



Tidings of Peace

December 2021



Worship in December

Worship with Holy Communion
8:30 am

In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>

Sunday, December 5

Advent 2

The Refiner's Fire

Sunday, December 12

Advent 3

A Sunday of Contradictions

Sunday, December 19

Advent 4

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00

In Person

7:30 pm

In Person & Livestreamed

Sunday, December 26

Christmas

The Word Made Flesh

Also in December

Thursday, December 2

Managing Grief During the Holidays

Wednesdays in Advent

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Vespers at 7:30 pm

In Person & Livestream

Darkness as a Gift

I don't sleep like I used to. I can lie awake for an hour or more in the middle of the night. I don't like how my mind races in the quiet and the dark. Darkness is the enemy. It strips my defenses, lays me bare before the world. Something benign during the day overwhelms me at 3am.

But these early morning hours also inspire. Many sermons come in the quiet and the dark. I guess for the same reason I'm afraid, there is nothing to distract. I lie bare before the Holy Spirit. St. John of the Cross calls this the dark night of the soul, and this is not all bad.

Darkness gets a bad rap. Too often we equate darkness with evil or assign it to God's absence. But darkness can be where we encounter the beauty and mystery of God. Scripture is filled with imagery in which the darkness is filled with the glory of God.

In the northern hemisphere, Advent is the season of darkness. Each passing day pulls the night out longer and longer. We like to curse the dark, but maybe it is time to appreciate its blessing.

This Advent our midweek worship will embrace the dark. We will gather each Wednesday around four themes.

Darkness is Holy

Darkness is Beautiful

Darkness Holds Promise

Darkness Holds God

I hope this year we can see darkness as a gift.

We worship in person or online at 7:30 pm.

— Pastor Froehlke

Reminder: December 1st is the deadline for Wreath Orders.

All proceeds benefit St. Bart's Food Pantry.

See page 11 for order form or email your preferences to
loismcase@gmail.com



Prepare the Way of the Lord!
Advent Worship

Service of Holy Communion

Sundays

8:30 am In Person

9:30 am In Person & Livestream

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

In Person & Livestream

*The Rite for the Advent Wreath by Barn Geese
Worship is licensed under CCBY-NC4.0."*

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 26

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor

Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door

Kayla Hopgood, Vicar

Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music

Victoria Chows, Church Musician

Geeta Telang, Office Manager

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)

**Three Offerings from
The House Next Door**

Managing Grief During the Holidays

Thursday, December 2

See flyer on page 10

**Two Opportunities to
Celebrate Epiphany**

A Star Shall Guide Them

January 6, 2022

Morning Retreat on Zoom

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

As we focus on the gift of the star, we will each receive the gift of a Star Word to guide us in this new year. Email Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org for a zoom invitation.

\$20 registration fee

Free for members of Prince of Peace

Labyrinth Walk

January 6, 4:30 pm

We will gather in the Outdoor Chapel at dusk. As we focus on the gift of the star, we will each receive the gift of a Star Word to guide our walk on the Labyrinth.



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

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

December Events

Christmas Worship Schedule

As we continue to navigate the pandemic and because Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, there will be two Christmas Eve services, one at 4 pm, one at 7:30, and no Christmas Day service. Christmas Day will be celebrated Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 am.

Book Group

*If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com
We meet at 7:30 pm once a month.*

Tuesday, December 7, 12:30 pm

Book Club Christmas Luncheon

Springdale Golf Club Dining Room

1895 Clubhouse Drive, Princeton

RSVP to Martha Winder, maw14jpw@aol.com

Thursday, January 13, 1:30 pm

At the home of Phyllis Church

11 Princeton Place, Princeton Junction

RSVP to p.church@mindspring.com

Or phone 609-799-0723

Please note the earlier time for the January meeting.

The Last Bookshop in London by Madeline Martin



On the cusp of WWII, young Grace Bennett leaves home for London where she boards with her mom's best friend and finds a job working for a grumpy old man at the Primrose Hill Bookshop. Not a reader herself, she sets to work dusting and organizing the

books. When she meets a customer who introduces her to the joys of reading, her life begins to blossom. In the dark days of the Blitz when all of London is in darkness, Grace finds strength and courage as her little bookshop becomes a beacon of hope to the residents of London.

