

January 2021

The Truth of Jesus



Worship in January

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

Sunday, January 17

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Come and See

Sunday, January 24

Third Sunday After Epiphany

His Kingdom Has Come Near

Sunday, January 31

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

His Fame Began to Spread

Also in January

January 12

Racial Justice Meeting

January 13, 20, 27

Caring for Creation

January 14

Book Group

January 17, 24, 31

Online Sunday School

January 31, 11 am

Annual Meeting

On Zoom

More details to come via email

Dear Prince of Peace,

For those eager to get rid of 2020, the start of 2021 has not been encouraging. January 6, 2021 will be another one of 'those' days seared into our memory.

In later years my dad had a tendency to repeat stories. One came from a respected member of his congregation named Ollie Thompson. Ollie once said, 'I may not like what is happening, but it sure is interesting.' I am still trying to figure out if these days are interesting or distressing. Maybe the comic strip character Pogo is more appropriate to quote in these days: 'We have met the enemy, and the enemy is us.'

The mob attacking the United States Capitol yesterday were not the Russians, they were not ISIS, the Iranians, or even immigrants crossing our southern border. The mob looked an awful lot like me.

In case we didn't see it in 2020, these first days of 2021 are revealing our true nature. I saw more than one Confederate flag in the crowd yesterday. Prince of Peace has done a lot of work this past year owning up to our racist past. Yesterday confirmed that those who stormed the capitol and their supporters have no intention of owning a racist past, let alone working for restorative justice. They seemed quite content to fly the Confederate flag.

But another flag I saw was as distressing. All it said in big, bold letters was *JESUS*. Remember what I said about the enemy being us? Some might want to say that the United States is a Christian nation. In some perverted way we are told to believe that Jesus is on our side and not on the other. This might fit neatly into nationalistic religion but it doesn't reflect the Jesus of our sacred text. Remember, *love your enemies?*

Perhaps it is not a coincidence that one of the darkest days of United States history occurred on the Feast of Epiphany. Maybe the guy with the *JESUS* flag should read the story and find out that the ones bearing gifts for the Christ child were not three white guys but foreigners from the east, probably Persia, which is modern day Iran.

Who again is the enemy?

Epiphany means revelation. It was the star that revealed the Christ child born King of the Jews. King Herod was none too happy at this truth. Keep reading the story and find out what happens when kings don't like the truth. It isn't pretty.

If we're serious about to whom the Epiphany star points, then this January 6th revealed not only the truth of who we are as a nation, a truth that Jesus condemns, but also the truth that Jesus is the one to move this country beyond our original sin of racism, where finally we might be able to live what we pledge, *with liberty and justice for all*.

— Pastor Froehlke, January 7, 2021

Choir Thursdays — An Invitation

Happy New Year! Many in the choir and congregation joined Megan and me last month on three Thursdays via Zoom, singing liturgies and hymns, and chatting afterwards. We found this to be quite enjoyable, and we're going to be continuing these 'Choir Thursdays' as often as possible until we're able to again gather to make music actively with each other. So, join us this coming Thursday at 7:30 pm via Zoom. I will email the congregation a Zoom invite/link this week. I'll include digital sheet music of the selections we'll be singing as well. Typically, our singing will last about 20 minutes, and then we have casual conversation and a short devotional. We're done by 8:15 pm. You're welcome

to come and go as you are able; just keep yourself on mute during the Zoom!

On a personal note, Megan and I would like to profusely thank the congregation for your kindness and support during this past year and present time. As most of you know, Megan and I are currently living in the House Next Door. It is our own little sanctuary. We feel safe. We feel supported. And, we feel loved. We're so thankful for the friends and shared ministry we have at PoP. We're both looking for more active work opportunities — hopefully locally so that we can stay at PoP. If you know of an opportunity, please let us know! Thanks, and peace to you all.

— Doug

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 February issue is Sunday, January 24

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)

Bite-size Ministry

In the midst of the political and health crises that are plaguing our nation, many of us are asking *What can I do? How can I help?* It is a time of discernment as we reflect upon what God is inviting us to and how God might use our gifts to serve our neighbor.

