



Prince of Peace News

AUGUST 2025

Come..Be A Part of Peace!



2600 ATLANTIC AVENUE, FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA 32034

OFFICE HOURS 9AM-4PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

904-261-6306 WWW.POPLCWEB.COM

Pastor's Reflections for August 2025



Grace and peace to you from Christ our Lord and from your sisters and brothers here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We are deep into the hottest parts of Summer, so I pray that you can get out of the sun and find some relief from the heat. As y'all cool off inside or enjoy some shade with lemonade or sweet tea, take some time to reflect on how good it feels to have relief. In this case compare the feeling of the sun on your skin as it heats up and starts to sweat with all that humid air, to how you feel walking into an air-conditioned space. That first deep breath of cold air that makes you exhale in peace, you are restored. After you cool off the day just seems a little better, the environment is a little more beautiful, and the world is just a bit better than it was before. The relief that a cold drink on a hot day is much the same, the relief it gives restores part of your mental will to continue your tasks for the remainder of the day. The restoration also changes the way you perceive everything around you, you have more patience for others, you have more time to appreciate your surroundings, and you bring calm into others chaos.

I pray that we can share that same feeling of relief and restoration with all the people of our community who suffer under the burdens of Sin and shame in their lives. It is so difficult to articulate the joy that comes with feeling relieved of a great burden, yet we have all experienced it in the joy we feel having all our sin forgiven in Christ death and resurrection. Knowing that we don't have to lug our shame, hatred, and pain around with us everyday is the joy we know as the freedom of a Christian. The world becomes a brighter and more beautiful place, living in it without hauling our past failures around at the same time. The restoration of our souls in Christ Jesus changes us into Gods people. People who can appreciate the company of others, even when they are struggling themselves. People who have the patience to love others, even when they are unable to love themselves. People who bring peace into places where pain, hatred, and violence have blinded the eyes of those involved. People who bring hope into a world that is so full of chaos that people fear everything and everyone. We are God's people restored in Christ to make a difference in this world. Sometimes you don't have to try to be different when you just are different. So as you find relief and restoration from this summer heat, remember that you are different because you have been restored in Christ. Let that difference shine through in the way you bring relief to the communities around you, and the way you love people, in the same way God first loved you.

God Loves you, And so do I,

Pastor Ben

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I am participating in Pastor Ben's Sunday morning study of "by heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism". I love books and this book is loaded with beautiful late medieval religious art and illustrations as well as the study of Luther's words and the history and theology behind his words. It is written by a variety of Luther experts and professors of theology.

If you were raised and confirmed in the Lutheran church, like me, you likely memorized sections of Luther's Small Catechism "by heart" and probably had to recite some part in front of the congregation before confirmation. I find it fascinating how fast those memorized passages come back when prompted by a key word. However, the issue with memorizing something is that often the words are there, but the meaning is obscured. I've found there is a big difference between memorizing and understanding.

As an example, we recite the Lord's prayer at least once a week, but do we contemplate the meaning? In the Small Catechism, Luther defined each petition in a way that provides meaning in our daily life. For example: When we say, "*Give us this day (or today) our daily bread*". Luther asks: **"What is this? What does this mean?"** Luther responds: "In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving." He goes on to ask: **"What then does 'daily bread' mean?"** Luther responds: "Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like" (by heart, page 113). That is an inclusive list! Luther gives us a lot to think about when we say, "give us this day our daily bread"!

I have found this review of Luther's teaching to enhance the worship experience and reinforce why I am a Lutheran. Thank you to Pastor Ben for introducing us to this book and leading us in the study and review of Luther's Small Catechism. Please join us for the discussion and/or if you are interested in the book, let Pastor Ben know.

We are truly blessed by this Prince of Peace community.

