



Tidings of Peace

March 2020



Worship in March

Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am

Sunday, March 1

First Sunday in Lent

Crossroads Camp Sunday

Where Heaven & Earth Meet

Sunday, March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Nicodemus, Our Pharisaic Teacher

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

The Woman at the Well

Our Samaritan Teacher

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Man Born Blind, Our Blind Teacher

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lazarus, Our Dead Teacher!

Also in March

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Stitchers

March 3

Racism Team Meeting

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Midweek Lenten Service

March 12

Book Group

March 21

Faith, Hope, Love Conference

Dear Church

Last fall Vicar Erich Kussman from St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton, handed me a book entitled *Dear Church*, with a subtitle: *A Love Letter From a Black Preacher To The Whitest Denomination In The U.S.* The author of this book is Rev. Lenny Duncan, an ELCA pastor who served a church in Brooklyn and has since taken a call in the Seattle, Washington area.

The whitest denomination Lenny Duncan names is our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I've heard this said about our church through the years, but I've dismissed its implications as a geographic reality. The ELCA is strongest in the upper midwest, places like Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa; so we are only reflecting the lack of diversity in this region.

But Lenny Duncan challenges me. He writes:

The reason the ELCA is so white is theological, not sociological. It is not our German, or Scandinavian roots. Black peoples have been a part of the Lutheran tradition on this continent since the 1600s. The face of world Lutheranism is one of color. *Lefse* (a Norwegian flat bread, if you don't know) and hot dishes aren't the problem. But we have abandoned the inherent justice and equity that the gospel is rooted in. We need justice to be the heart of our work and life.

I've heard it said that racism is America's original sin, a sin that we haven't truly confessed of.

In this season of Lent, a season that takes sin seriously, I want to focus on this sin of racism, and take a closer look specifically to our complicity in this sin. I led our adult class on *Dear Church* in November. At the last class some members expressed the desire to continue our discussion and begin the work of addressing some of the points Lenny Duncan raises. The group has met and has named themselves *The POP Social Justice and Anti-Racism Team*.

As a response to this team I believe the season of Lent, liturgically, offers the opportunity to confess of our sins and to open ourselves to the healing and transforming work of the Gospel. You will notice this in our worship and my preaching.

Lenny Duncan resonates with so many of us at Prince of Peace because the book isn't out to bash the ELCA. Notice the subtitle: *A Love Letter From a Black Preacher*. In his introduction Lenny Duncan says that he met Jesus at an ELCA church, Temple Lutheran Church in Havertown, Pennsylvania. Lenny Duncan experienced radical grace in the ELCA, which led to his ordination in our church. I look at *Dear Church*, then at Lenny Duncan's response to simply help us practice what we preach.

— Pastor Froehlke

The first Sunday of March is also the first Sunday of this year's season of Lent. During Lent this year, the music ministry will be focusing on penitent and supportive music. Lent is a season in which we all take very personal journeys of faith amid the safety and support of the entire faith community. So our music selections will focus on the personal journey *and* community journey ahead of us. We'll be bringing back the sung version of *The Lord's Prayer* during Sundays in Lent. The musical versions of the *Psalms* will also be coming back.

During Wednesdays in Lent, our youth will be back in music rehearsals, learning handbell and choral songs that will be shared in worship on Palm Sunday next month. These rehearsals will end as our Soup Suppers are beginning each week, where we gather together for a simple meal before worshipping together. As in years past, our Wednesday Midweek worship services will be framed by the *Holden Evening Prayer* service. There are sign-up sheets at church for the soup suppers as well as for leaders for the *Holden Evening Prayer* services. All are welcome to attend and participate.

— Peace, 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, March 29

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)

Kim Contini

Charlie Frantz

Mary Ellen Glickson

David Jeedi

Martin Rexroad

Wendy Schutzer

Sabrina Teekah

David New, Secretary (non-voting)

Music Schedule:

March 1

Adult Choir

March 8

Adult Choir

March 15

Adult Choir

March 22

Nightingale Bells

March 29

Adult Choir

March Events

Let My Prayers Rise Before You as Incense — Psalm 141

During this past year, in Lent and in Advent, prayer ministers were available during communion to offer a personal time of prayer for worshipers. This Lent a time of personal prayer will again be offered. Worshipers will have the opportunity to light a candle and offer their personal prayers before and after worship and during communion.

