



Prince of Peace News

DECEMBER 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 December 2025



Grace and peace to you from Christ our Lord and from your sisters and brothers at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The Advent season is here! As we enter December working our way toward Christmas, we have a full calendar of events and happenings for you and your family and friends to participate in. This year we will have our Wednesday midweek soup and sandwich dinners at 6pm in the fellowship hall followed by midweek Advent service with Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 7pm. The Youth are preparing to perform their Christmas play, "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels" on Sunday Dec. 14th during the worship. We have the honor this year of hosting the evening Ecumenical community Longest Night/Blue Christmas service here at Prince of Peace Thursday Dec. 18th. The Longest Night/ Blue Christmas service is intended to be spiritual support for any people or families who have lost loved ones this year or during the Christmas season. The Nassau area schools release for the Christmas break on Dec. the 19th. The Choir is preparing their special cantata service for Sunday Dec. 21st during worship. The Christmas Eve worship this year will begin at 6pm this year. We encourage everyone to arrive early as we are expecting a large community for worship this evening and want to make sure that we get everyone properly seated. There will be overflow seating in the Narthex and we will live stream the Worship to the fellowship hall for any of the littles (and parents who need to use the nursery).

With a calendar this full of worship events and activities it is easy to feel so busy this season that you don't have time to sit and take in the season of Advent. Advent is traditionally a time of waiting and preparation both for the celebration of Jesus Birth but also in expectation for the second coming of Jesus which is yet to come. All the commitments and busy schedules lend themselves toward focusing on preparation and the action we need to take to be ready, however much of what the Advent season is focused on is waiting. Waiting for God's timing, waiting to play our part in the story of God's Messiah, waiting to see the promised kingdom of God fully revealed to the world. Waiting in expectation is not something that anyone enjoys, much like little children waiting for Christmas morning presents. We all want the waiting to be over and the time to be here. However, in the waiting we are all unified in a common feeling and deep desire. The waiting brings us together much more than the busy preparation. We wait together, while preparation sends us apart to accomplish goals and tasks. While we wait together this season, let us reflect on the strengths of being together. Everyone is welcome to wait, no one is the best or the worst at waiting, nothing has to be done in order to keep waiting, and while we are waiting we all want the same thing. The nice things about waiting is the acceptance that we are not in Control but God is in Control. I hope that we enjoy are time waiting knowing God is in Control and finding some peace this advent season.

God Loves you, And so do I,

Pastor Ben

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



We enter the Advent season on Sunday, November 30. As I pondered the meaning of Advent, I went to the old stand-by Webster's Dictionary and looked up Advent: "the period beginning the four Sundays before Christmas" – well, I knew that, but what does it mean? The dictionary referred me to the synonym for Advent: "arrival". Looking up "arrival", I found that Advent applies to "a momentous or conspicuous arrival, an appearance upon a scene esp. for the first time or a beginning." This beginning is why we celebrate Advent – to prepare for the arrival of Jesus.

I was led to this beautiful poem/hymn by Richard Wilbur by the ELCA's theme for Advent which is "A Stable Lamp is Lighted". This is the first verse:

**A stable lamp is lighted
whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbour heaven,
a stall become a shrine.....**

Richard Wilbur, 1959.

At www.ELCA.org/WHAdvent you can download "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted" Advent Calendar and family activities to help prepare for the Arrival of Jesus.

Advent season is stressful due to all the activities and demands of the season. We all must find balance in our lives to maintain our spiritual, physical and mental health. I found the following suggestions by Richard J. Beckman (In "*Praying for Wholeness and Healing*") for maintaining balance:

Practice daily confession and forgiveness
Take care of your physical health
Be aware of your feelings and respond to them appropriately.
Practice as much humor as you can.
Pray frequently for the fruit of the Spirit.
Practice the presence of God. *Think particularly of God's goodness, faithfulness, steadfast love, compassion and joy.*

I'm going to try to put these suggestions into practice. I hope you too will find them helpful and I wish you and the Prince of Peace community a blessed Advent journey to the stable.