Carolyn Krause

Worship Assistants Schedule

<u>Role</u>	3rd- Sunday After	10th- Sunday After	17th- Sunday After	24th- Sunday After	31st- Sunday After
Assisting Minister	Susan Foutz	Yuli Fosso	Bill Hansberry	John Harris	Susan Foutz
Scripture Reader	B.J. Taylor	George Pester	Bart Cormier	Les Boette	Bill Hansberry
Ushers	Ed Marotz Gene Kilcawley	Les Boette Rich Ekwall	Gene Kilcawley George Pester	Garrett Price Ted Richardson	Dennis Purdy Richard Figueroa
Greeter	Sam Serrian	Rich Ekwall	Tanya Adin	B.J. Taylor	Dawn Price
Altar/ Lay Assistant	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Donna Cormier / Edna Swithers	Tanya Adin	Eileen Klein	Cyndi Zenker
Tellers	Edna Swithers B.J. Taylor	Eileen Klein Linda Pesante	Susan Foutz Les Boette	Patti Marotz Gene Kilcawley	Edna Swithers B.J. Taylor



**Thanks for
Worshiping With Us**



OUR VISION

To bring the love of Jesus through a welcoming, caring, and growing church engaged in inspirational Worship, spirited Christian Education, serving our local and global Community guided by the Holy Spirit.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bell Choir on Summer Break	2 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
3 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY "By Heart" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	4 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm IDN at Hope House 3:30-6:30 pm	5 Prayer Shawl Group on Summer Break All Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	6 Choir on Summer Break Praise & Fellowship Service at FSCJ Betty Cook Center 6:30-7:30 PM Room #A114	7 Ladies Group on Summer Break	8 Bell Choir on Summer Break	9 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Confirmation Class in Library 10:00 am-12:00 pm
10 Sunday School 9:00 am "By Heart" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	11 Men's Property Group 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	12	13 Choir on Summer Break Praise & Fellowship Service at FSCJ Betty Cook Center 6:30-7:30 PM Room #A114	14	15 Bell Choir on Summer Break	16 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
17 Sunday School 9:00 am "By Heart" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	18 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	19 Newsletter Articles Deadline Prayer Shawl Group on Summer Break	20 Choir on Summer Break Praise & Fellowship Service at FSCJ Betty Cook Center 6:30-7:30 PM Room #A114	21	22 Bell Choir on Summer Break	23 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Confirmation Class in Library 10:00 am-12:00 pm
24 Sunday School 9:00 am "By Heart" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	25 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	26	27 Choir on Summer Break Praise & Fellowship Service at FSCJ Betty Cook Center 6:30-7:30 PM Room #A114	28	29 Bell Choir on Summer Break	30
31 Sunday School 9:00 am "By Heart" Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship						

Special Notifications

Groups on Summer Break

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Back on Sunday, August 10th
- **"ALL COMMITTEE" MEETINGS:** Back in September
- **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP:** Back in September
- **CHOIR:** Last Day, Sunday May 25th--Back in September
- **"POTTERS DAUGHTER'S" LADIES GROUP:** Back in September
- **BELL CHOIR:** Last Day, Sunday May 18th--Back in September

*Thank You for all you do!
Enjoy your summer*



Back Church
SUNDAY



Join Us in Faith, Worship, & Fellowship!

**LIFE IS BETTER
TOGETHER**

BACK TO CHURCH
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21ST

Back Church
SUNDAY





**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Tom Meissgeir-3rd
Diane Elliott-6th
Melody Mandrick-6th
Bill Goldwire-21st
Susanne Steffen-21st
Chrystal Opheim-24th



Daniel & Yuli Fosso-2nd
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Last-2nd
Clay & Jeanette Chaffee-8th
Mike & Darlene Johnson-8th
Aaron & Chrystal Opheim-9th
Darrell & Jeanne Heun-15th
Tim & June Miller-16th
Mr. & Mrs. Lori Wick-27th



BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

All are invited to join the congregation in celebrating July's Birthday's with us
Sunday, August 3rd with cup cakes and snacks in the fellowship hall after worship.
We are looking to celebrate monthly birthdays in the congregation at the beginning of each month. The Light Keepers (youth group) will be taking the lead on hosting these events. If your interested in helping or being part of the celebration please reach out to the church office.

Pastor Ben's message at yesterday's the mid-week service out in Wildlight was on the following.

13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

⁸ "Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

This passage emphasizes second chances. We then went on to share the second chances we have received throughout our lives. I am sure you too have had second chances in your life.

We all need to appreciate those second chances the way I appreciate the second chance I received back in August of 2017 when I had several consecutive heart attacks. You see...I started bleeding internally after the placement of my stents and the catheters in my femoral arteries when my blood pressure dropped to 30/9. No, that is not a typo. I was given a one in a thousand chance of survival. I am ever so thankful for all of the second chance I have been given.