On Sunday, March 1, we will be dedicating a candle holder for our sanctuary that has been given to the congregation by two generous donors. This candle holder will be used for worship and retreats throughout the year.

Our thanks to Tim Brown from *Artisans in Wood* for his craftsmanship and for creating this beautiful new addition to our sanctuary.

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.

Midweek Worship & Soup Supper

Join us for Holden Prayer, 7:30 Wednesdays in Lent. Pastor will share a short meditation from *Dear Church*.

A soup supper at 6:30 precedes worship. Sign up for soup preparation and serving in the



The March Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is

Canned Vegetarian Beans

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

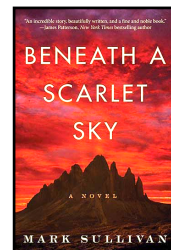
Book Group

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.



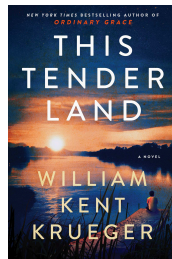
April 16

At the home of Martha Winder

14 Candlewood Lane, Princeton Junction

RSVP to matw14jpw@aol.com of 609-799-7280

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger



Minnesota: 1932. Four orphan children escape from Lincoln School where Native American children are forcibly separated from their parents in order to be 're-educated.' They hatch a plan to take a canoe and travel south on the Mississippi River. During their summer-long odyssey, they encounter faith

healers, a shanty town family and others adversely affected by the Great Depression. In a journey that is spiritual as well as physical, four youngsters are simply looking for a home. A modern classic with echoes of *Huckleberry Finn*.

*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*

More March Events

Joyful Stitchers in March

We are continuing to work on our ongoing projects, such as knitted and crocheted birds' nests, cat mats, prayer clothes, knitted knockers, scarves, and hats. 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 Monday 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 March: March 2nd at 6:30; March 9th at 1:00; March 16th at 6:30; March 23rd at 1:00; March 30th at 6:30.

Any questions, please contact Kate Chen at kcmchen@comcast.net.

March 21 Faith, Hope, Love

Faith, Hope & Love, the highly regarded annual conference on building safer and more welcoming congregations for LGBTQ+ youth, will be held at St. Paul's in Hainesport, on March 21, from 9 am to 3:30.

The conference is for all ages and features education, storytelling, resources, and worship. An after-party for high school and college age youth runs from 4 to 7 pm (\$5/person).

The conference fee is \$20/person (scholarships available) and includes lunch and childcare for children under 5. Sign up at www.njsynod.org/faith-hope-love.

St. Paul's is at 910 Marne Highway, Hainesport. See the flyer on page 9 for more information.

Easter Groceries for Seniors Served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

Again this Lent we are partnering with Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) to provide bags of groceries for Easter dinner to residents in some of their housing facilities. This year, the groceries we gather will go to senior citizens in Camden.

The collection table is in the Gathering Area, along with bags you may use (or you may use your own) and fliers giving the details about the food collection. **The deadline for receipt of the groceries is Sunday, March 29.** They will be delivered on Monday, March 30. We hope to have at least 25 bags, but LSM/NJ will be grateful for as many as we can provide.

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 will also be gratefully accepted. Please make checks out to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ and earmark *For Easter Groceries*. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or given to Berta Schott. They will also be delivered to LSM/NJ on March 30.

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. If you are not able to provide a full bag, partial bags or individual items are also welcome.

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

— With appreciation,
The Social Ministry Team

Walking the Passion

A Holy Week Retreat

Led by Pastor Dale Selover

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Join us as we gather to experience the events of Holy Week.

Through a variety of stations and rituals we will celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem, pray in the garden, remember the Last Supper, follow Jesus' example to love another, and stand at the foot of the cross.

