



# Tidings of Peace

February 2020



## Worship in February

*Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am*

### **Sunday, February 2**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*The Blessed Community*

### **Sunday, February 9**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Sermon on the Mount*

### **Sunday, February 16**

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

*The Sermon on the Mount*

*Dr. Paul Rorem Preaching*

### **Sunday, February 23**

Transfiguration of Our Lord

### **Wednesday, February 26**

**7:30 pm**

Ash Wednesday

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## Also in February

### **February 3, 10, 17, 24**

*Stitchers*

### **February 5**

*Pastor Class*

### **February 12**

*Mentor Night*

### **February 13**

*Book Group*

### **February 25**

*Shrove Tuesday Dinner*

*At St. Bart's*

## Political But Not Partisan

You never know what the prayer request is going to be. I begin every confirmation class asking the class about their prayer concerns. I'm impressed how deeply our youth care for friends, teachers, each other, and the presidency. As I asked for prayers last night, one student wanted prayers to impeach the president.

I was caught off guard. On the one hand I was glad that this student was paying attention to what is going on in Washington. On the other hand, I knew I had to tip toe carefully around this request.

Sara Lilja, director of Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry (LEAM,) says that the church is to be political, but nonpartisan. I like this, but in our country's supercharged partisan divide, it is hard to get involved with politics without taking, or at least appearing to take, a political side. I have never and I will never use my office to tell the congregation how to vote. But neither will I ignore the issues that politics engage with: issues of peace and justice, concern for the poor, LGBTQIA concerns, welcome of the refugee and stranger, and matters of life and death. You can't read the *Bible* without seeing Jesus' advocacy for 'the least of these.'

My sister worked for a congressman affiliated with a political party that I do not vote for. Yes, there is a political divide in our family. I always look forward, though, to our visits and the opportunity to talk politics. We often don't agree, but we respect each other, and we both want what is best for our country. We just have different means of getting there.

I think the same is true in the church, and I think it is what Pastor Lilja is getting at when she calls the church to be political but nonpartisan. There is no reason to vilify those on the other side; but there is good reason to engage and struggle with these same people over issues we care deeply about. Who knows, we may even learn something.

Oh, and the prayer at confirmation last night? I prayed that our governmental leaders would struggle to do what is right for all Americans, especially 'the least of these' in our country.

— Pastor Froehlke



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

As the ELCA moves toward addressing recognizing racism in the U.S. Lutherans are encouraged to learn more about African-American history. Here are some sources:

### *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*

This award winning PBS documentary hosted by Harvard University scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. is long but a must-watch. The six-part series covers the history of the African American experience from the colonial era to the Civil Rights Movement and modern day, while going beyond just the facts to provide a range of cultural and social perspectives.

### *American Promise*

*American Promise* follows two boys navigating the US education system over a span of 13 years. The documentary highlights the persistent educational achievement gap that affects African Americans across all socioeconomic levels.

### *What is Systemic Racism?*

This is an 8-part video series that shows how racism shows up in our lives across institutions and society: Wealth Gap, Employment, Housing Discrimination, Government Surveillance, Incarceration, Drug Arrests, Immigration Arrests, Infant Mortality. It can be found at

<https://www.raceforward.org/videos/systemic-racism>

### *Films For Black History Month*

Global Citizen has a list of recommended feature films on black history and historical figures, including Nelson Mandela and Jesse Owens.

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/12-must-watch-films-for-black-history-month/>

*Tidings*, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to [loismcase@gmail.com](mailto:loismcase@gmail.com).

**Deadline for the February issue is Sunday, February 23**

### Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor  
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door  
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music  
Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator  
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

### Congregational Council

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

## Congratulations, Victoria!



Prince of Peace joins Victoria Chow-Torres, church musician, as she celebrates her citizenship. She writes:

*It has been an arduous journey with many roadblocks, but here I AM!!!  
Unapologetically PROUD to be a Canadian-American DUAL citizen! I promise to uphold and defend the Constitution for all it stands for and represents!*

*#wethepeople*

## February Events

### *Hymns of the Church* Sundays, February 2, 9, 16

Paul Rorem of Princeton Theological Seminary will discuss three famous hymns during the education hour on three Sundays in February.

Professor Rorem is an ELCA pastor and professor who has taught early and medieval church history at Princeton Theological Seminary since 1993, as the successor to his 'doctor father' Karlfried Froehlich.

*Hymns of the Church:  
A look at Some Hymn Texts,  
Their Sources, and  
Their Historical Contexts*

#### **February 2**

*Advent's Savior of the Nations, Come*  
(ELW 263)  
And Ambrose/Augustine.

#### **February 9**

*Christmas' Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
(ELW 295)  
And the Nicene Creed

#### **February 16**

*Good Friday's O Sacred Head Now Wounded*  
(ELW 351)  
And Medieval Mysticism

### **Pastor Class February 5, 7:30**

How should we as people of faith make sense of the violent acts of God in the Old Testament? These are difficult questions with no easy answers.

Pastor's class has been delving into this question based on the book by biblical scholar Daniel Hawk entitled *The Violence of the Biblical God*.

