invite you to bring your gift. We are collecting gift cards for Womanspace. Womanspace provides help for women, men, and families who are impacted by domestic and sexual violence. As we know in this time of pandemic, as people are sheltering in place and spending more time than ever at home, the numbers of people needing this lifesaving organization is on the rise.

Because of Covid-19, Womanspace is unable to distribute food, clothing, or household items to their clients. They are asking instead for gift cards to Target or Walmart. While any gift card is welcome and appreciated, clients can buy food and household items at these stores.

Please bring your gift card with you on Christmas Eve and place it in the manger.

Other News

Get CoveredNJ

Health Insurance Now Mandatory in NJ *Open Enrollment Runs until January 31st*

New Jersey's official health insurance marketplace, *Get Covered*, has a convenient new website: nj.gov/getcoverednj.

The website includes available plans, ways to find out how to qualify for financial assistance, and help with enrollment.

Enrollment assistant is available at 1-833-677-1010 and nj.gov/getcoverednj/help/local.

As trusted sources, members of faith communities have been asked to help get the word out as it is especially important that people be insured during the pandemic.



The December Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Starkist Chicken or Tuna Salad And Crackers*

*Please place donations in the
wooden box in the breezeway.*



Lutherans Engaging in
Advocacy Ministry

Synod Offers Advocacy Ministry

Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry (LEAMNJ) is offering *An Hour of Advocacy*, a Zoom meeting, on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30. Topics rotate and include Healthcare, Hunger, Employment, and Housing.

For an invitation to the meeting, email info@learnj.org.

The overarching goal of LEAMNJ is to serve as a powerful public witness of faith through advocacy. LEAMNJ's director is Rev. Sara Lilja. To learn more, see www.learnj.org or follow LEAMNJ on facebook.



Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provide an easy way to make a real impact. Your gifts share the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time. New this year, you can help prevent spread of the coronavirus through the ongoing health care projects of ELCA World Hunger and the emergency programs of Lutheran Disaster Response.

To see the gift options, go to <https://goodgifts.elca.org>

Advent 2020



Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Advent Wreath Making

Saturday, November 28 at 2:00 pm

Rain date — November 29

Outside in the Church Yard

Expectant Hope: An Advent Retreat

Thursday, December 10

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

On Zoom

December Worship and Prayer

Waiting, Dreaming, Healing, and Promise

Service of the Word

Sundays at 9:30 am

On Facebook Live

Service of Holy Communion

Sundays at 11:00 am

In the Outdoor Chapel

Advent Prayer

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 7:30 pm

On Facebook Live

Pause and Pray

Fridays at 12:00 pm

On Zoom

Christmas 2020
O Come Let Us Adore Him



Gathering in Hope

Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope and Healing
Wednesday, December 23 at 7:30 pm
On Facebook Live

Gathering at the Manger

Gathering (safely) in Person!
Bringing gifts, lighting candles, singing carols
Christmas Eve, December 24 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
In the Parking Lot

Gathering in the Light of Christ

Candlelight Worship and Proclamation
Christmas Eve, December 24 at 7:30 pm
On Facebook Live

Gathering in Song

The Reading of the Christmas Story and Singing of Carols
Christmas Day, December 25 at 9:30 am
On Facebook Live

Gathering as a Family of Faith

What Christmas Means to Me
A Recorded Service with Congregational Greetings
First Sunday of Christmas, December 27 at 9:30 am
On Facebook Live

The Epiphany of our Lord

A Star Shall Guide Them
Wednesday, January 6 at 5:00 pm
Luminary Walking of the Labyrinth and Giving of Star Words

Social Outreach Thanks and Reminders

Thank you so much to everyone who chose an item or items from the list of forty special Christmas gift requests from children served by Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ). LSM/NJ is very grateful for the wonderful response and sends their thanks, as well.

The love of Christ shines through your generosity to the children who will receive these gifts, and they will be delighted that they were remembered at Christmas with something they had hoped for. A big shout-out of thanks to Dave Herrington, who figured out the technique and developed the system to make this way of giving possible.

Covid-19 continues to affect our approaches to various ministries and the Social Outreach Team is still working on other creative ways to provide outreach opportunities. Currently, we are still supporting the Feeding Ministry and the Food and Clothing Pantries at St. Bart's.

They can use bedding and small household items, as well, and are also in need of paper or plastic bags for distributing the food and clothing. Food items are still very much needed, so please keep up the regular grocery donations, as well as responding to the special appeals like the Thanksgiving baskets. With the cold weather, more and more people are

in need of warm clothing, including coats, hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens. Their circle of recipients is still expanding and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Your response to the need for sleeping bags for the homeless was another much-needed ministry addressed, and the sleeping bags were gratefully received and have been given out.

Bins for all donations are located outside the white doors that lead into the Education Wing. You may also leave donations in sturdy garbage bags there. Prince of Peace has been and continues to be most generous in supporting St. Bart's, and we thank each of you for your part in that effort. Monetary gifts in the form of checks may be made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked for St. Bart's.

If you have any suggestions for additional outreach opportunities, please don't hesitate to offer them. They may be emailed to Berta Schott at rschott21@aol.com. And stay tuned for more ways to reach out in 2021 as we do God's work with our hands.