Carolyn Krause

Worship Assistants Schedule

<u>Role</u>	7th- Advent Sunday	14th- Advent Sunday	21st- Advent Sunday	24th- Christmas Eve	28th- 1st Sunday Of Christmas
Assisting Minister	Duane Whitesel	Duane Whitesel	Bill Hansberry	John Harris Susan Foutz	Tanya Adin
Scripture Reader	Tanya Adin	Mark Foutz	Richard Figueroa	Alex Whitesel Graisyn Collins Tess Mandrick	Bill Goldwire
Ushers	Ed Marotz Les Boette	Dennis Purdy Ted Richardson	Rich Ekwall John Harris	Garrett Price George Pester Richard Figueroa Josh Collins	Ed Marotz Ted Richardson
Greeter	Sam Serrian	Janelle Purdy	Dawn Price	B.J. Taylor Scott & Wyatt Chicco	Ted Mandrick
Altar/ Lay Assistant	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Tanya Adin	Eileen Klein	Cyndi Zenker	Donna Cormier / Jeanette Chaffee
Tellers	Patti Marotz Gene Kilcawley	Susan Foutz Les Boette	Barbara Ehrenberg B.J. Taylor	Eileen Klein Linda Pesante	Eileen Klein Linda Pesante



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.



Just a reminder that the Church
Offices will be Closed
Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve
& **Thursday 25th** due to the Christmas Holiday.

We wish everyone a *MERRY CHRISTMAS*
and for those who may be traveling we pray for
your safe travels!

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	2	3—ADVENT WEDNESDAY Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Advent Dinner 6:00 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm	4 Ladies Group 10:30 am	5 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am ORDER DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS	6 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Fantastic Fudge 4:00—6:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm (2 hour shifts)
7—ADVENT SUNDAY BIRTHDAY SUNDAY 8:00-9:00 am Cantata Practice Sunday School & Christmas Play Practice 9:00 am “The Forgotten Luther” Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Secret Santa Sign-Up in Narthex POP Band Practice After Worship	8 Men's Property Group 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm IDN at Hope House 3:30-6:30 pm (Due to scheduling conflicts)	9	10—ADVENT WEDNESDAY Choir Practice 4:00-5:00 pm Advent Dinner 6:00 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm	11	12 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Fantastic Fudge 4:00—6:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm (2 hour shifts)	13 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Christmas Caroling from 5:00-7:00 PM (Meet @ Church 4:45 pm)
14—ADVENT SUNDAY 8:00-9:00 am Cantata Practice Sunday School —9:00 am “The Forgotten Luther” Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship with Christmas Pageant Play 10:00 am Secret Santa Name Drawing in Narthex POP Band Practice After Worship	15 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	16 Newsletter Articles Deadline	17—ADVENT WEDNESDAY Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Advent Dinner 6:00 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm	18 Ecumenical Community Longest Night/ Blue Christmas Worship Service at POP 6:00 pm	19 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	20 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Fantastic Fudge 4:00—6:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm (2 hour shifts)
21—ADVENT SUNDAY Sunday School —9:00 am “The Forgotten Luther” Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Christmas Cantata 10:00 am Secret Santa Gift Exchange in Narthex POP Band Practice After Worship	22 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	23 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Fantastic Fudge 4:00—6:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm (2 hour shifts)	24— CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED Candle Light Service 6:00 pm	25— CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	26	27 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
28 Sunday School —9:00 am “The Forgotten Luther” Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	29 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	30	31—NEW YEARS EVE			

Upcoming Events

LADIES GROUP



The Potter's Daughters

WHEN: Thursday, December 4th at 10:30 AM Where: POP Narthex

As we embrace this special time of year, we gather to celebrate the phenomenal birth of our King, Christ Jesus. It's a season filled with warmth, togetherness, and kindness. During this joyful period, we'll come together to decorate an Advent tree in the Narthex, featuring gift suggestions for a family in need—an opportunity to share love and compassion.

