

Tidings of Peace



October 2023



Pentecost Season Themes

Worship in October

*Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30
In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am*

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

October 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Same Mind of Christ

Pastor Peter Preaching

October 8

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Corner Stone

Pastor Peter Preaching

October 15

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Peace of God that Surpasses all Understanding

Pastor Peter Preaching

October 22

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Give to God The Things That Are God's

Pastor Peter Preaching

October 29

Reformation Sunday

Saved by Grace Through Faith

Pastor Peter Preaching

Pastor's Page

I recently had the honor of preaching at the ordination service of our former intern, Pastor Kayla Hopgood. I began the sermon by referencing Samuel Wells, vicar of St. Martin-in-the Fields in London. In the most recent issue of the Christian Century Wells writes: "We do a lot of denouncing and pronouncing in the church. Maybe it's time for a different tone of voice. Announcing, maybe."

In many of our supervisory sessions Kayla and I would talk about the church misbehaving, not Prince of Peace mind you, but the church at large. Kayla was here in the midst of the pandemic. People were stressed. Pastors were stressed. The church did a lot of denouncing.

In that Christian Century article, Samuel Wells told a story of his parish embracing a refugee, a gay man from the Middle East. The man came seeking safety, but he caught the spirit and decided to be baptized. The congregation did not denounce. Neither did they pronounce. Instead they announced. They announced by simply loving the man as Christ loved them. Wells writes, "Here were God's people, responding from who they are to who God is." Which led the congregation to break into applause at his baptism.

Wells concluded by encouraging his readers, "Don't give up on the church yet."

Sometimes the church gets it right. In fact, I would argue more often than not, the church gets it right. The world wants what we have but the key is that we have to love as Christ loves us. The key is practicing resurrection. The key is to do a lot more announcing than denouncing.

I ended my sermon thanking Kayla for not giving up on the church. It is the same word that I share to Prince of Peace. Thank you too, for not giving up on the church.

Pastor Peter

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

***Deadline for the November issue is
Sunday, October 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

Victoria Chow, Church Musician

Geeta Telang, Office Manager

Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Tim Gjenvick (President)

Joan New (Vice President)

Jessica Clarke

Mary Ellen Glickson

David Jeedi

Christian Oehm

Dorothy Safranek

Wendy Schutzer

Con Sweeney

Claudia Thompson

David Herrington, Secretary (non-voting)

Stewardship Holy Currencies

Our fall stewardship emphasis will be in October. Our theme is "Holy Currencies." Our friend Francisco Herrera, who preached and led our council retreat in February, gave me a book by the same title, by the Episcopal priest Eric Law. We usually think of currency in terms of money, but Law also speaks about the Currency of Relationships, the Currency of Truth, the Currency of Wellness, the Currency of Time and Place, and the Currency of Leadership. Law states that when all of these currencies flow within a congregation, there is health and vitality. We will emphasize each of these currencies on the Sundays in October. They will also be the topic of our Adult Forum beginning October 8th. Stewardship Sunday will conclude with the offering of our pledge for next year on Reformation Sunday, October 29th.

Pastor Class

Pastor Class reconvenes on Wednesday October 4th. The topic for the month is "Lutheran Theology, A Grammar of Faith." The class will be based on a book by Kirsi Stjerna. We will look at traditional Lutheran confessional statements, from a spiritual perspective as opposed to a historical perspective. Kirsi writes, "I seek to engage Lutheran key teachings not for simple coasting along but as an invitation for a renewed and involved spiritual engagement." Join us Wednesday evenings on zoom at 7:00pm. Contact pastor for a zoom invite.