Praise be to God!,
Duane Whitesel

MID-WEEK PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

A Unique Gathering in the Wildlight Area

Are you looking for an inspiring and restoring way to connect with your faith during the week? Come join us for a mid-week Praise Service designed to uplift your spirit and deepen your connection with God. This unique worship experience invites all to come together for a time of praise, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

The service will include the Holy communion and instead of a traditional sermon, services will feature an innovative storytelling small group time. Through this interactive and dynamic format, we will explore the ways in which we remain active participants in God's unfolding story for the world.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for this special gathering **held at FSCJ Nassau Center, 76346 William Burgess Blvd. Yulee, Room A114 every Wednesday August from 6:30 pm till 7:30 pm.**

Come and be a part of this mid-week praise and worship service. Praise God, share stories, and grow in faith as we embrace the active roles we play in His divine plan for the world. You won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to experience God's love and inspiration.

Pastor Ben



The flyer is a rectangular graphic with a purple and blue background featuring a white cloud. It is framed by a thick orange border. At the top left is an icon of two hands clasped in prayer with a yellow cross above them. The main title "MID-WEEK PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE" is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, the location "FSCJ NASSAU CENTER" and "76346 William Burgess Blvd - Yulee - Room A114" are listed. To the right of the address is an icon of a family (two adults and a child) holding hands under a red heart. The invitation "All Are Welcome to Join Us in Fellowship and Praise!" is written in a stylized, italicized font. The date and time "Wednesday July 23rd 6:30- 7:30 pm" are displayed in white text inside rounded rectangular boxes. At the bottom left is a button that says "CALL US FOR DETAILS". At the bottom right is a phone icon followed by the number "904-261-6306". In the bottom right corner is a circular logo for "PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH" which includes a yellow cross and a white church building.

**MID-WEEK
PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE**

FSCJ NASSAU CENTER
76346 William Burgess Blvd - Yulee - Room A114

***All Are Welcome to Join Us
in Fellowship and Praise!***

**Wednesday
July 23rd**

6:30- 7:30 pm

CALL US FOR DETAILS

904-261-6306

**PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Prince of Peace continues to be very busy, even during this hot weather!

Our **June** Father's Day mission for the men at Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation was a compliment to the Mother's Day mission for the ladies in May. It was a success with 210 items delivered. Thank you to all who helped remind these special people they are loved and thought about!

Our current **July** mission is in honor of our military. Cards for veteran organizations, veterans at Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation, and veterans in our congregation will receive cards thanking them for their service. Additional veterans will receive cards also if names are given to me, Robin Howell or Terry. Thank you to Robin Howell for providing cards and organizing the delivery of these cards to our veterans.

A **Summer** mission will provide school/art/craft/ supplies for America's Youth, and will continue throughout the summer until after school starts. America's Youth has a summer program for children as well as an after school program for low income families. We hope to help them with their summer and fall programs, and their mission to provide school supplies for students in the area. A list of suggested items is in the narthex, and I will deliver supplies as they accumulate. So far over 138 items and boxes of multiple items have been delivered with another delivery to be made this week.

Beach fliers are being distributed to hotels and rental agencies again this year. Over 75 have been handed out so far and there will be more delivered soon.

Used eye glasses can still be donated; I will deliver them as they accumulate in my church mailbox.

Bible school was June 23rd-27th, 5:30-8:30 PM. We had lots of activities and good food. Youth helper volunteers, and good cooks made this a fun way to learn about "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World".

A church picnic was held July 20th after the service. Lots of good food, good company, and good fun for everyone. It was a great time, complete with water and a bounce house! Thank you to all who made this a happy summer day!

Several members of Prince of Peace are currently volunteering with the center located at the Church of Christ at 1005 So. 14th and Jasmine St. either helping at the drop-in center or providing the hot breakfast. Pat Harris volunteers one morning per week, serving breakfast, fixing lunches, cleaning up and talking to clients. Beginning July 30, Prince of Peace will be providing the hot breakfast, each fifth Wednesday of the month (four times per year). In July, Pat, Jenn Paiz and Kay Stockstill are providing the breakfast and Kay will deliver it. Robin Phillips has volunteered to help in October. Contact Pastor Pat if you are interested in helping. A big thank you to all involved in this important work!!