We invite members to select one or more Stars to purchase suggested gifts, spreading hope and joy to those who need it most. It's a meaningful way to honor the Wise Men's gifts to Baby Jesus by giving from our hearts.

Once our tree is decorated, we'll sing Christmas carols, filling the air with cheer and gratitude. This celebration marks a heartfelt beginning to honor the birthday of our Lord and Savior.

Please join us in making this Christmas truly special for everyone at Prince of Peace by bringing a friend.

Wise men from the east see a star and travel to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews. They are sent to Bethlehem by King Herod, and the star leads them to the house where they find Jesus. They worship him and present gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 1:1-12



Celebrate
A SEASON OF
JOY
PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join Us!

ADVENT WORSHIP

DEC 3 - 10 - 17 @ 7PM
SOUP & SALAD DINNER @ 6PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC 24 @ 6PM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*Advent
Soup Supper*



Bring your favorite
soup, salad or dessert!
6 pm in Fellowship Hall
December 3-10-17



Advent Worship
follows at 7pm

*Christmas
Caroling*

Meeting at church
4:45pm

Saturday, December 13th
Caroling 5pm-7pm



**Join Us for a
Magical Christmas Pageant**
"The Fumbly Bumbly Angels"

Sunday, December 14th
Pageant at 10am Worship Service

Enjoy a heartwarming
performance by our little angels.



Follow the Star - Follow the King
Christmas Cantata Celebration
December 21st - 10am



Glenn Beyer-2nd
Margaret Holden-8th
Rachel Steele-9th
Allan Johnson-10th
Blake Carter-11th
Jeanette Chaffee-11th
Elizabeth Angil-12th
Robert Taylor-14th
Andi Mandrick-16th
Samantha Stommel-18th
Richard Figueroa-20th
Marsha Woleshin-21st
Bill Mungo III-23rd
Rev. Pat Harris-24th
Lauren Buman-26th
Kyle Marotz-28th
Ellie Boette-28th
Glenn Wheeler-30th
Chuck Smith-30th



Brett & Sheri Higginbotham-10th
Mr. & Mrs. Sarah Dennis-11th
Peter & Julie Eichele-24th
Bill & Alice Hansberry-27th
Gene & Victoria Kilcawley-28th
Dennis & Janelle Purdy-29th



BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

All are invited to join the congregation in celebrating
December's Birthday's with us

Sunday, December 7th 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.

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 December Sponsors

7th: ADVENT—No Flowers

14th: ADVENT—No Flowers

21st: ADVENT—No Flowers

28th: Open

POINSETTIA FLOWERS ORDER



Christmas Poinsettia Flowers

ADORN OUR SANCTUARY WITH A PLANT
HONORING OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Complete an order envelope from one of Sunday's bulletins & place
it in the offering plate or send your order to the church office.
The cost is \$10 per plant and must be ordered by December 5th.

MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

I believe we have all heard that "Variety is the spice of Life". So just to make you all aware, coming to church on Sundays this month leading up to Christmas you will NOT hear Pastor Ben Preaching.

Instead, Pastor Pat will preach on December 7th because Pastor Ben will be out of town.

On December 14th, the children's Christmas performance of the "*The Fumbly Bumbly Angels*" happens. There is one more rehearsal for this performance on December 7th at 9am. If you want to help the *Fumbly Bumbly Angels*, please come at 9am this coming Sunday for rehearsal and then again at 9am on the 21st for one last run through before the service at 10am.

Then on December 21st the Choir will perform the Christmas Cantata.

If you want to hear Pastor Ben Preach before Christmas Eve, you will have to attend the Advent Wednesday services on Dec 3, Dec 10, and Dec 17. Dinner will start at 6pm followed by the service at 7pm.

Christmas Eve service will be at 6pm on Wednesday, December 24.

Sometime during the beginning of December, I will be working on the **schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers**. If you are on this list, please go ahead and let me know of any conflict/plans you might have where you will not be available from January thru March on Sundays. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE** to be on this list, please let me know.