Our topics for October will be:

October 4th - Introduction and Partnering With Martin Luther

October 11th - The Book of Concord

October 18th - Lutheran Faith Grammar, Justification and Freedom

October 25th - The Human Condition, Means of Grace

Adult Forum in October

October 1st - Rev Bruce Davidson - Biblical texts as weapons and support to the LGBTQ Community

October 8th - Pastor Peter - The Currency of Relationship, The Currency of Truth

October 15th - Pastor Peter - The Currency of Wellness The Currency of Leadership

October 22nd - Pastor Peter - The Currency of Time and Place The Currency of Money

October 29th - Congregational Meeting to vote on the Reconciling in Christ Welcome Statement

Looking Ahead

Bishop Bartholomew has asked Pastor Peter to serve as Vice Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor for the month of November. Pastor Jim Egan, the long time pastor at St. Paul's, is retiring in October. A full time interim pastor is arriving in December but the bishop needs this help in November. Pastor Peter will preach and lead worship at St Paul's on Sundays November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Pastor Dale will preach and lead worship on November 26th. Prince of Peace will be in the able hands of Rev Dr Paul Rorem, Rev Dean Brown, Assistant to the Bishop, and Seminary graduate Claudia Thompson. Pastor Peter will return to Prince of Peace on November 26th.

Trunk or Treat at St. Bart's

On October 31st St. Bart's will again host Trunk or Treat from their church parking lot from 4-6pm. This event provides a fun and safe environment for the children from the South Ward in Trenton. You can participate by coming to the event and decorating your trunk, or you can donate bags of candy that will be distributed. Lots of candy is needed. You can place the candy in the outdoor bin outside of the Community Room.

Thank You from The Girl Scouts

Dear POP Church & Staff

Thanks so much for letting us use the Church space for our troop meetings this year! Enjoy these cookies as a token of our appreciation.

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 70248

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“Wake Up to Your Dreams:
Exploring the Spiritual
Invitation of Dream Work”

✱

An Introduction to Group
Dreamwork

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How significant are your dreams? Can they contain information you've overlooked, show you a situation in a new light or unveil an unrecognized aspect of yourself? Perhaps, as Rev. Bob Haden suggests, they are unopened letters from God. If you've ever had a perplexing dream or been curious about your dream world, this six-session course will give you tools to better understand your dreams. Let's explore together “The Spirituality of Dreams.”

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October 12, November 16, December 14, January 18,
February 15, March 14

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

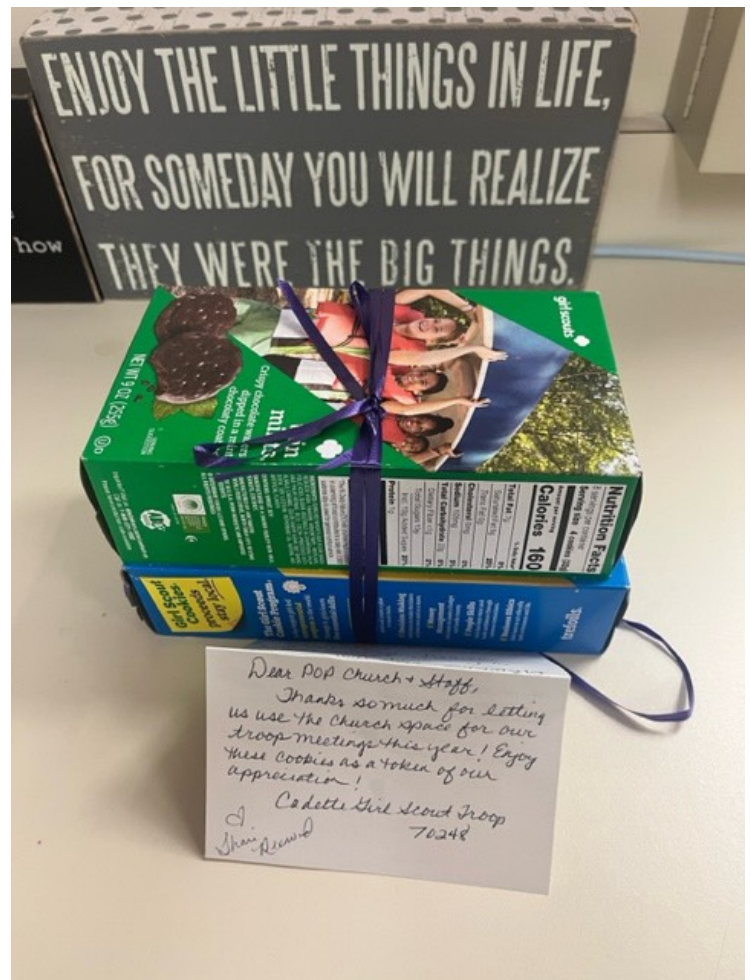
Facilitator: Christine Ruth, LMFT

RSVP at christineruth@nlwotcounseling.com
720 610-5290

Cost: \$200 for six sessions

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THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ



Living Lutheran Print Magazine goes Online

For those of you who have an annual subscription to the Living Lutheran magazine, please be aware that the December 2023 issue will be your last print version. But not to worry! Per a recent announcement from the ELCA, "Living Lutheran is transitioning to a full online storytelling engine featuring new ways of reaching people, providing a more economical and far-reaching approach for us to engage with a broader audience. You will start to see us employing these ways throughout the year, with videos, audio stories, podcasts, live events, and more. This transition will also include a more robust social media presence and more opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement with Lutherans and non-Lutherans alike. The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have been printing periodicals since 1831, when The Lutheran Observer first started. Spreading the gospel and sharing the stories of our church have always been at the foundation of who we are as Christians and Lutherans. And while we will no longer print a magazine each month, the sharing and spreading of the good news continues every day. As many of you probably know, the cost of printing a magazine—including paper, ink and postage prices—has steadily increased, especially during the pandemic, making it difficult to financially support a print edition. Being good stewards of the generous support given to the church is of the utmost importance to our team.

By focusing on creating more online content and new channels for distribution, we will have more flexibility and options for how we tell the stories of this church. Storytelling will still be at the core of this work. For the immediate future, we encourage you to sign up for Living Lutheran's e-digest, a weekly email that highlights the top five most read stories on LivingLutheran.org. You can sign up here: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/edigest-signup/>

All are welcome to bookmark the below links to obtain free access to the meaningful stories published online by Living Lutheran:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

<https://pubs.royle.com/publication/?i=798865>

In peace and light,

Geeta P. Telang

Office Manager

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

popnjofficemanager@gmail.com

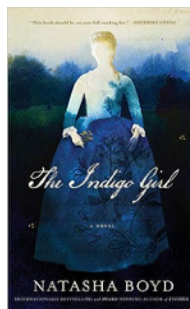
Book Group

*If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com*

*We meet once a month in the church lounge at 1 p.m..
Please bring your lunch and/or snack for others to share.*

Thursday, October 12th at 1 p.m.

The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd



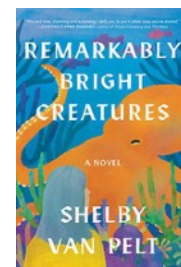
The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is only 16 years old when her father leaves her in charge of the family's plantations in rural South Carolina as he heads off to war. Faced with financial ruin, the plucky teenager decides to grow indigo, a crop in high demand

because of the deep blue indigo dye that can be extracted from it. Based on historical documents, this is the story of how the dye she produced became one of South Carolina's largest exports. Romance, forbidden friendships, and political and financial threats all combine to tell the tale.

November 9th at 1 p.m.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Marcellus McSquiggles, a misanthropic octopus, develops an unlikely friendship with Tova, a widowed aquarium employee, after a daring tank rescue in this charming and highly original story. The invertebrate's intervention in his new friend's life brings healing lessons in love to a woman mourning the disappearance of her son 30 years ago. Funny and wise.



Building Use Team Update

The Building Use Team has been busy with defining building use processes and creating easy to use documentation for our building users. As you can see if you check the back of our weekly bulletins, we have many activities occurring at POP on a daily basis. It's nice to see the calendar filling with community activities such as the Pranavam Dance Group, Power Speakers, Recitals, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and outside religious groups looking to use our facilities. Since we have had so many requests in the past 2 years, we have had to refine our processes and documentation.

The church is always available for members to use for special family events, team meetings and other activities. There are always rooms available during the week day, and there are several rooms open in the evenings. The Lounge is reserved for small church group meetings. We just ask that you complete a very basic request form so we can get the room reservation and the time up on the church calendar. This form can be requested from the Office Manager or the Building Use Team at this time. Completed requests can be forwarded to the Building Use Team – Attention Dorothy Safranek via email or by dropping it off at the church office. We thank you for your patience and assistance as we work through the process and try to provide a clean, welcoming environment for all.