There are all kinds of possibilities. For example,

- Charlie Frantz facilitating the Prayer Circle that gives us a safe space for prayer
- Wendy Schutzer creating a beautiful space that provides meaningful worship for us
- Dave Herrington and Tim Gjenvik serving as videographers, making our livestream worship possible
- Joan New with her passion for stewardship, teaching us how to be generous
- Lois Case publishing the newsletter that keeps us informed of and connected to PoP's ministries
- Martha Winder reaching out to our college students, reminding them they are remembered and loved

Bite-size ministries happen when we listen for God's invitation, see a need, and offer our gifts.

How might God be inviting you? What are the needs of our community? What gifts do you have to offer? Please pray about the possibilities and share your ideas with the Pastors.

January Events

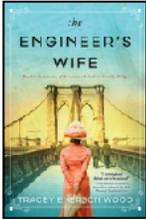
Book Group

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

January 14

Zoom Meeting at 7:30 pm

The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Wood



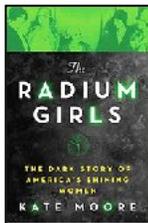
Perhaps you know that John and Washington Roebling designed and built the Brooklyn Bridge, but did you know that Washington's wife, Emily, is listed on the plaque as one of the builders as well? When her husband, the chief engineer of the bridge, is injured on the job, it falls to Emily to take his place.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

February 11

Zoom Meeting at 7:30

Radium Girls by Kate Moore

In the 1920's and 30's young women, some only 14 or 15 years old, were hired to paint radium paint onto watch dials to make them glow in the dark. They were encouraged to twirl their brushes in their mouths in order to bring them to a fine point. The young women assumed there was no danger to their health, but the opposite was true as they were poisoned by the jobs they felt lucky to have. This is their story. Eventually publicity stemming from lawsuits filed by some of the victims led to set improved worker safety.



Adult Forum

Sundays at 11 am

Pastor Froehlke is leading an adult forum from the ELCA entitled *Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church*. The study will look at white privilege in the church, how to address it, and how to change it. The class will begin on zoom at 11:00 am.

Pastor Class on Caring for Creation

Begins January 13th

Field Ed student Becca Laabs will lead this three-week session running for three Wednesdays from January 13th through January 27th.

The class will explore what the Old Testament Prophets have to say about caring for creation and how it might apply to our current environmental crisis.

We will take a look at scripture, current events, the ELCA's 1993 social statement *Caring For Creation*, and the work of Ellen Davis, an Old Testament and Practical Theology scholar out of Duke Divinity School, to gain a fuller picture of what it means to be good and faithful stewards of God's creation. Feel free to stop by for any of the discussions.

Synod Anti-Racism Conversation Continues

The Anti-Racism Team of New Jersey Synod of the ELCA will continue its conversation on racial justice with an action-planning zoom meeting on January 16, from 10 am to 12 pm.

To sign up, click [this link](#).

For more information, contact Nancy Reyes (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com)

Sunday School!

Children, Youth, and Confirmation Students: On Sunday, January 17, at 11:15 Prince of Peace will begin an online Sunday School offered by Cross Roads Camping and Retreat Center. The small group time will be led by a Prince of Peace adult. There will be two small groups; one for the Confirmation class, and one for our younger children. Contact Pastor Peter to register.

Other News

New Flower Sign-up Sheet Ready

Throughout the year, the chancel flowers for Sunday morning worship are provided by congregants of Prince of Peace.

The cost is \$40 and the flowers may be picked up and taken home after worship.

Please take a look at the available Sundays through the link below and consider any occasions that may be significant to you during the upcoming year for which you may want to provide the flowers, or flowers may be given to the Glory of God. Sign up via the link. Checks for flowers should be sent to the church anytime before your scheduled date with a memo noting the date for the flowers.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kathy in the church office.

<https://popnj.org/chancel-flowers>

Prince of Peace Lending Library

The Prince of Peace lending library is up and running on our website. Thanks to Dave Herrington for making this happen so quickly!

There is a pdf list of more than 400 titles to choose from and an easy request form to complete. The Safranek family will contact you and make arrangements to deliver the books and then will come back and pick them up when you are finished. Take a look and try it out.