We will gather in the sanctuary. Please sign up in the narthex.

Women's Retreat Coming in April

Women of all ages are invited to attend the annual WOW -- Women of the Woods -- day retreat on Saturday, April 25, 2020. This daylong retreat, hosted by Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, will take place at The House Next Door. The retreat begins at 10 am and will conclude by 3 pm. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

Thrivent Projects - Reminders

Thrivent generously sent us \$500 seed money for the shed kit, foundation materials, and other property enhancements for the House Next Door but you can still be part of that.

Workdays have been moved to early April, dates and times TBA. Sign up to volunteer your help building the foundation or assembling the shed kit to hold our equipment and supplies for the Peace Garden.

Thrivent Members: If you haven't designated your *Choice Dollars*, login to Thrivent.com, and find *My Thrivent* or call Thrivent and easily do this by phone. You can add to the property enhancements (picnic tables, possible signage) for the House Next Door by designating Prince of Peace or designate St. Bartholomew to help support our shared ministry there or support any other nonprofit of your choice. But Don't pass up this annual chance to support a good cause at no cost to you. *If you don't designate your earned dollars by March 31, this year's earnings are lost forever!*

Call Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239 or your Thrivent representative with any questions.

Prince of Peace Gets Wi-Fi Upgrade

Prince of Peace recently upgraded its Wi-Fi network. The new network has three wireless access points: one in the sanctuary on the back wall; one in the attic just outside the doorway of classroom 4/5; and one in the attic above the doorway to the Community Hall.

The presence of a strong Wi-Fi signal in the sanctuary could allow future events held there to be live-streamed over the internet. Members who formerly connected to the *POP Office* Wi-Fi network are encouraged to switch to our new *POP Wi-Fi* network for a better overall experience, as our new network has coverage through the entire building.

There is also a *POP Guest* network which allows other authorized building users to have Wi-Fi access on a separate sub-network.

The passphrases for the new *POP Wi-Fi* and *POP Guest* networks are posted in the office on the wall below the calendar.

Dave Herrington
Communications Team chair

Dear Prince of Peace Family,

You have been incredibly caring and supportive of me both before and after my hip replacement surgery. Thank you so much for your prayers, pastoral care, transportation, cards, calls, food, visits, flowers, advice, and more ... even a Valentine Gift Bag of goodies from the congregation. Lisa and I are grateful for everything and thank God for you daily. Thanks to you, the medical team, and God's loving care, my surgery was a success and my recuperation is going very well.

With love and deep appreciation,
Berta Schott

Prince of Peace is Working Against Racism

After a series of forums last fall based on the book, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* by ELCA pastor Lenny Duncan, members of Prince of Peace started organizing and met twice in February to change the systemic racism uncovered in this book. As you can imagine, this is quite a challenge, one that started centuries ago. With the end of slavery in America in the 19th Century and the end of institutionalized segregation through the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century, many of the most overt racist laws and practices were changed. Annually, schools and communities sponsor educational events every Black History Month, but are you aware that the ELCA, just like many other organized groups in America, is still perpetuating racism? It's true!

This shocking, disturbing reality was made clear in this book and our forums. Hate crimes and attitudes in daily news have made it obvious that there are many individuals in the US who still don't believe everyone is created equal, but could Lutherans be a part of those wrongs? We as Christians know that racism is a sin, so Prince of Peace is following Christ's subversive example and stepping up to the challenge of fighting to change internalized and systemic racism to make sure our church family is welcoming to all races and cultures.

What will that involve? That's a question interested members have been discussing for the past few months. There are no easy answers since this racism grew from both social and historical constructs, so **we are looking for guidance and support** from individuals (our own members, visitors, and outsiders with the same concerns), the ELCA, other congregations and religious leaders, local and national organizations, and more.

