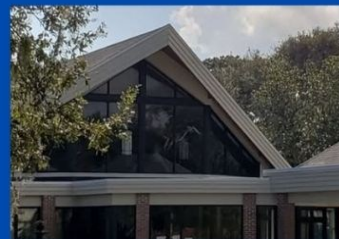




Prince of Peace News

OCTOBER 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 October 2025



Grace and peace to you from Christ our Lord and from the Saints of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We are happy to receive 5 new members into the church family at the end of September. They are a welcome addition, and we hope to continue reaching out and welcoming more people into the team here at Prince of Peace. The congregation continues to grow as we reach out in excitement to make a difference in the world with God's love and grace leading the way.

We use the words like team, family, and community to describe the church to which we belong because we share a bond with each other that is deeper than acquaintance or friendship. As we join to become church together we make commitments to love and care for one another in our pursuit of living as Jesus' disciples. In the gospel of John the 13th chapter verse 35; Jesus reminds his disciples that the outside world will know that we are his disciples by the way that we love, one for another. The importance of love in the separation of what makes us different, shapes everything that we do in our living out of our faith. To be Christ like is to lead first with love, this applies when responding to persecution, as well as how to handle positions of power. This also applies to how to handle situations when we have wronged another, just as much as when we ourselves have been wronged by someone else. The primacy of having Christ like love, should be the most important virtue of evaluating our actions and discourse.

We acknowledge that as people we are not perfect, or indeed even close to being known by our love in the places where we are Church. For this we confess our failure to God, who is merciful and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit to help us Love first and be right less. In so doing how do we express our thoughts and feelings with each other in a way that represents love first, without diminishing the passion of our genuine thoughts and beliefs. The importance of respecting each other becomes vital in keeping our debates and disagreements Loving first but also not dismissing our neighbor's zeal. When we respect our neighbor, we acknowledge their worth and intent, even when we oppose their idea. This means taking time to respectfully listen, acknowledge that the individual as adequately considered the pros and cons, and confidently raising your own position without denigrating the other. In this way we meet our neighbors with humility accepting that we do not know everything about them or what new insights they have to share. It is not easy to transition to this style of debate and conversation. We have been raised if an national environment which promotes the competition of ideas, where only one can be the best. This drive is good in that it challenges us to think critically however it also encourages us to accept loses to readily. Often there is no best answer to a question that has many dimensions. This then can put us in a position trying to judge what portion is most important instead of widening our conversation to encompass the entirety of the subject. This removes the need to determine who is right or best, as the goal is to understand rather than judge. As we move in the world around lead by the love of Christ how can we endeavor to understand with each other more than we judge with each other.

God Loves you, And so do I,

Pastor Ben

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



October will be an especially busy month for POP as we prepare for our Annual Meeting on November 9th. Each Sunday in October, you will hear from a fellow congregation member about their experience serving in or participating in one of the many activities at POP, such as our food pantry team, choir, youth group, or community outreach projects. We hope you'll find something that sparks your interest and willingness to contribute. If you desire more information, do not hesitate to reach out to me, Pastor Ben or another Council member (with yellow name tag) for further information.

Speaking from my own experience, I have been a member at POP since 2022 after moving to the area in 2021. It's always difficult to join a new organization, including a church. You might wonder if people will be welcoming, or if groups are already formed. What I discovered is that the best way to get to know people is to volunteer for something and simply show up. That was true for me at POP. My journey is just one example of how getting involved can lead to meaningful relationships. I can testify that the people at POP were welcoming and provided new connections and friends in a new community. I know I have people I can call on if I need a helping hand or a listening ear. It is truly different to have connections within a faith community.

In a world where many people feel lonely, sad, angry, not have anyone to confide in or provide support and instead rely on social media for connections; it is especially important for you, your family, and friends to know that at POP, we strive to be here for anyone who walks through our doors.

God be with you until we meet again.