Pandemic Protocol

As the Covid-19 pandemic lingers, the Re-entry Task Force asks the congregation to remain masked during worship. We will reassess this policy at our January meeting. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

All 22 Christmas Gift Wishes of LSM/NJ Children Filled

Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ) is delighted that the Christmas gift wishes of all 22 children assigned to Prince of Peace were filled in short order, and that other folks donated money for LSM/NJ to use to satisfy additional children's wishes. Thank you very much from LSM/NJ and from the Social Outreach Team to all who participated in this ministry to children in low income families. 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 developed the system to make this way of giving possible again this year.

Blessings to all of you,
Berta Schott, for the Social Outreach Team

Saint Bart's Thanksgiving Baskets Collection a Huge Success Regular Donations Still Needed

Thank you to everyone who provided a Thanksgiving Basket for St. Bart's to give out to people in the Hamilton/Trenton community who needed food. Thanks to the generosity of Prince of Peacers and of the children's orchestra who uses our building for rehearsals, approximately 25 baskets were donated from Prince of Peace. Thank you, too, to the persons who delivered the baskets to St. Bart's.

Our regular collection of food is continuing, and donations may be placed in the bins located outside the white doors at the Community Room end of the building.

Appreciatively, Berta Schott
For the organizers of the
Thanksgiving Basket collection
and the Social Outreach Team

World Holidays & Celebrations

December 2021



*Stained Glass Window
of Our Lady of
Guadalupe at St. Ann's
in Lawrenceville.*

December in the West is typically dominated by the Christmas holiday and the run-up to the New Year. But there are other cultural and ethnic holidays and observances which occur around the world and have been brought to this country by immigrants and are sometimes overlooked in the Christmas rush.

Several of these are listed below with links for further information.

Cultural/Ethnic Holidays/Observances			
Date	Holiday	Affiliation	Notes
Sunset 11/28 – Sundown 12/6	<u>Hanukkah</u>	Jewish	The Festival of Lights, is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple in the 2nd century BCE
12/12	<u>Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe</u>	Mexican	A national holiday in Mexico to celebrate the appearance of the Virgin Mary to an indigenous man
12/18	<u>UN Arabic Language Day</u>	Arab	UNESCO observance of Arabic "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization"
12/26 – 1/1	<u>Kwanzaa</u>	African-American	An annual celebration of African-American culture based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, including West and Southeast Africa
12/29	<u>Wounded Knee</u>	Native American	Observance of the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890
12/31	<u>Omisoka</u>	Japanese	Traditionally, important activities for the concluding year and day were completed in order to start the new year fresh on the last day of the year. Some of these include house cleaning, repaying debts, purification (such as driving out evil spirits and bad luck), and bathing so the final hours of the year could be spent relaxing. Recently, families and friends often gather for parties

Continued on Next Page

Holidays, continued from page 4

Besides cultural and ethnic holidays and observances there are global observances which happen during December as well. While not holidays in the strictest sense of the word, many of these are related to issues affecting those who are disenfranchised and whom the Racial Justice Team looks to assist. These are listed here.

Global Celebrations	
Date	Holiday
12/1	World AIDS Day
12/2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
12/3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
12/9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide
12/10	Human Rights Day
12/12	International Universal Health Coverage Day
12/18	International Migrants Day
12/20	International Human Solidarity Day
12/21	National Homeless Persons Remembrance Day
12/28	National Call a Friend Day

*Contributed by Con P. Sweeney
Racial Justice Team*

Special Thanks from the Win Family

Prince of Peace members may or may not know that we have been helping a family from Burma, now Myanmar, who moved into our area for refuge almost two years ago.

Through Wendy Schutzer's sister, she found out that the Win family of five (parents Nay and TinTin also known as Sheerla, plus sons Zwe, age 15, and Shar now 13, and daughter ZuZu, now 9) moved into a Hamilton home far away from the North Jersey agency working with their initial application for asylum.