It is live on our website now at the following web address:

<https://popnj.org/announcements/new-pop-lending-library/>

Social Outreach News

As we enter 2021, we do so with hope for positive new opportunities, good health, joy, justice, peace, and an end to the pandemic. COVID-19 continues to affect our approaches to various ministries and the Social Outreach Team is still working on creative ways to provide outreach opportunities. We continue to support the Feeding Ministry at St. Bart's, so grocery items are still very much needed, as are paper or plastic bags for distributing the food. Their circle of recipients is still expanding and all donations are greatly appreciated. Bins for the donations are located outside the white doors that lead into the Education Wing. Monetary gifts in the form of checks are always appreciated, too. Checks may be made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked for St. Bart's. Prince of Peace has been and continues to be most generous in supporting our sister congregation, St. Bart's, and we thank each of you for your part in that effort.

We also thank you for your wonderful response to the requests for the 40 Christmas gifts for the LSM/NJ children and for the Target and Walmart gift cards to Womanspace. The love of Christ shines through you as you share so generously.

Stay tuned for more ways to reach out in 2021 as we do God's work with our hands. 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.

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

Appreciatively,
The Social Outreach Team



The January Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is

Salad Dressing

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



The
House
Next Door

***A Safe Space — A Place of Grace
To Dwell in the Heart of God***

Weekly Opportunity for Healing Prayer

Every Friday at noon, Prince of Peace gathers with Charlie Frantz and Pastor Dale for Healing Prayer. It is a time to hear Scripture, share our concerns, hold one another's prayers, and witness to God's presence in our lives. Come once, come weekly. Watch for a weekly email with the Zoom invitation.

Winter Retreats

This winter we will be offering a number of two-hour retreats on Zoom, led by a variety of spiritual directors. Topics include

Praying the Psalms

The Poetry of Mary Oliver

Jazz Divina

Gratitude and Grace

Reiki: An Experience of the Heart

Watch emails for the dates and times. Programs will be free to the Prince of Peace Community.

Group Direction

Group Direction is available for individuals who would like to experience direction in community. Groups gather once a month for two hours. Both afternoon and evening sessions are available. They will take place on Zoom. Participants must be able to commit from February through December. The cost is \$25/session. If interested, please email Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org.

Creating a Memorial Garden

In the coming year we will be creating a memorial garden for those who have experienced a miscarriage or the loss of an infant. If you would like to learn more about this ministry or be a part of this process, please speak with Pastor Dale.

Collecting Stones

Perhaps when you have been out and about you have come across a stone with an inspirational word on it. This spring we are going to create a prayer space on the Prince of Peace campus where people can create, take or leave a prayer stone. While you are out walking this winter, please keep an eye out for flat, light-colored stones that we might write on. Please bring the stones to church and put them in the container outside of Community Hall. When it safe and warm, we will have a gathering to create stones with inspirational words for our prayer space. Thank you for your help.



Parish Care — January 2021

Happy New Year!

*Now that the new year has started, it is time for us to look forward to our February projects
The Valentine Care Boxes will be here soon. We need lots of help!*

A 'very favorite tradition,' for both the senders and receivers, at Prince of Peace is the filling and shipping of care packages for Valentine's Day. We fill and send boxes with goodies, supplies, and treats to our young adults who are away at school and, for the last several years, to our 'Senior students.' Many years ago the boxes were a surprise, but now our 'college students' know the box is coming and they are always 'surprised' to see how many goodies and surprises we can fit into the 8" x 8" x 12" box.

This tradition started many, many years ago with just a few boxes and last year we sent 28 boxes. We include our Senior students in this project by delivering a gift bag filled with goodies.

We will be packing boxes and bags on Monday, February 8th at 1:30 pm. I can have a total of six (6) folks in the space to pack boxes. Boxes will be socially spaced out on tables, masks worn, windows open. If you would like to help with the packing please let me know ASAP.

There are several ways that we can all help with this project.

1. We need to know how many boxes we will be sending. I need to know ASAP (no later than January 20th) if you have a student or senior that you would like to receive a box/bag. I need name, current USPS address, if they are living at home learning remotely, living on campus and learning remotely or just away learning. For our students that are living at home we can deliver box instead of shipping.
2. Monetary Donations to help cover the cost of shipping. Last year it was ~\$16/box to ship. Last year we shipped 28 boxes. Checks may be sent to church with offering with a note on check for Valentine Box
3. Gathering donations to fill the boxes. Perhaps this year the easiest way is to gather monetary donations and we will purchase the snacks and goodies for the boxes. If you prefer to purchase items for the boxes, we can make arrangements to have items brought to the church — perhaps leave items in the marked storage

bins outside the church white doors.