The Next Music and Worship Committee is scheduled for Sunday, January 6th, 2026 after Church during the ALL-Committee meeting where we will plan for all POPLC events for February. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please come join us.

Duane Whitesel



YOUTH GROUP

On December 28th right after church, the Lightkeepers will have a Church Lock-In for Middle School and High School aged folks and can invite up to 2 guests.



The plan is for the youth and chaperones to have some fun at the local Paint Ball establishment then spend the night at church.

Speaking of chaperones, if you want to be one, just let us know!

Those that plan to participate will need to have something to sleep on/in like maybe an air mattress, blankets, pillow, appropriate clothing for the paint ball outing and sleep attire.

Please have all who are planning to attend and/or chaperone contact...

Shelly Whitesel @ 937-479-3776 so she will know how many to plan on.

EVANGELISM



You Are Invited!

Wonderful things are happening at Prince of Peace this joyous Christmas season! Everyone is welcome to join in celebrations of worship, community service, concerts, and our beloved children's pageant.

Keep an eye on your mailbox during the week of December 8th for your postcard invitation to celebrate the birth of our Savior with us. Over 1,100 postcards invitations are also being sent to new movers of our community—inviting them to share in the joy and fellowship of the season.

Instead of placing your invitation on the refrigerator as a reminder, share it with a neighbor or friend!
Encourage them to join us and experience God's love as we all
Come... Be A Part of Peace!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



With sunny skies and warm days it is hard to believe it's time for Baby Jesus, Christmas trees and lighting advent candles! This is one of my favorite times, full of joy and anticipation, and the quiet reverent peace of Christmas Eve. At this difficult time our thoughts and prayers are with struggling families and those who are fearful; I pray the new year brings them hope for a brighter future.

This year our **December mission** will again be helping two families with Christmas gifts and gift cards. Family 1 is a single mother with two children, a little boy age 8 and a little girl age 7. Family 2 is a single father with three children, a little girl age 6, a little girl age 4 and a little boy age 3. The annual Advent Tree will hold ornaments with a child's name, other information, and a suggested gift. These families are requesting gift cards for Winn Dixie, Walmart and Aldis. Let's help these families have enough to eat, and give their children some fun gifts to open! Gift cards are particularly important at this time. Additional information about these families will be placed near the Advent Tree in the narthex. A big thank you to Donna Lind and Potters Daughters for help with this mission.

Family 1

Adrian (boy) Age 8

Size 10-12

Likes sports, toys/games and police role playing

Rosalyn (girl) Age 7

Size 10-12

Likes dolls, make-up, nail polish and baby dolls

Family 2

Adelynn (girl) Age 6

Size 5T-6T

Likes tracing/drawing pads and coloring pads/books, art supplies and playing dress-up

Cody (boy) Age 4

Size 4T

Likes trucks and dinosaurs

Summitt (boy) Age 3

Size 3T

Likes minions (from Despicable Me movie), Toy Story movie characters, and trucks

There will be Salvation Army bell ringing in front of the fudge shoppe this year. There is a sign up sheet with dates and times in the narthex.

Advent services will be held on Wednesday December 3, 10 and 17 with supper at 6:00 and services at 7:00.

The next IDN dinner will be December 8 at Hope House.

Christmas caroling will be Saturday December 13. We will meet at 4:45 in the church to car pool. Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation and Lakeside are on the agenda so far. We will have more singing and refreshments at the church afterwards.

The children's Christmas program, titled "Fumbly, Bumbly, Angels" will be Sunday, December 14 during church service time.

A Christmas Cantata will be held on Sunday, December 21st during service time with a reception following.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 pm on December 24th.

Christmas cards will be delivered to Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation for staff and residents.

The **January mission** is being planned.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT CONT'D

Our **November mission** was a very special one. We collaborated with Barnabas to celebrate Thanksgiving by providing ten families all items needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The boxes of goodies were delivered to Barnabas on November 20th for distribution to needy families. Monies from the donation jug was used to pay for all Thanksgiving dinner supplies and the turkeys. Any additional donated items were taken to Barnabas the week before Thanksgiving. A big thank you to John Harris and all all who donated to help make this a warm happy Thanksgiving for these families!