Future Events

August mission will be for Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida. Money will be gathered to help with the many services they provide such as health services, food distribution, refugee services, medical help, financial services etc. Pastor Ben is arranging for Jennifer Barrett, Chief Development Officer with LSS to speak and answer questions the first Sunday in August regarding the many crucial programs they provide and the diverse populations they serve. Jennifer Barrett has served as the , since Development Officer at Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida, Inc. since July 2013. Her responsibilities include overseeing fundraising and communications strategies and building strategic partnerships to support the agency's mission. Previously, Jennifer held various roles within the organization, including Director of Development and Development Manager, focusing on donor management, event coordination, and grant writing. Jennifer began her career as an Administrative Assistant at United Way of Northeast Florida and worked as a Teacher for Duval County Public Schools. Jennifer possesses a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Print Journalism), both from the University of North Florida. Come join us after church service during Birthday Sunday cupcake time in the Fellowship Hall for this exciting opportunity to ask questions and learn about how LSS works! Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida tax exempt since 1980, EIN:59-1965600

The next IDN will be Monday, August 4th at Hope House.

In conjunction with Back to Church Sunday, our **September** mission will be Nassau County Coalition for the Homeless. A list of needed items will be made available in the narthex as well as a jug for monetary donations. More information will be in the bulletin and newsletter, as well as on the website.

An **October** mission is being planned for Lutheran Disaster funds.

November's mission is being planned with Barnabas to help provide individual Thanksgiving dinner supplies for families. Details to come.

The **December** mission will be our annual Christmas tree. We will provide gifts for one or two families. Details to come.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!!

Susie Hildebrand

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications ministry helps Prince of Peace members and friends informed and involved.

Check our website at www.poplcweb.com. It has updated information about our ministry activities and events. Stream worship service when unable to attend on Sunday's by clicking the link on our home page.

Join our followers on Facebook. The POP Facebook page is regularly updated. Please Share & Like posts to further our ministry - www.facebook.com/POPLC2. and remember to please take photos and send them to George Pester (gpester1@comcast.net) for additions to our church's Facebook pages when you attend an event.

The church half-page ad has been published in the Nassau County Resource Guide. We received copies are located in the church narthex.

Let us share all the good news and happenings at Prince of Peace!

Linda Pesante



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Team served in a supportive role most of July while other teams planned and executed the church-wide activities. Of course, we were appreciated for setting up the celebrations for birthday Sunday on July 6 and the grand thank you to Pr. Ben for his first year's anniversary as our spiritual director on Sunday July 27. Thanks to the youth (Angel Light Keepers) for having dinner/lunch for us on July 13 and to the entire education team - especially the youth- for creating a fun day with a cookout and bounce house, etc. on Sunday July 20. Now, in August we will be cranking back up for major plans for our annual "Back-to-Church-Sunday" dinner and celebration September 21. We'll be doing other "little" things as well, such as a major clean-up of the kitchen Thursday morning, August 14, some food preparations for IDN Saturday afternoon, August 2, as well as Birthday Sunday, August 3. If all these activities pique your interest, we will be glad to have you join in with whatever skills you do or do not have.

Bill Hansberry



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR AUGUST!!!



Sunday School for children **will resume on August 10th**, NOT on the 3rd as previously announced. This brings Prince of Peace in line with the Nassau School District which begins on the 11th!

Please don't forget that Pastor Ben's excellent study on Luther's Catechism continues in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays (9 a.m.) throughout the summer. Entitled "By Heart," the study looks at the basic tenets of the Christian faith through the eyes of Luther. The Catechisms, both small and large, were designed as teaching tools by Luther to instruct the commandments and creeds to children and new Christians. "By Heart" looks at these tools with fresh eyes!

Coming in October at a time to be announced! We will be doing an in person adult Bible Study on the book of Ruth. In a nutshell, the whole Biblical story is one of migration: Abraham to the promised land, Jacob to Egypt, Moses leading the people back to the promised land, Jesus and the Holy Family to Egypt and back to Judea, and finally, Jesus turning His face to Jerusalem. The Book of Ruth certainly continues this theme as she migrates to Israel with Naomi and becomes a part of Jesus' earthly genealogy! And, of course, our own secular history in the early 21st century revolves around questions of migration as immigration has made many a stranger in a strange land. Over the course of 4 weeks, we will look at these four questions in terms of Ruth's faith and our own faith journeys: Where does loss push us?, Where does loyalty pull us?, Where does risk take us?, and finally, Where does hope lead us? Many provocative questions in such a short book! Talk to John Harris on the time for this in October, he is really undecided!