Donations need to be at the church by Thursday February 4th

4. **Baked Goodies** – These have always been an important part of our project. If you are willing to bake a batch or two of cookies, brownies, a sweet treat please let me know ASAP. We can make arrangements to get the treats to church for the boxes. Thank you in advance for sharing your baking skills. Baked goods will need to be at church by Monday morning February 8th.
5. Packing and Shipping will be on Monday February 8th, beginning at 1:30 pm. Only 6 people are allowed to be in the building to help. The plan is to finish packing in time to get the boxes to the post office late afternoon.
6. Delivery of Senior student goodie bags. If you would like to deliver a bag or two let me know.

The care packages contain a variety of goodies from home-made cookies and brownies and other baked goodies, pens, post-its, candy, instant soups, hot chocolate packets, snacks, and many other things that make a student's life more enjoyable. The box of goodies reminds them and their friends that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The congregation donates the goodies to fill the boxes along with a few dollars to help with the cost of shipping (may be placed in the offering plate with valentine boxes noted in the memo section). The goodies are collected at the church through out January, the boxes are packed and readied for shipping at the church, and taken to the USPS for shipping. Then by Valentine's Day our young adults away at school get a special package with lots of love and care from their church family.

So plan on baking some cookies, supplying some treats and donating some \$\$\$s to help fill the boxes with lots of extra love, care, prayers, and goodies!

Watch for updates and more details on Valentine Care Box project in your email, or contact Martha Winder 609-799-7280 . maw14jpw@aol.com

continued on page 8

A New Year but Racial Justice Needs Continue

Just a year old, the Racial Justice Team ended the year making plans to continue this work, but never expected that within the first week of January, white privilege would be so obvious in the way the attack on our Capitol was handled as compared to racial justice protests in 2020. We're learning to look at all parts of our lives with a Racial Justice perspective and hope you are, too!

At our meeting in December, the committee continued adult forum discussions started earlier in the fall, looking further into our local history. We've found out that several indigenous groups are still here but their land on which we now live and worship as well as promised rights have been taken from them. We've seen that though slavery legally ended, post-slavery laws continue to oppress Blacks in our own communities, just in more subtle ways that are harder to see and to fight. Our discussions have focused on how we've been complicit and so should repair damage done to indigenous and Black Americans through reparations.

Even if you didn't participate in *Examining Racism*, the next few months bring many opportunities to learn more about racism in our country. We pray all members of Prince of Peace will join us on this journey to right the wrongs of racial injustice, and learning is the place to start.

- Pastor Froehlke will be leading *Troubling the Waters* during adult forum time (11 am to noon most Sundays) for the next few months. This is an ELCA curriculum teaching us about white privilege and moving from that understanding to partnering with those who have been oppressed in both overt and more often covert ways and still haven't been recognized as equal since even before the founding of our country.
- The New Jersey Synod Anti-Racism Team is holding another virtual summit inviting Lutherans all over the state to come together virtually on Saturday, January 16 from 10 am to noon to help develop an action plan to fight racism at both congregation and synod levels.
- La Convivencia has adapted its annual recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with its 2021 Day of Service (individual kits your family can put together to donate on Monday, January 18, scheduling online for drop-off) and a panel discussion at 2 pm that day.
- The Racial Justice Team is one of the sponsors of the movie, *The Long Shadow* (hosted by La

Convivencia, Not in Our Town Princeton and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton) which you can watch for free on your own schedule between January 17th and 23rd to learn how the director came to realize her own privilege and her family's part in systemic racism. You're also invited to join the virtual Q&A with the director on Wednesday, January 20 at 7 pm.

- See fliers on Facebook page to register for any of the above, and watch for more opportunities as America celebrates Black History Month in February.

With our team's focus on education, we want you to realize that all you'll be learning is American History which includes all the many races, cultures, religions, and beliefs of everyone in this country. That should be yearlong, not just in specific months dedicated to different groups. We have been reading, discussing, attending webinars and interactive meetings studying racism against many races and cultures this year, but ALL of us on the team know there is SO much more to learn. Being antiracist is a continuum and this will be a lifelong process. Most of this was never taught in our schools or families so we need to help each other, such as through a lending library for sharing and trading books coming soon.