Newcomers are welcome to join the discussion.

### **Book Group February 13**

*At the home of Ginny Moore  
24 Terrapin Lane, Mercerville  
RSVP to [ginnymoore@gmail.com](mailto:ginnymoore@gmail.com)*

#### ***Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue**

This is the story of two couples. One pair has achieved the American Dream; the other hopes to attain it. Clark and Cindy Edwards enjoy the benefits that come from Clark's job as a hotshot real estate investor with Lehman Brothers. Jendi and Neni Jonga are from Cameroon. Jendi is here illegally while his wife Neni is on a student visa. When Clark hires Jendi as a chauffeur at \$36,000 a year, it seems a dream come true for the Jongs, but this is 2008 and Lehman Brothers is about to go belly up.

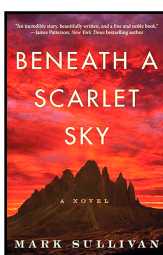


#### **March 12**

*Location TBA*

#### ***Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan**

This WWII story is unusual because it focuses on Italy during the war. It centers around Pino Lella, a 17-year-old whose parents send him to the mountains to escape the bombing of Milan. While there the teenager guides Jewish refugees escaping the Nazis through the dangerous mountain passes to safety in Switzerland.



Called back to Milan, he ends up driving for a German general while spying for the resistance. The book, soon to be made into a motion picture, is based on the true story of a young Italian hero.

*The Book Group meets the  
second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.*

*New members are always welcome.*

*If interested, please contact Phyllis Church  
609-799-0723 or [p.church@mindspring.com](mailto:p.church@mindspring.com)*

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## More February Events

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### Joyful Stitchers in February

We are continuing to work on our ongoing projects, with a few new additions.

Rescue groups in Australia are looking for handmade items to help with the many animals who have been impacted by the fires there, so some of us are again making birds' nests as we did last spring for the North Carolina rescue organization, along with other items to contribute.

We're always looking for new ways to help others with our stitching skills, so if you know of a service project that the Joyful Stitchers could help out with, please let us know!

As always, all are welcome at our meetings in the lounge. We alternate between evening and afternoon meetings. Bring your project or come to learn to knit or crochet or just to chat.

Joyful Stitchers' schedule for February: February 3rd at 6:30; February 10th at 1:00; February 17th at 6:30; February 24th at 1:00. Any questions, contact Kate Chen at [kcmchen@comcast.net](mailto:kcmchen@comcast.net).

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### Mentor Night

Confirmation Mentors: Our next Mentor Night with our confirmation class is scheduled for Wednesday February 12. Dinner begins at 6:30 with discussion with your student to follow.

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### Shrove Tuesday Community Dinner At St. Bart's, February 25, 6:30

Participants are asked to bring a main dish, dessert, or beverage.

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### Ash Wednesday Worship February 26, 7:30

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 26. We gather for worship at 7:30 pm with the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion.



### Easter Groceries for Seniors Served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ) has again asked us to partner with them in providing bags of groceries for Easter dinner to residents in some of their housing facilities. This Lent, we will be collecting bags of groceries and individual grocery items for senior citizens who are served by LSM/NJ in Camden. Be on the lookout for the collection table, which will be in the Gathering Area during Lent. **The deadline for receipt of the groceries is Sunday, March 29, 2020.** They will be delivered on Monday, March 30. We are announcing this ministry early so that you will be able to start planning for it.

This year, the bags are to contain the following items:

- Boxed potatoes (au gratin, scalloped, or mashed)
- 2 cans of vegetables
- 2 cans of fruit
- Mac and cheese
- Applesauce in non-breakable containers
- Corn bread/muffin mix
- Cake mix and frosting

LSM/NJ will be providing the hams for the bags. Monetary donations to be used for the meat purchases would also be gratefully accepted. Please make checks out to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ and earmark "For Easter Groceries".

Other items, including Easter goodies (candy, napkins, etc) may also be added. In addition to the basics listed above, each of the bags may have different items. Not all of the bags need to be exactly the same.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry to feed the hungry, especially our sisters and brothers who are senior citizens.

— The Social Ministry Team

## Time for Prince of Peace to Act For Social Justice

In response to the various speakers and forums at Prince of Peace and nearby churches this fall and winter, many members are feeling frustrated that all talk and no action is not enough of a Christian response to the topics explored. It's time to move from contemplation to action, to do more, much more.

Members were invited to an organizational meeting on anti-racism on Thursday, January 30 to discuss steps our church can take toward correcting the systemic racism in the ELCA and our own congregation as follow-up to our forums on Lenny Duncan's *Dear Church: A Love Letter to the Whitest Denomination in America* and the challenge by our speaker on Refugee Sunday at Dutch Neck to have the hard conversations it takes to not just recognize but change racism and colorism in our own church, community, and country. If you missed that meeting, contact Nancy Reyes at [nancyauerreyes@gmail.com](mailto:nancyauerreyes@gmail.com) or 609-273-1239 to contribute ideas or join these efforts.