Finally, look for an eight-week study of Job coming up in January. Arguably, no Book of the Bible is quoted as much as Job particularly on the question of why bad things happen to good people and is one of the few places in the Old Testament where the resurrection of the body is mentioned. It has also caught the attention of writers and mystics throughout history on such themes as what it means to be human, the challenges of faith, and even the capriciousness of divine beings!

John Harris



**NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
&
THE AMELIA ISLAND COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**



Prince of Peace is participating, as it has for the past several years, in **National Back to Church Sunday on September 21st, 2025**. The purpose of Back to Church Sunday is to get folks back in the pews after the more laid-back time of the summer and to renew our faith journeys as our children and grandchildren return to the challenges of a new school year. Coinciding with Back to Church Sunday this year is Prince of Peace's outreach mission for September, the Amelia Island Coalition for the Homeless.

The Coalition for the Homeless provides services for homeless people on Amelia Island and in the greater Nassau County. Services provided include a day drop center that is open two hours every weekday morning and which provides a hot breakfast, a bag lunch and a place for showers, laundry and mail collection. Several members of Prince of Peace are currently volunteering with the center either helping at the drop-in center or providing the hot breakfast. Help is also provided in job hunting, filling out paperwork, and finding stable housing.

Since this charitable organization is completely staffed by volunteers and funded only by donations, cash is particularly needed to purchase supplies and to help clients get reestablished in housing. However, the following donated items are always needed and would be welcomed:

- Paper Products: Paper plates, plastic spoons, napkins, and paper hot cups.
- Women and Men's underwear: Women's Sports Bras in sizes M, L, and XL and Women's Underpants in M, L, and XL. Men's Briefs in M, L, and XL.

In September, there will be a bin in the narthex to collect paper products and underwear. Cash donations can be placed in the jug in the narthex, or checks can be placed in the offering plate, made out to Prince of Peace with the byline noting: "Coalition for the Homeless".

We ask that you give as generously as you can to this wonderful Coalition either in cash or clothing. The writer is reminded of Jesus' admonition to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Also, it is worth remembering that Jesus and his Family were homeless as they fled Herod shortly after Jesus' birth.

As we assemble for Back to Church Sunday, we renew our faith in Christ through our love of God and neighbor, particularly our neighbors in distress.

John Harris

THE LIGHTKEEPERS—YOUTH EVENTS

High School Lightkeepers

In July, the Lightkeepers held the luncheon that we honored our fabulous fathers. Thank you for all of the support from the congregation. We are taking a break in August and September due to so many activities on the calendar here at POP.

School will be starting in August for the Lightkeepers and please send a prayer for safety and lots of academic achievements for our youth. May God bless each one of you through as you start a new year of school.

Thanks Again,

Shelly Whitesel



LADIES GROUP

The Potter's Daughter will be taking a break for the summer.

As the days lengthen and the warmth of summer surrounds us, it's the ideal time to embrace the golden moments with friends, family, and nature. Recharge and refresh this summer; savour your time with loved ones and enjoy your vacations. We eagerly await our reunion in the fall. Stay tuned for upcoming events.

Come... Be a part of the Potters Daughters – see you in September!





"WANTED....."

How can Christ use your time, talent, and experience to further the MISSION of POP?

As a member of the Church Council or the Endowment Board, your knowledge and skills can help move POP to "the next level" of service for our community. In 2026 there will be two vacancies on the Church Council and one vacancy on the Endowment Board. You have time to pray about how you can "pay back" what HE has given you by accepting this "Call". Contact Pastor Ben for more information.



NEED H E L P

The church kitchen is again in need of a good cleaning, purging and organizing!

Please come on August 14th at 9:00 AM for "productive fun & laughter".

Questions????? call Donna Lind

CHURCH NEEDS CONTINUED

CHURCH ORGANIST WANTED

Our welcoming congregation is seeking a skilled and passionate organist to join our music ministry. The ideal candidate will have experience accompanying worship services, a love for sacred music, and a desire to enrich our Sunday gatherings with beautiful, inspiring organ music.

To apply or inquire further, please contact us at our church office 904-261-6306. We look forward to welcoming a talented musician to our ministry team!

WE ARE HIRING

ORGANIST

If you're bright &
passionate with
limitless creativity...
We need your talent to
guide our enthusiastic
congregation!