We have some ideas that are fairly easy to implement:

- add books and toys to our children's worship bags and the nursery that reflect diversity — *look for a wish list of items you might donate soon!*
- make sure artwork, our website, and advertising reflects and invites diversity
- include more prayers for victims of racial crimes and oppressed groups
- reconsider white hooded acolyte robes that symbolize past oppression to people of color
- create more visible road signs reflecting diversity for passersby

- include more diverse music, language, and litany in our worship services and events so anyone who walks through our doors will be able to feel comfortable

- sponsor educational events such as a prejudice-reduction workshop

and much more — some simple and others much more complex and long-term.

Interested in joining the cause? Join us at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 3 as we continue strategizing and/or Tuesday, March 24 when Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, assistant to the bishop of NJ Synod, will attend to offer guidance in planning POP's attack on racism.

Monthly updates will be included in this newsletter to keep the congregation informed and involved.

Meanwhile, do you know someone who can help as an anti-racism resource or want to be in Prince of Peace's anti-racism email group? Contact Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239.

A Sampling of Black History Month/Women's History Month Events

On Thursday, March 5, from 5 to 6 the authors of *The Toni Morrison Book Club* will be at Labyrinth Books. The four authors, all professors who met periodically as friends to discuss how Toni Morrison's work captured the black experience in America, reflected on four of her novels and 'disclosed often difficult secrets about their own experiences around issues of race, prejudice, and identity: publishing this book to shed light on all the work there is left to do (Gay, Roxane. 'Secrets.' *TCNJ Magazine*, Winter 2020, 22). They also recorded a podcast of the interview for that magazine which you can hear at tcnj.edu/Morrisonpodcast.

Ongoing exhibit through April 19 :If These Quilts Could Talk at Trenton City Museum, 299 Parkside Avenue, Trenton. An array of quilting styles and color schemes fills first floor galleries with African American artistry, creativity, and storytelling. The Friendly Quilters of Bucks County and Princeton Sankofa Stitchers of Modern Quilt Guild keep the traditions of quilt-making alive with works of art that tell stories and strengthen historical and community bonds.

Please keep this project in your prayers and look for more events listed at church.

— Nancy Reyes



The Valentine Care Boxes were packed and sent out in February. Since then, many thank you notes have come in, along with a phone call from Eleanor Brower.

Hi Prince of Peace,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful Valentine's Day Package! It was such a treat to open! I opened it with my roommates and shared the tasty homemade treats.

Thanks again, Miah Crossen

Pastor Peter, Pastor Dale, & the Prince of Peace Congregation,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Valentine's Day care package! It was so nice to come home during exam week & find a box filled with so many treats! My roommates & I have loved coming home from class & eating a cookie to destress. Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day!

Blessings, Nicole Lorenzi

Martha and POP members,

Thank you so much for sending me a Valentine's Day Box! The semester has just started to get a little harder and more stressful, but it was so exciting to see the notification that I got a package from my church family, it really made my week. The box was a nice reminder of home and me and my roommates definitely loved all the delicious treats!

— Thanks again, Alex Morris

Martha and Prince of Peace,

Thank you so much for the Dunkin gift card! It meant so much to me getting a letter from Prince of Peace after moving in here in Maryland. I am finally all settled in at my apartment and my job, and I already found a church home here.

Miss you guys, CJ Morris

Dear Prince of Peace,

Thank you so much for the care package. It was quite a surprise to get and I loved everything in it. Thank you for reminding me that I have another family who cares and supports me through my college experience. I cannot wait to see everyone when I come back

Thank you again, Hannah Froehlke



Dear Kathy,

Please extend our thanks of our wonderful congregation for our special Valentine visit. Martha arrived, bringing a cascade of goodies and welcome news.

The lovely card and names is extra-special and will be kept.

Best wishes from both of us,

Eileen & Al Parker

* We just became great-grandparents — a little girl in California.

Thanks to All!