At first, Wendy helped get them to the food pantry at Resurrection Lutheran in Hamilton Square, and Dave New filled in when she couldn't, often picking up food for them during Covid. With Dave's family situation taking him out of town this past year, Nancy Reyes got involved and helped with several other difficult situations as they arose, including getting the family vaccinations and helping with job applications. They now have work permits,



The Win Family enjoying an al fresco meal with Dave and Joan New and Nancy Reyes.

drivers' licenses, jobs, and a car, but are still awaiting their interview for asylum.

On two occasions during this past year, with job and status changes, the family was dealing with financial crises and asked our church for help. Thanks to donations made to Prince of Peace's Refugee Fund, the church was able to help them. Recently Nay had some medical issues at the same time as his mother,

Fatema, was diagnosed and had surgery for cancer in Myanmar, and the church was praying for them both. Nay and the whole Win family want us to know how grateful they are for our prayers and financial help when they needed them most. Nay has repeatedly asked that his gratitude be shared, so many thanks for those prayers and any donations made to the refugee fund which helped them.

It's a Small World - At least for some of Prince of Peace's German Lutherans

What happens when a retiree with German ancestry visits a fellow Prince of Peace member born and raised in Germany? They both enjoy discovering lots of connections and similarities.

Nancy Reyes had thought of connecting with Karlfried Froehlich for years, knowing she had German ancestry and several family history articles and letters in German that she wanted to get translated. Several years ago she mentioned that to Karlfried, who said he'd be happy to help translate, but she never got around to it until the past few months — and what a joy it's been for both of them (and Karlfried's sons, too).

With his wealth of knowledge, Karlfried has been able to look at items saved by Nancy's parents and grandparents and relate them to various regions of Germany and its history at that time from his personal experience.

As it turns out, Karlfried is the same age as Nancy's parents would have been now, so a memoir her mother's first cousin wrote and published, which is now out of print but in several reputable university libraries internationally, describes very similar experiences to those of Karlfried. Though Karlfried came to America around the time of Nancy's birth, her grandparents all came over sometime in 1926, and Karlfried was able to explain the mindset of many teenagers and young adult immigrants at that time and how their view of nationalism and Nazis compared to those who stayed in Germany.

Nancy's parents met twenty years later through their German choirs in New York, and so did Karlfried and Ricarda meet through music in Germany. Nancy found handwritten music and lyrics from times when her grandmother and mother were in choirs in New York, some completely handwritten, some part printed and part handwritten, and started thinking about how much more work it was to be in a choir in those

generations and how that worked for choir members. Because some people didn't have the skills or the time to copy all their music, Ricarda actually put herself through the university by transcribing such music for others.

These are just a few of the coincidences discovered through several recent visits, but perhaps the most amazing moment was when Karlfried was looking at a box of German books Nancy brought and discovered a German card game, a version of *Quartets* (a European game similar to *Go Fish*), saved by her family. A smile lit up his face as he told Nancy what a treasure she had. The cover of this game was a cathedral in his hometown, and that was just the beginning. This version of the game focused on two regions of Germany, and one of those is Karlfried's hometown. As he and his son Dan were telling Nancy that one card showed the road Karlfried walked down to go to school each day, they stood up and moved toward a map on the wall — an etching of Meissen — and held up several cards in front of the identical buildings and locations on the wall map.

This past year has been a time when we could easily feel disconnected from others outside of our bubble, but make an effort to reach out to someone you don't know well. You never know what you'll discover. It is a small world. (It was even before the internet). Nancy is so grateful for the insight she now has into her ancestry thanks to Karlfried and his sons, Dan and Eberhard, who have each been present during some of the visits and added another generation's perspective to these wonderful conversations. Together they've been putting together seemingly random disconnected pieces of Nancy's family history puzzle and their findings will be recorded and enrich Nancy's future travels and her family for generations to come.

Two New Crosses Added to Cross Wall Area



Nancy Reyes has donated the simple cross above, which she bought at St. Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana.

The mission is said to have started after visiting Iroquois told the native Salish about the men in black robes who had taught them about Christianity. The Salish requested that a *Black Robe* come to teach them more. In 1841, three Jesuit priests and three Lay Brothers arrived and established the first white settlement in Montana on the banks of what is now the Bitterroot River.

Nancy explains: "I bought a cross there because it was different, a simple piece of a log that has the burnt Cross brand of St. Mary's and Montana on it."