MORE INFO

Contact church office

904-2616306

Email your Resume to
poplc.office@gmail.com



AUGUST



MISSION

Benefitting-



LUTHERAN
SOCIAL
SERVICES
OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

For more than 40 years, Lutheran Social Services has helped hundreds of thousands of very different people through a broad range of services.

Help Lutheran Social Ministries in their mission to provide

Career & Financial Coaching - provide *one-to-one financial & employment coaching*

HIV Services - *services from wraparound resources from medicine to mental health*

Hunger Relief - *providing hope to the hungry through a variety of initiatives*

Representative Payee Services - *helps the underserved manage their finances*

...AND SO MUCH MORE!



How you can help

Collect your change, add your folding money, or write a check and place your donations in the giving bottle in the Narthex on Sundays.

Lutheran Social Services is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization granted tax-exempt status by the IRS

LOCAL COMMUNITY MISSION

SPECIAL SUMMER MISSION UPDATE MAKING A LASTING IMPACT ON AMERICA'S YOUTH

We are filled with gratitude for the remarkable generosity of our members! This week, thanks to your selfless donations, over 200 items were delivered to America's Youth. But our work is far from over.

Throughout the month of August, our Special Summer Mission carries on. Bring your contributions to the narthex, bringing hope and support to children in need.

With your continued support, we can empower more children with the tools they need to learn, grow, and thrive.



Art & Craft & School Supplies Drive

SUMMER MISSION

Join our Mission helping kids from low-income families with donations of school supplies & bring donations to the narthex.
Make a difference today!

Supplies Needed			
Crayons	Poster paints	Playdough, playdough accessories	Tissue
Colored pencils	Scissors	White drawing paper	Lysol wipes
Pencils	Glue/ glue sticks	Construction paper	Baby wipes
Pens	Scotch tape	Poster paper	Band-aids
Markers	Duct tape	Paper towels	Bug spray
Watercolor paints	Stencils to trace		Sunscreen

IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Fernandina Rehab

Barry Moore

At Home

Michele Pester/ Clay Chaffee / Ted & Rosalie Wessel / Dawn Price / Darrell Heun /
Claudia Kavan / Nick Ivanovic / Diane Demeranville / Alice Hansberry /
Marsha Woleshin / Bill Mungo / Shelan Bryson / Yvonne Bowman / Glenn Beyer /
Dana Sargent / George Pester / Rita Tiensch / Bill Goldwire / Gary Dildine

Military

-Lt. Commander Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Malta, Italy (grandson of Glen & Norma Beyer)
-Reid Stribling, US Navy (grandson of Gene & Victoria Kilcawley)

FLORAL & BULLETIN SPONSORS

Celebrate your special occasion or honor a beloved individual when you sponsor Altar Flowers and our Bulletin

The Flower Chart is located outside the Church's office to confirm the date you wish to sponsor. If you prefer, you can call our church office or visit Terry Smith during the week to initiate your sponsorship. The cost of sponsorship is **\$35** and can be placed in offertory plates.



Thanks to August Sponsors

3rd: Kurt & Lisa Poling—Glory to God

10th: Open

17th: Open

24th: Open

31st: Open

POP VISITATION PROGRAM



A need was recognized for an organized approach to visiting members of our congregation who are not able to attend church.

The visitation team visits and offers communion as desired to church members. The team is also developing additional methods to enhance our visitation outreach.

Any member of the church in need or who knows a church member who would benefit from a visit please contact the church office at poplc.office@gmail.com or call 904-261-6306.



Calling all crafters !

Do you crochet, bead, macrame, quilt, sew, knit, embroidery, cross-stitch? — do you make items that could be used to welcome a new family, for a baby baptism, a new home owner with Habitat for Humanity, or cheer a church member?

We would love for you to join us at Prayer Shawl Group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. We meet in the Narthex.

**Questions? Please reach out to Robin Howell
robin.howell@live.com or 502-802-5203.**

Call our Church Office When ...

You are Hospitalized, Sick or Shut in. Have a spiritual question or need prayer.
Need information about any activities & events, moving. And if you are getting married or encountering any other life changes.



REMOTE WORSHIP

UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP IN PERSON?

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY'S AT 10:00 AM on Facebook Live.

Click the below button on Sundays to enter our livestream worship experience.



NOTE: You do not need to have a Facebook account to access the live and recorded services.