Carolyn Krause

Worship Assistants Schedule

<u>Role</u>	5th- Sunday After Pentecost	12th- Sunday After Pentecost	19th- Sunday After Pentecost	26th- Reformation Sunday
Assisting Minister	Duane Whitesel	Susan Foutz	Bill Hansberry	John Harris
Scripture Reader	George Pester	Carolyn Krause	Bart Cormier	Bill Goldwire
Ushers	Les Boette Ted Richardson	Garrett Price George Pester	Ed Marotz John Harris	Dennis Purdy Gene Kilcawley
Greeter	Sam Serrian	Richard Figueroa Josh Collins	B.J. Taylor	Janelle Purdy Scott & Wyatt Chicco
Altar/ Lay Assistant	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Tanya Adin	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Cyndi Zenker
Tellers	Patti Marotz Gene Kilcawley	Susan Foutz Les Boette	Eileen Klein Linda Pesante-?	Barbara Ehrenberg B.J. Taylor



**Thanks for
Worshipping 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.

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm	2 Ladies Group 10:00 am	3 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am Property Use Committee Meeting 6:00pm	4 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
5 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY Sunday School 9:00 am "The Forgotten Luther" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Stewardship Temple Talk 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	6 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	7 Adult Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, Fernandina 3:30 PM All Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	8 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30-7:30 PM	9	10 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	11 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
12 Sunday School 9:00 am "The Forgotten Luther" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Stewardship Temple Talk 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	13 Men's Property Group 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	14 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, Fernandina 3:30 PM	15 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30-7:30 PM	16	17 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	18 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
19 Sunday School 9:00 am "The Forgotten Luther" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Stewardship Temple Talk 10:00 am Confirmation Class— After Worship POP Band Practice After Worship	20 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	21 Newsletter Articles Deadline Adult Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, Fernandina 3:30 PM	22 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30-7:30 PM	23	24 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	25 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
26 Sunday School 9:00 am "The Forgotten Luther" Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship / Stewardship Temple Talk / Confirmation Sunday 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	27 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	28 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, Fernandina 3:30 PM	29 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30-7:30 PM	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	

Upcoming Events

LADIES GROUP

****Potter's Daughters Meeting****

When: October 2nd, Thursday at 10:00 AM

Where: POP Fellowship Hall

Join us for a meaningful gathering as we embark on our second year of unity and friendship. Bring a friend and inspire each other in love.

We're excited to have Jami McCormick from Nassau County Emergency Management present an empowering program on emergency preparedness. Let's hope this information remains a precautionary measure while still being essential. Our medical team will also how to effectively use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Our plans for this year are abundant, and your participation will strengthen our fellowship, guided by God. We encourage your suggestions for future programs and invite everyone in the community to be part of this growing group.

With plans for evening meetings in homes, we aim to ensure that those who work outside their homes can also partake in the uplifting experiences as Potter's Daughters. This expansion will help us forge deeper connections among Christian friends in our community.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

In the spirit of Proverbs 27:17, *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."*

In a world of social media where we may have countless "friends" yet few who truly know us, remember, *"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"* Proverbs 18:24.

"Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." Hebrews 13:1-2



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Exploring the Book of Ruth- A Journey of Migration, Loss, Loyalty, Risk, and Hope

Join us on Tuesday afternoons in October as we embark on an in-depth exploration of the Book of Ruth. Our study invites you to reflect on pivotal themes and key questions-

Where does loss push us?
Where does loyalty pull us?
Where does risk take us?
Where does hope lead us?

To deepen your understanding and engagement, we recommend ordering a study guide from Augsburg Fortress. The guide costs \$5.74 and delivery typically takes about two weeks. For more information or to order, please visit Augsburg Fortress –

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781451402728/Ruth-Learner-Guide-Books-of-Faith>

Adult Bible Study Discover the Book of Ruth

Join us for insightful discussions and fellowship!

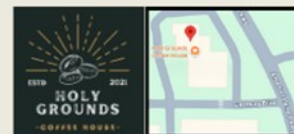


Tuesday afternoons
3:30 PM
October 7, 14, 21, & 28

The Book of Ruth is a story of migration.

Ruth journeys to Israel with her mother-in-law, Naomi, following a period of great personal loss. Through this decision, Ruth becomes woven into the fabric of Israel's story and is ultimately counted among the ancestors of Jesus, highlighting her place in his earthly genealogy.