Dear Friends and Fellow-Parishioners,

What a joy it was to receive your Valentine greeting through Martha Winder! Martha came and delivered both the Valentine booklet and the bag with goodies to Ricarda's room at Acorn Glen where Ricarda is living since the beginning of this year. So many of you signed the flyleaves and the pages with your names and good wishes. I read them all aloud to Ricarda, and she smiled time and time again. The new surroundings were not easy for her to adjust to, but she is well cared for by a friendly staff and now seems to be content and happy. We thank you all from the depth of our hearts for this wonderful expression of Christian love and concern for each other in this our congregation which has been our church home for over 40 years. You are in our prayers just as Ricarda is in yours.

Your brother in Christ, Karlfried Froehlich



Wow, this was so unexpected and exactly what I needed right now! You are all beyond sweet!
— Junessa Sladen-Dew

Thank You! You Did It Again!

How much Prince of Peace Care was shipped?

155.8 pounds in 21 boxes within the USA — 1 Valentine treat bag to our local college student;
2 Special Valentine Cards — 6 treat bags — And signed Valentine cards to our Senior Valentines

The Parish Care Team would like to thank all the members and friends of Prince of Peace for their generous support of the Valentine Care boxes project. All of your goodies and dollars have filled 21 boxes, 7 Valentine Bags and two special cards to the brim — sending much love and care to our students away at school and our Senior Valentines. When the package arrives via the USPS or personal delivery, our young adults and seniors are reminded that they are a part of our church family — even though they are not here with us weekly — and their friends get to see what it is like to have a church family.

Some of the things filling the boxes that were shipped on February 3rd were home-baked cookies, instant oatmeal packets, lots of different snacks and treats, pens, pencils, gum, hot chocolate, tea, popcorn, a sponge, a couple of baggies of candy (just to mention a few items) along with a Valentine card. They were shipped to New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Connecticut, Ohio, and North Carolina from the Windsor post office on Tuesday morning. Most were delivered by Friday.

Your donations of dollars, treats, and goodies allowed us to make sure the boxes were overflowing with treats and shipped. We had eleven folks working on Monday night, figuring out how to get all the goodies in the boxes (about 7.5 pounds/box), taping them shut and making sure they all had addresses.

Every year we worry about having enough home-baked goodies to fill all of the boxes. This year we had several bakers! To Our Bakers: Many thanks for sharing your baking skills. And many thanks to those who donated snacks, goodies, and dollars.

Along with the boxes for the students, we filled 7 goodie bags for our Senior Valentines. They enjoy the treats, and most of all the visit when they are delivered.

Save the date for this fun project: The 2021 Valentine Care Box packing, Monday, February 8; shipping on Tuesday, February 9. Also remember to take some time to deliver some care to our Senior Valentines.

Easter Cards

Watch for cards to appear in the gathering area to sign with Easter messages. Please take a few minutes to send Easter greeting to our church friends.

Greeting Cards for Senior Residences

We have many cards that we need to have sorted, packaged for delivery, and to be delivered to local Senior Residences. If you have time to help, let me know.

Transportation:

We are in need of transportation to appointments, shopping and church. If you can help with driving please let me know. Thank you for your help.

Every-other-Month Visits

I would like to get a visitation schedule going for our church family members that are not able to be with us on a regular basis. We are asking that you take an hour or so from your busy day to drop off a treat of some sort and spend a little time chatting. You will find this a rewarding way to get to know someone new and learn a bit about POP church history. The visits will be arranged for a suitable time. All are welcome and Parish Care will supply the treat to deliver.

Ongoing

Care Notes - Ginger Reiersen continues to keep our *Care Note* display in the breezeway filled. If you or anyone you know would benefit from one of the booklets, please take it from the display. If you have a topic that you would like to see in the display, please let us know; we will see what is available. Thank you to Chris Wethe for donations to restock our supply. Look for some of the new booklets dealing with prayer.

Pocket prayer squares, knitted by our Joyful Stitchers, and prayer cards are in the breezeway. Please take and share with others.

We continue with our monthly mailings to families with a new baby (*Splash*) and those who have lost a loved one (*Hope through Healing*).

We are always looking for new folks to be involved in our projects and to help us with some new ideas. Please contact us with your interest.



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

- 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



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

Sunday Schedule

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

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 2 pm