Take time to catch your breath this fall in a peaceful setting at the annual Women's Retreat.

Led by Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover

Using the spiritual gifts of prayer, scripture, song, conversation, and silence, we will be invited to breathe in the Spirit of the Living God.

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew. - Hymnody by Edwin Hatch

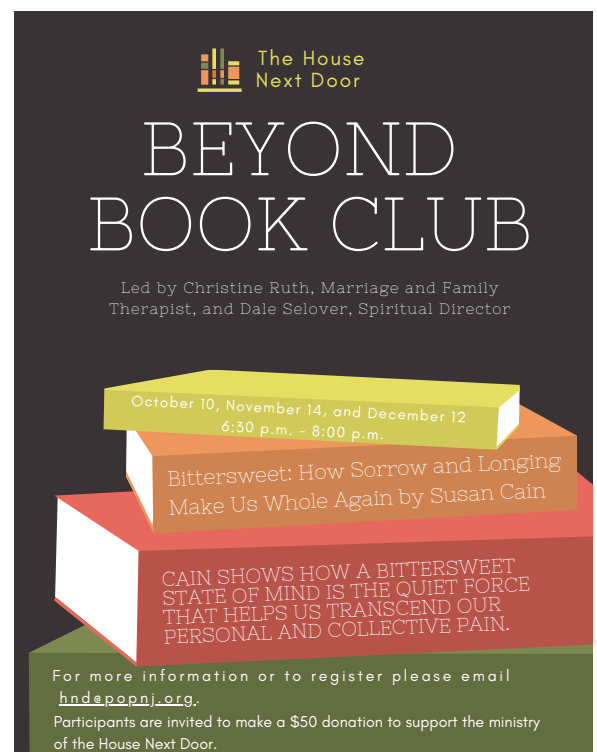


Register at <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/womens-retreat/>



Finance Team Update

The finance team is currently working on converting our trial balance and financial statements from Quick Books to ICON (a church oriented financial and member database). ICON has been used by the Office Administrator for many years to maintain member addresses, phone numbers and e-mails. It is the system where members are assigned envelope numbers and member financial donations are maintained. By moving our financial reporting from Quick Books to ICON, we will be more efficient by eliminating the duplicate entering of revenue that currently is needed. It will also allow the team to do additional analysis and prepare additional reports. The Finance Team will be working on this conversion over the next several months. For those of you who no longer want to write checks to the church and prefer to do electronic bank transfers, we currently utilize VANCO for automatic electronic payments. There is a "Simply Giving " form available in the church office that would need to be completed to do this. The form does require an account number, bank routing number, start date and determination of when and how often you would like funds transferred to POP. Currently we have members donating weekly on a Monday and others donating monthly on the 15th of the month. If you have any questions or would like a form, please contact the church Office Manager or Dorothy Safranek at safrahek5@verizon.net. All new members will be assigned an envelope number and sent envelopes in the mail unless they request electronic giving. For those who are not members, but are donating on a regular basis, if you would like to have an envelope number so that you can receive a year end financial statement for tax purposes, please contact Dorothy Safranek.



Parish Care News — October 2023

Sharing our POP Care with All

Sharing our care and concern with those in our community in times of need and joy. Now that our new church year has started, we are getting our projects up and running. We need your help.

CARE CALLERS

We would like to continue to reach out to those we do not see in church. If you would be willing to make a few phone calls, please let me know. Just a simple hi how are you doing will work.

Fall/Halloween Treats

We will be delivering some Halloween treats to our older members that can not get to church often. If you would be able to drop a goodie bag, please let me know.

Young Adults

We are gathering mailing, shipping and email addresses for our young adults away at school or military. We keep in touch with our students throughout the year. Please make sure we have a current 2023-24 address. Our first mailing is going out in early November, so please make sure we have the information. Please leave in church office or send me an email with the contact info.