Our **October mission** generated \$525.00 for Lutheran Disaster Relief. Thank you to all who contributed! Thank you also to the many Lutheran staff members and volunteers who stay to help after a disaster is over.

We did not do Shop w/a Cop in November as this event has been fully funded already.

The annual POP meeting of the congregation was Sunday, November 9. This was an opportunity for members to learn about all the wonderful things we have accomplished, and help plan the future! It was a productive meeting and decisions were made by those present. Congratulations to all for a wonderful year, and thank you to all who took time to attend! It is exciting to be a part of all the growth here. The future looks bright for Prince of Peace!

A bonfire/cookout is scheduled Saturday, November 15 with hot dogs, s'mores, and lots of good company.

A "Soup Bowl" fundraiser for the endowment is planned for November in the narthex.

Thanksgiving Day dinner will be in the fellowship hall again this year. We eat at 3:00 with fellowship before dinner. There is a sign up sheet for attendance and side dishes in the narthex.

There are lots of activities this month at Prince of Peace. Be inspired and come join us to celebrate this most sacred time!

Have a Joyous Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year!

Susie Hildebrand



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

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.

Ads about the Wednesday worship near Wildlight appeared in Yulee News and Hilliard-Callahan News. The adds appeared for two week.

Ads about Back To Church Sunday appeared in the News Leader & the Yulee News.

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

Linda Pesante



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

December starts a new Christian church year. This opens the door to trying new fellowship plans, even if it means, at the least, just tweaking those events we hold as mandatory. Why, we're still coming down from a great campfire event and Thanksgiving dinner, and here we are planning Advent dinners and a caroling trip to shut-ins – for fun! After the holidays, we will need to plan a chili cook-off and probably a pasta/spaghetti night. On February 17, better known as "Shrove Tuesday," pancakes are a must; then five Wednesdays of Lenten soup before we let it all hang out for Easter. In May, June and July we must celebrate our mothers, our veterans and our country. This is just a taste of what we can do. Come, "be a part of Peace." Help the team plan new ways to celebrate each other. In addition to the regular quarterly All-committee meetings times, we will certainly have some other called meetings guided by our/your desire to to get to know and enjoy each other better.

Bill Hansberry



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS!!!

CALLING ALL ANGELS, CORRGINATED OR OTHERWISE!!!

Our Sunday Schoolers and staff are currently working on our Christmas Pageant, *"The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels."* Follow a group of angels as they try out for the "heavenly choir," only to miss the cut and be assigned to some manger in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. This will be part of our December 14th service. Practice is on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

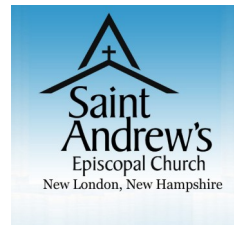
Starting on Nov. 30th, Pastor Ben will be leading the Adult Sunday School in a study of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. To paraphrase Pastor Ben, Paul must have really been annoyed by the Corinthians to merit a second letter to them! Find out why on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.

In January, there will be a Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Job. Details will be found in another article in this newsletter!

John Harris



ADULT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM



Upcoming Bible Study on Book of Job

On Wednesdays at 7:00 PM beginning on January 7th and ending on February 11th, you are invited to participate in a ZOOM Bible study on the Book of Job. This Bible study will be a joint effort between Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida, and Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in New London, New Hampshire. John Harris will lead the Bible study, supported by Pastor Pat Harris. Pat and John were members of Saint Andrews while they lived in NH, and Pastor Pat still participates in a faith based book study with members of Saint Andrews.

This Bible study will be an effort to find unity in God's Word among people of different backgrounds and experiences. In the context of studying Job's suffering and his interactions with his friends and with God, we will be examining the ways each of us responds to the suffering of others and to our own suffering; our reactions to our own anger at God; and the ways that the book of Job have impacted our contemporary culture.