Holy Grounds Coffee Shop
960185 Gateway Blvd.
Suite 105
Fernandina Beach



MID-WEEK PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

A Unique Gathering in the Wildlight area

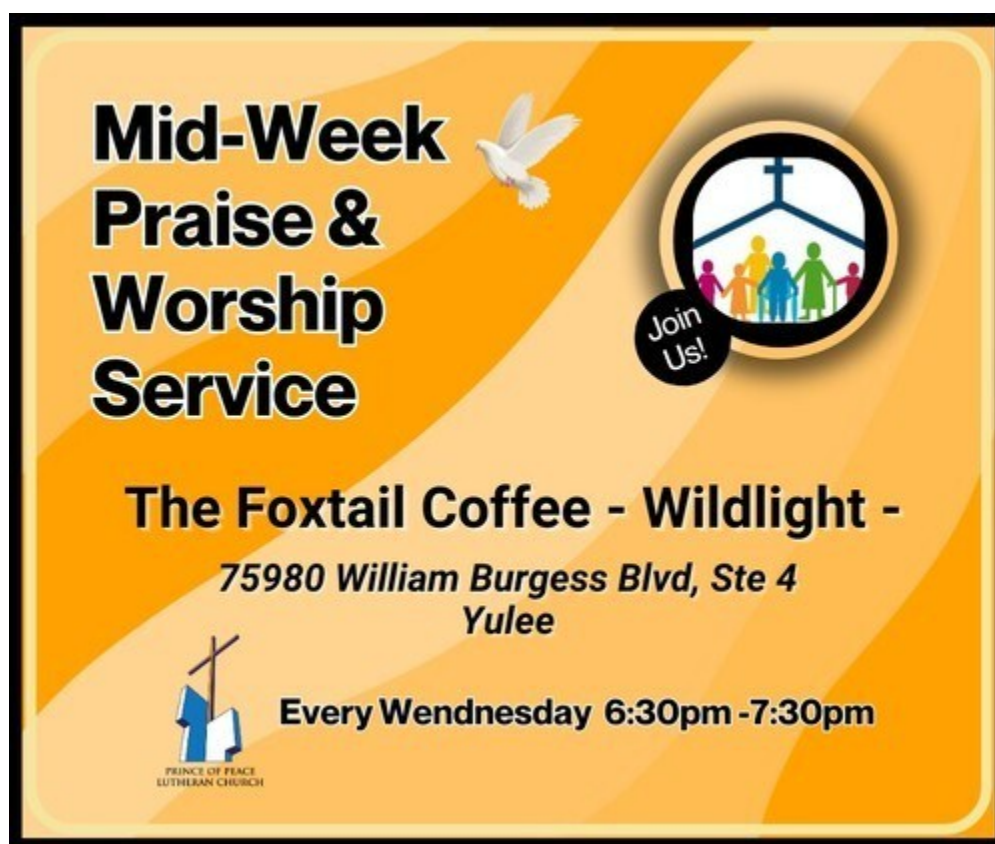
Are you looking for an inspiring and restoring way to connect with your faith during the week? Come join us for a mid-week Praise Service designed to uplift your spirit and deepen your connection with God. This unique worship experience invites all to come together for a time of praise, reflection, and 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 the Foxtail Coffee, 75980 William Burgess Blvd Ste 4, Yulee--Wildlight every Wednesday in October 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





**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

John Mandrick-2nd
Barbara Meissgeir-5th
Christina Ivanovic-9th
Robert Herum-10th
Linda Pesante-14th
Bart Cormier-17th
Graicyn Collins-19th
Jenn Paiz-19th
Donna Lind-29th



Mr. & Mrs. Linda Venditti-8th
Chuck & Nadine Smith-23rd



BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

All are invited to join the congregation in celebrating October's Birthday's with us **Sunday, October 5th** 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.

MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Music and Worship Committee continues to meet with Monthly Committee meetings. If you would like to join, please do so.



We have the Sunday morning Music selected for the October and will select the music for November at the next meeting.