Care Note Ministry

In the breezeway you may have noticed a display of Care Notes. These are pamphlets with spiritual messages to help us with our everyday life events. They are for all to take and benefit from their messages. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for keeping the display full and current and Chris Wethe for continuing to supply our pamphlets.

Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards

On the table in the breezeway are Prayer Squares, knitted by Joyful Knitters. They are there to be used by yourself and to share with others.

Calendars

We are gathering 2024 Calendars to share with senior residents in our local Assisted Living Facilities. So, if you are receiving more than you can use, bring them to church. There is a box in the gathering area.

St. Bart's Needs Food, Clothing, and Small Household Items

With fall here, St. Bart's is in need of food, warm clothing, and small household items. Suggested food items are non-perishables such as rice, beans, pasta, tuna and other canned meats, canned vegetables and fruits, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and the like. Any size and season of clothing will be appreciated, but especially warm clothing now. Contributions may be placed in the two St. Bart's food and clothing bins outside the white doors near the Community Room at any time. If the bins are full, please put your donations in the shed at the end of the driveway. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

To give monetary donations, make a check out to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and earmark it "St. Bart's Food/Clothing". Checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Prince of Peace Office at 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Jct., NJ 08550.

Thank you for sharing your gifts in this way for our fellow children of God,

Berta Schott for the Social Outreach Ministry Team

Christmas Messages

Soon we will be writing Christmas cards to share with our family and friends. We would like to include the Senior communities in our area Holiday season. I am not sure we will be able to make our Caroling sing along this year but we can send a card and small treat. Watch for more details about when and where we will be writing the cards. Take a few minutes and help send some Christmas cheer.

On Going Projects

We continue with our Splash and Hope through Healing monthly mailings along with the Care Notes, Prayer Cards and knitted prayer squares in the breezeway. If you know of anyone to be included in any mailings, please contact Parish Care.

If you would like to help with any of our projects or be part of our team, please join us. We are always looking for new ways to share our care with others.

Contact: Martha Winder maw14jpw@aol.com

World Holidays & Celebrations – The Diwali Festival

October 2023



Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights with its variations also celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar months of Ashvin (according to the amanta tradition) and Kartika—between around mid-September and mid-November. The celebrations generally last five or six days.

Diwali is connected to various religious events, deities and personalities, such as being the day Rama returned to his kingdom in Ayodhya with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana after defeating the demon

king Ravana. It is also widely associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity and Ganesha, the god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles. Other regional traditions connect the holiday to Vishnu, Krishna, Durga, Shiva, Kali, Hanuman, Kubera, Yama, Yami, Dhanvantari, or Vishvakarman.

Primarily a Hindu festival, variations of Diwali are also celebrated by adherents of other faiths. The Jains observe their own Diwali which marks the final liberation of Mahavira, the Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas to mark the release of Guru Hargobind from a Mughal prison. Newar Buddhists, unlike other Buddhists, celebrate Diwali by worshipping Lakshmi, while the Hindus of Eastern India and Bangladesh generally celebrate Diwali by worshipping the goddess Kali.

During the festival, the celebrants illuminate their homes, temples and workspaces with diyas (oil lamps), candles and lanterns. Hindus, in particular, have a ritual oil bath at dawn on each day of the festival. Diwali is also marked with fireworks and the decoration of floors with rangoli designs, and other parts of the house with jhalars. Food is a major focus with families partaking in feasts and sharing mithai. The festival is an annual homecoming and bonding period not only for families, but also for communities and associations, particularly those in urban areas, which will organize activities, events and gatherings. Many towns organize community parades and fairs with parades or music and dance performances in parks. Some Hindus, Jains and Sikhs will send Diwali greeting cards to family near and far during the festive season, occasionally with boxes of Indian confectionery. Another aspect of the festival is remembering the ancestors.

Diwali is also a major cultural event for the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain diaspora. The main day of the festival of Diwali (the day of Lakshmi Puja) is an official holiday in Fiji, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Con P. Sweeney, Racial Justice Team



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
Office hours vary
Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin
Or at <https://popnj.org/pdf>