Our Mission

*To strengthen our faith in Jesus
through worship and fellowship;
to be the face of Christ for others*

POP WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Wondering what is Happening?

Don't miss all the great things happening at Prince of Peace on our website and Facebook. The sites are regularly updated with the latest events and activities.

Check our website by clicking www.popweb.com. The site can help you access a streamed Worship service, make a prayer request, contact a staff member or council member, make a financial gift, read our newsletter, read weekly scriptures and much more.

Click www.facebook.com/POPLC2/ to view our Facebook page. The page contains posts about events and activities, photos of activities and information about our ministry . Check it out, be informed, and enjoy the information!

Handy Links

Barnabas Center

Helps neighbors in crisis (neighbors face unexpected illness, unemployment, fire, or a change in living status, with nowhere to turn), Food Pantry, and Health. www.barnabasnassau.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States.

www.elca.org

Florida-Bahamas Synod

www.fbsynod.com

Interfaith Dinner Network—IDN

IDN's mission is to feed the homeless, hungry, and lonely.

www.idnweb.net

Luther Springs

Camp and Conference Center programs for children, youth, adults, and families.

www.luthersprings.org

Nassau County Council on Aging

Advocate and resource for the elderly seeking information, counseling, assistance and referral to available services

www.nassaucountycouncilonaging.org

2025 Congregational Financial Report

YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCOME VS. TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

Year To Date Income Thru June 30, 2025

General Contributions	\$166,103
Miscellaneous Income	\$0
Keep It Simple	\$1,521
Rental Income	\$1,500
Earned Investment Income	\$2,749
Transfers from Savings	\$26,000
Fund Fundraising	<u>\$4,299</u>



Year TO Date Total Income	\$202,172
Year TO Date Total Expenses	<u>\$197,026</u>
Difference Year To Date Income Versus Expenses	\$5,146
BEAR Fund	\$11,354
Disaster Recovery Fund Balance	\$11,592
Mortgage Balance Remaining	\$149,104
Endowment Fund	\$34,748

Special Note From Church Council

1. Generous additional donations of \$6,073.84 have been applied to our Mortgage Principal in 2025.
2. Transfer of \$26,000 from Savings in May for Insurance Premiums (Multi-Peril, Umbrella & Wind/Hail all due in May).
3. Lightkeepers are fundraising with total of \$5,261.18 towards 2027 National Youth Gathering.
4. Lightkeepers Yard Sale Proceeds were \$2,690.75 + 158.25 from Noelle Taco Truck; TOTAL Yard Sale = \$2,849.00.

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

The Reduction Fund provides that contributions will be applied to the principle balance reducing mortgage debt.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, mark your check "MORTGAGE FUND" and contributions will be applied to the reduce the principle balance.



Thank you for your support that continues God's work!

Offerings furthering our ministry can be made:

- ◇ At Worship Service place envelopes in the offering plate, in the church mail slot, or mailing offering to the church office.
- ◇ Electronic contributions can be made via or website at www.poplcweb.com . Click the "GIVE" tab & follow
- ◇ instructions to set automatic contributions from account.



2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Endowment News

In January we reported that the POP Endowment Fund reached the minimum investment threshold with Thrivent Charitable through your generous contributions and support to the endowment's purpose and mission. Contributions since then have also been put to work. Despite a choppy investment market, the endowment balance shown in the weekly bulletin has included an investment growth of \$1,484 as of mid-June for a 4.8% gain so far this year.

The Board wishes to point out that there are many ways to contribute that will play a vital role in funding the endowment. The Endowment Fund brochure in the narthex spells out different types of contributions that can boost the fund balance and therefore increase the grant size potential. One option involves a bequest. Leaving a portion of your estate to fuel the endowment can make a big difference on the size and impact of future grant disbursements and is yet another strong step that meets our vision statement of "... *serving our local and Global community guided by the Holy Spirit*". To better understand contribution options, the Board has asked Thrivent's Dan Johnson to expand our understanding with a **short seminar scheduled for September**. More specific information on the seminar will be forthcoming soon.

Grant nominations will start as soon as 2027 for award issuance in CY 2028. From that point onward, annual grants are expected to become increasingly larger and more impactful for our community outreach.

Once again, thank you and God bless you for your support and contributions for this vital outreach endeavor. Your support will lift the lives of those who desperately need us and perhaps help them see Christ through the gesture of loving kindness made possible by this endowment.