More information about this history is available at (<https://www.saintmarysmisson.org/history>)

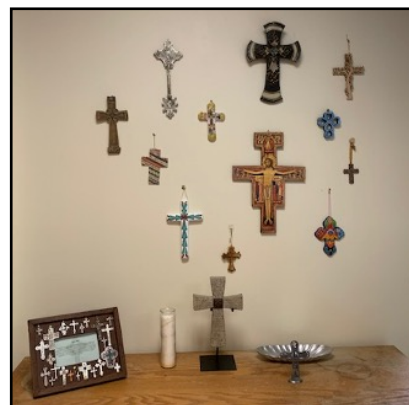


Tree of Life Chapel (TLC) Updates

On behalf of the TLC Committee, thank you for your prayers and financial support for our newest memorial garden designated for pregnancy and infant loss. We have raised just over \$5,000 for the garden and, as you might have noticed, the construction continued into these cold months! Donations are still being accepted as we work to offset our budget for this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Vicar Kayla.

Thank you!
Kayla

Ethiopian Christianity and A Cross for Prince of Peace



The Cross Wall in the narthex. The new Ethiopian cross is at the upper left.

As sketched in Sunday Adult Education sessions on October 17 and November 14, Ethiopia has an ancient Christian history, and is of current and local interest too.

Christianity became the official religion of ancient Ethiopia (Axum) in the fourth century, just as the Nicene Creed was adopted and centuries before most of Europe became Christian. And recent Ethiopian students at American seminaries have become famous leaders back home.

Gudina Tumsa went to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, returned to Ethiopia to become the head of the large Protestant church there, but was kidnapped and killed by the Marxist (Derg) government in 1979. Bishop Paulos was our own Karlfried Froehlich's student at Princeton Seminary, even when he went back to Africa, was imprisoned by the Derg regime from 1976 to 1982, and was feared dead. But he survived, returned to Princeton to complete his PhD degree in 1988, and became the Patriarch of the entire Ethiopian Orthodox Church in 1992.

I was fortunate to visit Ethiopia in 2011, and to reunite with 'Abuna' Paulos shortly before his death. I brought him greetings and gifts from his Princeton friends, and returned home enriched by his gifts and many memories. To add to the global array of crosses in the Prince of Peace narthex, I have given a flat hand cross from Ethiopia for all to see. Check it out in the upper left corner.

— Paul Rorem

Just the Beginning as the Racial Justice Team Plans for Upcoming Seasons of the Church Year

God's Work Our Hands Day focused on mass incarceration, then Dr. Paul Rorem taught Prince of Peace about Ethiopian Christianity, and the opportunities to learn and participate keep rolling in.

Several members of the team attended *Transforming White Privilege* offered by the NJ Synod to help us recognize and discuss privilege that's ingrained in our upbringing in America so we can truly work toward reconciliation and consider reparations.

Others have been attending weekly advocacy meetings with Pastor Sara Lilja to be sure we know facts driving issues in the news (or not but should be).

And by the way, the complete spreadsheet of about 50 books to help Prince of Peace Read about Equity, Anti-racism and Diversity will soon be found on POP's website.

In early November, Nancy Herrington sent out tips for voting so Prince of Peace members could feel more comfortable with new voting procedures, exercising one of the few ways we can regularly make our voices heard anonymously but have a significant impact.

We also hope you had a chance to quiz yourself on some true facts about Thanksgiving as we recognize that indigenous peoples have been wronged in America and,

though we all have much to be grateful for, we should also be sure we know the truth of our country's actions against diverse peoples and acknowledge our often violent racist history, recognizing why many attend a Day of Mourning instead of Thanksgiving.

What's coming up? You'll see that this month Con Sweeney is starting a monthly article helping us raise our awareness of holidays and significant dates in history for Americans of different cultures, not just those that our government has recognized since this Racial Justice Team article often neglected those as team news took priority.

The team has decided to set half of our budget aside to start Prince of Peace's fund for reparations through the Bishop's Challenge, which we will emphasize during Lent after focusing during Epiphany on indigenous children who died at residential schools. In addition, there will be more forums related to racial justice and shared movie and book discussions following up on mass incarceration as we get deeper into the Bishop's Challenge.