We are still looking for a new Organist. Our internet searches have had responses from the Tampa Bay area who thought it was the POP near them and a response from a gentleman currently on a cruise ship who lives in Cancun Mexico. None of those are going to work for us. If you know of anyone who might be interested, ask them then get them in touch with myself or Pastor Ben.

The schedules for the rest of the year for Ushers, Greeters, Readers and Assisting Minister has been distributed. If anyone on those lists have a conflict, please feel free to ask someone else to do it or reach out to me and I will help find a replacement. If you would like to have your name added to any of these lists, please let me know.

Looking forward to the Christmas Eve Service, yes, that is written as a singular service Christmas Eve. Please be on the look out for the time since I don't have that for you yet.

Thank you all, and God Bless you and your family,

Duane Whitesel

THE LIGHTKEEPERS—YOUTH REPORT



Birthday Sunday is Sunday, October 5th after worship and there will be a meeting for parents and youth towards the middle of October (date to be determined.) Dinners will begin again in November.

Shelly Whitesel

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



I can't believe it's the end of summer already! As fall approaches with cooler weather and cotton candy sunsets we have lots of things going on here at Prince of Peace!

Our **August mission** for Lutheran Social Services generated \$834.97 as well as two separate checks made out specifically to LSS. Thank you to all who contributed and to the LSS representatives who visited on August 3 after our service! These people do so much for so many, it is a privilege to contribute to their efforts.

The **Summer mission** for America's Youth was a huge success with over 150 children given school supplies and several boxes of additional supplies to help with their after school programs. Thank you to all who helped America's Youth continue changing the trajectory of young lives!

Our **September mission** for Nassau County Coalition for the Homeless continues in conjunction with our Back to School Sunday celebration "Life is Better Together". A list of needed items and a jug for monetary donations are in the narthex. The Coalition provides many needed services for people who have no place to live here on Amelia Island and in Nassau county. This is a charitable organization funded only by donations and is staffed by volunteers. Along with food and clothing the Coalition also helps with job hunting, housing, and procurement of legal documents such as birth certificates. A speaker from the Coalition is scheduled for Sunday September 28th. He will discuss some of the ways our support can assist neighbors in need, and answer questions. Life truly is "better together", especially when we are able to help each other. September is a busy month! On September 14 there was a legacy Giving Seminar following worship in the fellowship hall.

On September 20 from 5-8pm Thrivent is hosting a "Midnight Masquerade" event in the fellowship hall to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Florida.

Back to Church Sunday is September 21 with a luncheon and fun activities in the fellowship hall after services. Be sure and check out the Sharing Gifts tables. There are lots of ways to share your talents with others!

Our **October mission** will be for ELCA Lutheran Disaster Fund. Tax ID# 41-1568278, 501(c)(3). This disaster fund helps lives and livelihoods on a national and international level. Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, disaster response helpers stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. As global warming continues to impact weather world wide and politics become more chaotic, our help is crucial and needed now more than ever.

October events include stewardship information throughout the month. This is a chance to learn more about all that we do here at Prince of Peace and different ways we can help people in need.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED

Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday will be October 26. We are so excited about our confirmation class! We appreciate them, and welcome them as members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. There will be a reception in the narthex following services. [Congratulations](#) to our confirmands and their families!

Our **November mission** is a special one! We are collaborating with Barnabas to celebrate Thanksgiving by providing ten families all items needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The supplies and turkeys will be purchased by Prince of Peace with monetary donations and delivered to Barnabas at least a week before Thanksgiving for their distribution to needy families. A donation jug will be in the narthex, and any additional donated items will also be taken to Barnabas the week before Thanksgiving. This mission will most likely begin toward the middle of October so monies can be collected and purchasing can begin.

Future Events

We will again be supporting Shop with a Cop in November, as well as our Thanksgiving mission with Barnabas. A separate container for Shop with a Cop donations will be in the narthex also.

The **December mission** will be our annual Advent Tree and will start in November before Advent begins. We will provide gifts for one or two families. More details to come.

Thank you to everyone who helps us share the love of Jesus!! Enjoy the color and harmony Fall brings, and come join us for worship!!