Details about the Zoom link will be available in the January newsletter and in the weekly "Happenings" electronic newsletter. If you have any questions about the Bible study, contact Pastor Pat at 603-748-0288 or John at 603-748-0623.

John Harris

CHURCH NEEDS

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

PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER MISSION



Join our December Mission

Make a difference in a family's life this Christmas!

☆☆ **Advent Tree Giving** ☆☆

Help bring Christmas cheer to two single-parent families this season — a mom with a little boy and girl, and a dad with a son and two daughters.

Share the joy of Christmas by selecting an ornament from our Advent Tree in the narthex. Each ornament represents a gift wish or need. Purchase a toy, gift, or gift card to brighten the holiday for a family facing challenges this year.

Together, we can make this Christmas a season of love, generosity, and hope.

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 Woloshin / Bill Mungo / Shelan Bryson / Yvonne Bowman / Glenn Beyer /
Dana Sargent / George Pester / Rita Tench / Bill Goldwire / Gary Dildine /
Edna Swithers / Karen Blair / Eileen Klein / Edna Swithers / Lill Ekwall / Jack Lane

Military

- Lt. Commander Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, WMEC Spencer Ship, Ft. Smith, VA (grandson of Glen & Norma Beyer)
- Reid Stribling, US Navy (grandson of Gene & Victoria Kilcawley)
- Lt. Col. Eric Venditti, Army (son of Linda Venditti)



Keeping Our Prayer List Up-to-Date ...

God's blessings to those who are no longer in acute need of prayer. Please let us know when a person no longer wishes to be included. Call the church office for those in need and they will be added so we can lift up a prayer for them.



Call our Church Office When...

You become Hospitalized, are Sick or Shut in. Have a spiritual question or need prayer. Moving, getting married encountering any other life changes or need information about events.

904-261-6306

POP VISITATION CARE TEAM 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 is in need or who knows a church member who would benefit from a visit (s) 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 Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. We meet in the Narthex.



The Potters Daughters ladies group have restocked a very needy first aid kit. Hopefully you will find what you need for your minor emergencies. It is on top of the freezer in the kitchen.

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.poplcweb.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 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Les Boette
boette10@gmail.com

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Carolyn.Krause@poplcweb.com

Judi Langholz
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2025 Congregational Financial Report

YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCOME VS. TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

Year To Date Income Thru October 31, 2025

General Contributions	\$248,768
Miscellaneous Income	\$0
Keep It Simple	\$2,165
Rental Income	\$1,500
Earned Investment Income	\$4,333
Fund Fundraising	<u>\$4,760</u>



Year TO Date SubTotal Income	\$261,527
Transfers from Savings	<u>\$46,000</u>
Year TO Date TOTAL INCOME ALL SOURCES	\$307,527
Year TO Date TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$309,034</u>
Difference Year To Date Income Versus Expenses	(\$1,507)
BEAR Fund	\$11,354
Disaster Recovery Fund Balance	\$11,592
Mortgage Balance Remaining	\$141,040
Endowment Fund	\$100,680

Special Note From Church Council

1. Generous additional donations of \$7,017.80 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). Transfer of \$20,000 from Savings in AUGUST July/August/September expenses exceeding income.
3. Lightkeepers are fundraising with total of \$1,000 donation; Lightkeepers fund has total of \$6,722.68 towards 2027 National Youth Gathering.
4. Thank you for your generosity for the Monthly Outreach Missions! September Outreach Mission for Coalition for Homeless was \$971.55. October Outreach Mission for Lutheran Disaster Response was \$525.00.



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.



HOW DOES OUR ENDOWMENT WORK?

Creating an endowment is more than a financial decision—it's a reflection of our commitment to being a mission-centered church. It allows us to support benevolent giving not for just today, but for generations to come. So how does it work? Let's break it down.

Our endowment is governed by documents generated by the Endowment Board, with a top-level controlling document approved by both the Church Council and the congregation. These documents outline the responsibilities of the Endowment Board which oversees both the operational framework and the investment strategy.