Stay tuned! More chances for you to learn and participate are coming soon.

— Nancy Reyes

Parish Care — December 2021

As Advent begins and we prepare for our Christmas Season . . .

Bringing Cheer During the Holidays

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we think of and spend time with our families. Some members of our church family may appreciate a little extra care during this time. If you are able to share a little time, make a call, deliver some holiday cheer, assist a member with some holiday tasks, read a Bible story or say a prayer with a member of our church family please let the Parish Care Team know. We can provide details.

Care Notes & Prayer Squares

Care Notes are available in the gathering area. Please take, read, and pass along to another as needed. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for helping to keep the display organized and current. And to Chris Wethe for the financial support of this project.

Prayer Squares and prayer cards are in the breezeway to share with others.

Current Transportation Opportunities

Rides are needed during the week to appointments and some local shopping. Many thanks to those who have been providing rides. If you can help with rides, please let us know.

Calendars

2022 Calendars are being gathered. We need to deliver them to local senior living facilities in our area. If you can help deliver them, please let me know.

Gathering Confirmation Group Pictures

Please share a copy (we will make a copy and return your original).

Sneak Peek: Valentine Care Boxes and Bags (Yes Valentine!)

Mark your 2022 Calendars

Our next big project is our annual shipment of Valentine Day Care Packages to our young adults away at school, in the military and care bags to our homebound Senior citizens. Watch for the details in the gathering area in January.

We will need lots of donations — baked goodies, school supplies, snacks, dollars for shipping, and current addresses to fill and send Prince of Peace care boxes. We are planning on filling about 30 boxes and bags this year. (Numbers may change as we gather addresses.)

Please check with us to make sure we have a current year address for your young adult for shipping. (When all are home for Christmas is a great time to get an address.) The deadline for getting addresses to us is January 20, 2022. Packing and shipping are planned for February 7 and 8. Look for the details in the gathering area.

New Opportunities

Phone Calls

We are looking for some folks willing to make a few phone calls throughout the year — just to say hi and to check in with our Church family members.

Share some Care

Martha Winder

maw14jpw@aol.com



Holidays can be a painful time to navigate the death of a loved one. While the rest of the world is celebrating, you're in pain. If you've lost a spouse, parent, child, or someone special in your life, join Marriage and Family Therapist and Grief Counselor, Christine Ruth, M.S. LMFT, for this brief, but informative grief seminar:

Christine Ruth, MS, LMFT has provided individual counseling and group support for 9 years through hospice bereavement services and through her own private practice. A special welcome to friends and family members supporting those in grief.

“Managing Grief During the Holidays” Seminar

Thursday, December 2nd from 10:00-11:30am

At The House Next Door
(177 Princeton-Hightstown Road)

OR

Thursday, December 2nd from 7:00-8:30pm (via Zoom)

Princeton Family Counseling Center

The House Next Door (next to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church)
177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton, Junction, NJ 08550

Space is limited. \$20 donation/person, payable via Venmo or check.

RSVP for a Zoom link or get more information at

christineruth@niwotcounseling.com

or by calling 720-610-5290.

Beautiful Handmade Wreaths

Each One Unique & Made Locally from Natural Materials

All proceeds benefit the Food Pantry at Saint Bartholomew's Lutheran Church, Trenton.

Wreaths are built individually on 24" frames from available materials. The ones below are samples.



\$25 Donation



\$35 Donation



\$45 Donation

Wreaths will be available for pick-up at Prince of Peace Church
177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction
Saturday, December 4, from 10 am to Noon or by Arrangement.

Questions? Email loismcase@gmail.com

Please Indicate Your Preferred Bow Choice on the Form Below.

Bows will vary but we'll try to meet your request.

White — Red — Plaid — Burlap — Surprise Me

Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

email _____

Bow Choices (see above) _____

Use the back if needed for ordering multiple wreaths.

Indicate number of wreaths of each type.

Donations are tax-deductible.

____ \$25 ____ \$35 ____ \$45

Please include with your order a check made out to

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, with Wreaths in the memo line.

Mail to Prince of Peace, 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Orders must be received by December 1st.



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 am (In Person)
and 9:30 am (In Person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Monday- Friday 9 am to 1 pm