Some of our other neighbors have significant holidays in January. The United Nations has designated January 27 as National Holocaust Commemoration Day. On this day in 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, was liberated. We pray that by fighting for racial justice, such events might never happen again.

In India, each state has its own harvest day with many occurring during our winter months. Dance and other performances and festivals characterize each in different ways. Ask your Indian friends and neighbors to share the traditions they may be missing this time of year!

If you would like to hear more about upcoming webinars, articles or notes the RJT shares and read our minutes, you can join the email group. Also, you are ALWAYS welcome to join the team which meets virtually once a month from 7-8:30 on a Tuesday night. Questions, comments or suggestions are always welcome at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239.



**Living Lutheran Publishes Article
On Pastor Kussman**

The January/February of Living Lutheran includes a feature story on St. Bartholomew's Pastor Erich Kussman. It tells the story of Pastor's journey from prison to Princeton Theological Seminary to St. Bart's and includes some remarkable coincidences and influences.

More information is available at the livinglutheran.org *spiritual practices & resources* tab.

Living Lutheran is published by the ELCA and is available by subscription.

Epiphany 2021



The Epiphany service on January 6th included a candlelit labyrinth walk at dusk. Many thanks to everyone who created this beautiful event.

**Thank You to all who donated
2021 Calendars and Cards**

We were able to deliver 120 calendars to four different Senior Residences in the area.

Thank You to our drivers . . .

. . . who have been helping out with shopping, errands, and rides to appointments.

On-going Projects/Needs

Hope through Healing Grief Notes

Mailings to families who have lost loved ones

SPLASH and Growing in God's Love

Mailings to families that have welcomed a new child into their lives.

Care Notes

They are available in the breezeway to take as needed.

If you need access, please ask.

Meals

Prepare and provide a simple meal for a church family as needed.

If you can prepare a simple meal when needed, please let us know.

Transportation Needs

Many thanks to those who have been providing rides to local appointments.

If you would like to help with some transportation needs — usually a few weekdays for special errands— please let us know. Details will be provided.

If you know of any folks who should be included in any of our projects or you would like to assist with any of our projects, please notify Parish Care.

We are always looking for folks to learn about and to help grow our Parish Care ministry.

Contact Martha Winder
609-799-7280 or
maw14jpw@aol.com for more details.

Thank You . . .



Len and Joan Krauskopf in December 2020.

Happy 70th Anniversary!

. . . To Joan and Leonard Krauskopf, who were married January 27, 1951.

Good News for the Safranek Family

We have our first grandchild, Emma Bell, born to Elizabeth and Tim Bell on August 27th!

Also, Allison graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2020 and is currently working at Nestle USA in Cleveland, Ohio in the Human Resource Department. — Dorothy Safranek

The Winder extended family, (back from left) Martha, Abigail, Brian (holding Fiona); (front from left) Charlotte, Jim.



Congratulations to Jim and Martha Winder . . .

. . . on the birth of Fiona, their newest granddaughter, born June 26, 2020, 9 weeks early. All are doing well.

Thank you to all who gave Target and Walmart gift cards for Womanspace this Christmas.

We collected over \$800 in donations for this important ministry. Pastors Dale and Peter blessed the cards and prayed for the recipients who will receive them. Blessed to be a blessing!

Dear Prince of Peace,

Our heartfelt thanks for the Christmas gift that we received from the congregation. We appreciate your generosity more than words can say. Thank you also to those who remembered us this holy season with your cards, breads, cookies, and gifts. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

In Christ, Pastor Peter and Pastor Dale



Dear Pastor and Members of Prince of Peace,

Thank you for making Christmas extra special for the children in Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ's affordable housing. Our families are so appreciative of all the gifts, gift cards, and love given with each present. Most of all thank you for remembering LSMNJ families and seniors in your prayers.

Thank you for the gifts that allow us to build relationships and work to make the lives better for the people we serve.

Sincerely, Beth Gebhart
Director, Community Relations and Volunteers

To the congregation of Prince of Peace,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift given to me. I am grateful for all of the support you have provided, especially during the challenging year of 2020. All of us together have made our ministry work. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Kathy



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 9:30 am (Livestream)

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