As always, thank you for your partnership in ministry, including your participation and your prayers.

Appreciatively, The Social Outreach Team

Prince of Peace Books for All

Do you remember the wonderful book fair Nancy Durie organized in 2019? We had rooms of boxes of donated books – something for everyone.

The sale was fun and a success, and many of us were excited about trying to do this on an annual basis, so at the end of the sale, we packed up as many books as possible into boxes to store for a 2020 sale.

Unfortunately, with social distancing mandates, the sale could not happen this year, but we can be resourceful and still use them. We have many great novels, mysteries, and romance books that we are making available for anyone to read this winter.

With the help of Jen DiGioia's Girl Scout Troop, the girls are making a list of

these books alphabetically by author. When the list is completed, we will put it up on the church website for everyone to peruse.

If there are any books that you would like to borrow, we would like to know. You can call Dorothy & Peter at 609-750-9473 or email to safranek5@verizon.net with a list of the books you would like to borrow, and we will make sure the books are delivered to your door for you to read, or we can meet you at the church for pick up. Call or email to arrange a time to return your borrowed books when you have finished reading them.

We hope to hear from many of you soon as we socially reach out while we continue to social distance.

— Dorothy Safranek

Joyful Stitchers Holiday Project

Each year in the fall, the Joyful Stitchers turn their talents to creating warm, beautiful, useful handmade items to donate as holiday gifts for those who might need them. With our small group of knitters and crocheters, and with help from stitchers in the congregation, we've been able to donate a considerable number of items each year.

This fall, given our close association with St. Bart's, the scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens we're making will be donated to St. Bart's. We are all working on this project at home. We'd like to provide as many high-quality, handmade items as we possibly can, so if you'd like to help us out, we'd certainly appreciate it.

Please note that we are requiring all items to be made of good quality, machine washable yarn. We have some appropriate yarn available, so if you'd like to make something for us, but don't have yarn or need a pattern, please let Kate Chen know at kcmchen@comcast.net.

Similarly, if you have yarn to donate that meets the requirements for this project, please send Kate an email with the particulars. Plan to have finished items ready to go by early December. As soon as we have a specific date, we will let everyone know. Happy Stitching!

Racial Justice Update — December 2020

A Month of Important Discussions about Racial Justice

There always seems to be so much to discuss at the Racial Justice Team meetings, and this month was no exception.

NJ Synod ELCA Antiracism Team Virtual Summit

Many Prince of Peace members as well as Pastor Froehlke attended this summit and found it very helpful to connect with other Lutherans struggling with how to work for racial justice. We were happy to hear we were the first New Jersey ELCA church to have such a team but that there are at least twelve now.

Those attending were challenged to think about whether we really are welcoming to everyone, to intentionally think about our image of God and how that shapes how we act, to look at the doctrines that have contributed to racism within our church specifically, and to remember that what defines us is our relationship to humanity, not our physical identity or the environment around us.

Post-election Racial Justice Concern

Though many things are still under discussion after this controversial election, one thing that easily passed was cannabis legalization. Did you realize that was only the beginning of the process? A clear majority voted to change our constitution to legalize recreational marijuana. Whether you agree with that or not, it is now happening, but now the harder work of making the legislation fair to those who have been unfairly and disproportionately impacted in the past is here.

The intentional wording and enforcement of past laws was used to criminalize many more people of color than whites who used marijuana almost exactly as much, which in turn made it difficult for convicted people of color (POC) and their families to meet financial needs, get jobs and to build a better life.

After the election, legislators tried to quickly pass legislation that did nothing to repair that inequity and would have actually been worse than before, but activists including our team spoke up against such measures and new and better bills are in discussion now, though they are still not as strong as they could be. If you would like more information on what those

working for racial justice feel should be in the bill, email nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or look up Salvation and Social Justice, one of the local faith groups actively working on this, for their latest update.

Other Current Issues

Our team has also been looking into how Prince of Peace, West Windsor, and the surrounding area have been complicit in racial injustice in the past. So far we've discovered that the area is on indigenous land and that Native Americans in our state have been fighting to keep official government recognition of their tribes so members can access the privileges promised. We've been attending webinars with a Nanticote-Lenape tribal leader, Rev. Dr. Norwood (currently serving a church in Ewing), to learn more. You can see one of his presentations on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBURf4yWCTY> to learn more.

We've also been looking into the history of African Americans in our area. This information, combined with what we've learned about the nearby indigenous population, is being investigated to consider what appropriate discussions of reparations might include.

Last but not least, faith groups in the area have been asked to help any of the thousands being released in November and December from prison, the majority being people of color, if they need support. So far we haven't had any specific requests, but if you know an individual or family with someone recently released who has a need, please let the pastors or the Racial Justice Team know. It seems those with housing and support were released first but local communities will be getting more returnees without that soon.

Remember, Jesus told us we are serving him when we serve anyone in need, and those starting a new life with newly regained freedom need to know that God accepts all of us as people who make mistakes and that all are welcome at Prince of Peace and in our communities. The more support these individuals get in the community, the less chance they will end up back in prison. Let's be sure they know we care if someone comes to Prince of Peace. — Nancy Reyes



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Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am (Livestream)

and 11 am (Outdoor)

<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>