POP Endowment Board



Council Meeting Highlights for July 21, 2025

The Council is beginning preparation for the 2026 calendar year. 2026 budget preparation will begin in August to be completed by mid-September and published to the congregation 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for November 9, 2025. The Nominating Committee (Rich Ekwall, Sue Farmer and Susan Foutz) are beginning the process of recruitment for the vacant positions on Council and the Endowment Board.

Recruitment continues for an organist/pianist. Pastor Ben will be meeting with the recruitment team to review the job description. This is a challenging position to fill and the Council agrees we will need flexibility to fill the position. The Council is grateful to Diane Demeranville for continuing to play while the search continues. There was an issue with organ on Sunday. Diane is contacting the technician to determine the cause. Council discussed the need for routine organ maintenance.

Wednesday evening services started this month at FSCJ Nassau Center in Yulee. Attendance ranged from 6-13 folks. The service format is focused on sharing faith stories as well as holy communion.

The Endowment Board is planning an informational session with Thrivent on September 14 following the service.

Back to Church Sunday is scheduled for September 21, 2025. George Pester met with Pastor Ben to review the plan and activities for promotion and for the day.

Dennis Purdy reported on the repair of the mold spot above the altar which was accomplished by Dennis and the Nehemiah men's group. The group continues to clean up out brush and trees from the property enhancing the grounds.

Reports were received from the Council Liaisons on their respective committees. Detailed reports are available in the newsletter.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Krause, President of the Church Council



All Committee Meeting will not be held during the summer. Committees will meet on an as needed basis as called by the Council liaisons.

Below is a brief description of the purpose of each of the Committees and council liaison and/or contact person:

- **Education & Youth Ministry: John Harris**
 - ◊Organize and promote Christian education activities/opportunities – including children, youth and adults.
- **Evangelism: Carolyn Krause/George Pester**
 - ◊Seek opportunities to share the Gospel in the community
- **Public Relations: Linda Pesante**
 - ◊Provide electronic and media support to share the ministry of POP
- **Fellowship Ministry: Garrett Price/Bill Hansberry**
 - ◊Planning and implementing Congregational social activities
- **Outreach Ministry: Susie Hildebrand**
 - ◊Seek opportunities or reach out and offer help to those in need.
 - ◆Monthly Care Projects
 - ◆Interdenominational Dinner Network (IDN)
 - ◊Prayer committee
 - ◊Visitation Team
- **Finance/Stewardship Ministry: John Harris, Robin Phillips**
 - ◊Monitor the financial condition of the Congregation including advisement on long-term investment of reserve funds and contract oversight.
 - ◊Conduct an annual stewardship campaign
- **Information Technology: Les Boette**
 - ◊Work with church staff to identify solutions for data and computer systems
 - ◊Monitor hardware and software needs
 - ◊Manage tele-worship, AV equipment support for worship and education
- **Property Ministry: Dennis Purdy**
 - ◊Ensure the physical building and grounds of the property is well maintained.
 - ◊Coordinating body for required contracted services or capital purchases related to maintenance of the building/property.
- **Worship & Music Ministry: Duane Whetsell**
 - ◊Work with Pastor to plan and implement worship services.
 - ◊Recruit, train and schedule the Worship support team including ushers & greeters, altar guild, acolytes, worship assistants and readers.

We would welcome and encourage your interest with any of the committees. Please contact either the Council Liaison, Council President, Carolyn Krause or Pr. Ben.



Talents Needed!

A host of opportunities are available to put our talents to good use assisting in worship services, planning our ministry, and outreach missions.

Have fun when being a part of our worship service as a Reader, Worship Assistant, Usher, Greeter, musician, and choir member.

Lend your ideas to our ministry when participating and helping the Evangelism, Fellowship Payer, Music, Property, Worship, or Altar Guild Committees. Consider and help set our direction on Church Council. Your talents and skills will make a difference!

See a Council Member or call our Church office to get involved.



Have Questions or Need Help?

Rev. John "Ben" Mandrick	ben.mandrick@poplcweb.com	904-556-6687 (C)	Pastor
Terry Smith	poplc.office@gmail.com	904-261-6306	Office Admin.
Tyler Odom	ctylerodom@gmail.com	904-206-1150	Choir Director
Diane Demeranville	demeran@comcast.net	904-583-1798	Interim Organist
Carolyn Krause	kralane11@gmail.com	414-507-0025	Council President