Whether gifts are made immediately or later as part of a legacy, they follow a clear process.

Example: A contribution of \$1,000 is received. Since this meets the minimum required by Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing, the funds are invested and apportioned according to a risk strategy defined by the Endowment Board. Any contributions less than \$1,000 are collected in a separate bank account until the minimum of \$1,000 is achieved for investing.

Once invested, the contribution becomes part of the fund principal—it doesn't disappear!

Contributions remain in the fund and continue as working capital subject to market performance. Here's how it supports ongoing generosity:

- Grants begin either on the 4th year of endowment inception or if the endowment balance reaches \$70,000.
- Only a portion of the annual earnings is eligible for withdrawal to support grants.
- For instance, if the \$1,000 earns \$100 in a given year, a portion of that \$100 will be included in grants.
- Grant allowances begin at 50% of annual gains for the first 10 years of the life of the endowment fund and increase to 90% thereafter. In this example, \$50 would be included in a grant issuance.
- The remainder of earnings (the other \$50) is reinvested, allowing the principal to grow further along with new contributions over time—even as grants are annually awarded.

Grant issuances are paused only in years when the investment experiences a net loss. In all other years, the Endowment Board declares gains for distribution, working closely with the Outreach Committee to ensure alignment with our mission. This structure ensures that every gift—large or small—has the potential to grow and serve others for years to come. It's a beautiful way for Prince of Peace to turn generosity into a lasting impact that changes lives for the better.

POP Endowment Board



Council Meeting Highlights for November 17, 2025

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

- Pastor Ben reported 5 new members joined POP on November 4th and there were two baptisms.
- Treasurer's Report was presented and approved through October 31, 2025.
- John Harris reported 32 Stewardship pledge cards were returned. Time and talent forms were reviewed, and members will be contacted re: their areas of interest.
- Search for organist continues. Council expressed appreciation and thanks for Diane Demeranville's continued service in the music ministry as we search for a new organist/pianist.
- Pastor Ben presented proposal for the playground project. Projected cost is \$6800 with no increase in insurance premiums based on following Church Mutual guidelines. Council approved moving forward with the project. Project will move forward as funds are raised.
- Discussed publishing a new photo directory and investigating if we could accomplish this in-house.
- Zoom bible study on book of Job will be held in January. Details upcoming.
- New cleaning service started in October, and cleanliness of church has improved.
- October mission raised \$525 for ELCA disaster relief.
- Over 40 people have signed up for Thanksgiving at church. November 15 bonfire was a success with over 50 people attending.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Annual Meeting Highlights for November 9, 2025

- The Annual Meeting was held on November 9th. A quorum was established with approximately 50 members present.
 - ◇ The 2026 budget was passed with one amendment to not renew wind/hail insurance premium and instead deposit the estimated \$20,000 premium to the Disaster Relief Fund.
 - ◇ The Audit Committee report was presented by Pastor Pat Harris with no significant issues. The committee found the books and records of POP to be in good order and commended Treasurer Robin Phillips for the thoroughness of the records.
 - ◇ Bart Cormier presented revisions to the Mission Endowment Board document which were approved. (See Annual Report on the changes). Bart also reported the current fund balance is >\$100,000 which has surpassed expectations. This will allow potential to award grants in 2026.
 - ◇ Rich Eckwall presented Nominating Committee recommendations for Council: John Harris, Garrett Price, Dennis Purdy and Dana Sargent. Nominations were approved.
 - Nominations for 2026 Nominating Committee were Judi Langholz (outgoing Council member), John Mandrick, Brenda Ronson and Tanya Adin. Nominations were approved.
 - Nomination for Endowment Board vacancy was Sue Farmer. Nomination was approved.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.



All Committee Meeting 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 Whitesel**
 - ◊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	ctylorodom@gmail.com	904-206-1150	Choir Director
Diane Demeranville	demeran@comcast.net	904-583-1798	Interim Organist
Carolyn Krause	Carolyn.Krause@poplcweb.com	414-507-0025	Council President