This is not your only chance to work for social justice through Prince of Peace. Members are also organizing to look at how our congregation and community can reduce sexism and be more welcoming to the LGBTQIA community, those with mental health issues, and immigrants, all discussed at other recent forums and workshops. If you would like to be a part of such action, please contact either of our pastors, Elizabeth Wagner (Council President) or Nancy Reyes with your ideas or area of interest. You'll be hearing more soon!

— Nancy Reyes



### The February Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Canned Chicken or Beef Gravy*

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



## Thrivent Projects Moving Forward Your Help Needed!

Reminder from last newsletter: Thrivent gave Prince of Peace seed money for the Peace Garden shed kit (\$250) as well as Property Enhancement for the House Next Door (\$250 towards materials for the required foundation and picnic table(s); any extra will be used to make the property more flexible and welcoming to the community and those using it for retreats who'd like to include outside activities. **Many thanks, Thrivent!**

Update - Generous donations from members and friends of Prince of Peace have covered the remainder of the cost for the shed! Thanks to all who donated online. Special thanks to one anonymous family who gave most of that as a gift that will keep on giving as the Peace Garden and Prince of Peace help feed the hungry of our communities.

Thrivent members are still encouraged to designate their Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace in support of additional enhancements for the second project or to support the church in other ways as determined by Council. Remember, you can also designate those dollars to St. Batholomew or to other non-profit organizations of your choice.

This must be done before March 31 or your control over those dollars from 2019 will be lost. If you need help, contact Nancy Reyes, your Thrivent rep, or call Thrivent directly to do it by phone. Sign up to volunteer — your physical labor, especially skilled help and youth group members — to build the foundation and assemble the shed. Tentative building dates are Saturdays, March 21 and 28, partially depending on how frozen the ground is. Sign up in the narthex.

### *Dear Prince of Peace Friends,*

Many thanks for your generous Christmas gift.

I am grateful for all of your kindness throughout the year.

Blessings to you in this new year.

— Kathy Nowak



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## Coming In March

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### Crossroads Sunday

March 1

Anthony Briggs, executive director of Crossroads Camping and Retreat Center, will be our guest preacher and lead the education hour on Sunday, March 1. We are looking to renew our relationship with Crossroads and encourage participation among young and old alike. Join us for worship on March 1.

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**Faith, Hope & Love:**  
Building Safer & More Welcoming  
Congregations for LGBTQ+ Youth

Education | Storytelling | Resources | Community | Worship

*For Teens, Pastors, Youth Leaders, Parents,  
and other Congregational and Community Leaders!*

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
910 Marne Highway  
Hainesport, New Jersey 08036

**\$20/person**

Registration opens January 2020

[www.njsynod.org/faith-hope-love](http://www.njsynod.org/faith-hope-love)

- Lunch Included
- Childcare provided for ages 5 & under
- Scholarships available for NJ Synod members.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

**After Party**  
**4-7pm**

(for high school and college  
age youth)

Music \* Games \* Food  
Conversation \* More!

**\$5 /person**

# Parish Care News, February 2020

## Valentine Care Packages

The Valentine Day Care Package project is underway. Since around 1990 the church has been sending boxes filled with Prince of Peace care to young adults away at school or in the military.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed goodies to help fill the boxes.

It is not too late to help. We have until February 2 to get the boxes filled with lots of treats.

This year we will be filling and sending around **30 boxes** to students all around the country, and **9 small treat bags** to our local students and our *Senior Valentines*.

Baked goodies are always greatly enjoyed. If you would like to bake some treats, please bring them to church on Sunday, February 2nd. Snacks, school supplies, candy, gum, microwave popcorn are some of the goodies sent in the past. Any yummy treat that fits in a 8 x 12 x 8 box is welcome. Details about this project are in the Gathering Area of the church.

All goodies and other donations should be left in the church Gathering Area by Sunday, February 2.

We are packing the boxes on Monday night (February 3rd) starting promptly at 7:30 pm.

The cost to ship is around \$18.90/box. Contributions to help cover the cost of shipping can be made through Prince of Peace offering with a note in memo for *Val Care Boxes*.

Thank you for supporting this project.

Throughout the years this project is always successful because of your donations of items, goodies, and dollars. The boxes send a loving, caring message from our church to our young adults and their friends away at school.

## Transportation

Looking for transportation assistance. If you can help with Rides on Sunday mornings to and from church and/or to some weekday appointments, let me know.

## Greeting Cards

We are gathering greeting cards that we share with local senior residences. Help is needed with sorting, packing up the cards, and delivering them. If you have some time to help with this project, please let me know.

## Just Stop In

We would like to start a *Just Stop In* group. This group would take turns just stopping in three or four times a year to say hello and drop a treat of some kind to our church friends who are not always able to get to church.

We will have some Valentine bags that need to be delivered. If you can share a little time and drop one to a church friend, let us know. We can give you names and directions.

**Martha Winder — 609-799-7280**



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753  
E-Mail : email@popnj.org  
Website: popnj.org  
Worship: Sunday, 9:30 am

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#### *Sunday Schedule*

Worship at 9:30 am  
Education Hour at 10:45 am

#### *Office Hours*

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 2 pm

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