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

According to Meriam-Webster, the word "fellowship" has been in use since the 12th century but I'm sure that desire to be in a community of interest, activity or experience with others far preceded the 12th century. It will continue long after this century is gone. Thank you God! He did not create us to be alone. Psalms even tells us to make all kinds of noise to celebrate Him and this creation. Those on the fellowship team are simply enablers to help us carry out God's plan. Just recall September 21's Back-to-church-Sunday! The fellowship hall was rocking with all the noise of conversation, only silenced briefly when food entered one's mouth. All ages enjoyed themselves. If you are desirous of contributing to future plans to enjoy God's creation, come join us Tuesday, October 7 at 6PM for our next fellowship planning time. In addition to the monthly birthday celebrations as well any time we can help other events with coffee, juice or a meal, we are looking forward to a campfire/cookout as soon as the weather cooperates, an Octoberfest, communal Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas caroling. Come, be a part of Peace! Help the team and yourself to meet your need for fellowship with others.

Bill Hansberry



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS FOR SEPTEMBER!!!

Sunday School is back into full swing here at Prince of Peace Lutheran. We thank all of our teachers, Kristen and John Mandrick, Robin Howell, Shelley Whitesel, Linda Venditti, and Pastor Ben for braving another year! We have offerings for all ages, Pre K through Adult. Pastor Ben is starting a new study on "*The Forgotten Luther*" on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTING

October 7th

On Tuesday afternoons, starting October 7th at 3:30 PM, we will be doing an in person adult Bible Study. We are trying a new location: Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, located at 960185 Gateway Blvd Suite 105 in Fernandina Beach. This a convenient location for participants who live on Amelia Island, as well as those who have to come "over the bridge"! The coffee shop faces Amelia Island Parkway and is located behind the Speedway Gas Station.

Participants are welcome to purchase a coffee, tea or lemonade and join us at tables at the back of the shop. The shop owners are willing to host community groups and have agreed to set up a space for us.

John Harris will be leading this study on the book of Ruth, which like much of the Bible, is a story of migration. Biblical migration stories include: 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 Ruth 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! For those of you who wish to purchase the Study Guide, not mandatory, it is available for purchase at Augsburg Fortress Press for \$5.74. It takes about 2 weeks for delivery!

Email John Harris johncarris72@gmail.com or call at 603-748-0623 with any questions.

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



OCTOBER MISSION

Share God's Hope & Healing

Join our October Mission and help people's lives disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations to impact people in need.

Donations are being collected in the giving jar located in the narthex. Whether your gift is large or small, every donation holds the power to change someone's life for the better. Your contributions can make a significant impact.

Follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our October Mission. You will provide support to people affected by a disaster.

Lutheran Disaster Relief operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has received tax-exempt status from the IRS.



October Mission
Lutheran Disaster Response


PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Share God's love, hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.


GIVE to
HELP
OTHERS!

Help bring hope and healing locally & globally with your donations. Place donations in the bottle in the narthex and bring comfort & aid to those in need.



Support Lutheran Disaster Response Today!



Back to Church Sunday

A Day of Faith, Fellowship, and Community

It is a wrap! Back to Church Sunday was a wonderful celebration that brought together God's faithful community.

The day began with Sunday School, where members gathered to learn and grow in their faith together, setting a tone for the rest of the day. During worship, the congregation experienced God's love through uplifting music and heartfelt singing. Pastor Ben delivered an inspiring message, encouraging all who attended to embrace faith and unity.

After worship, everyone enjoyed a luncheon that provided the opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones and strengthen relationships within our church. Members shared their unique talents with committee leaders, supporting and expanding our church's ministry.

Special thanks go out to all the committees and teams whose dedicated efforts made this exceptional day possible. Back to Church Sunday was a true testament to the idea that **LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER.**

Join us in faith and fellowship as we ***Come... Be A Part of Peace!***

George Pester



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.



Baptist Nassau
Edna Swithers

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 /
Linda Pesante / Barry Moore / Edna Swithers

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)

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 October Sponsors

5th: Nick & Sigrid Ivanovic—In honor of granddaughter, Christina's 18th birthday

12th: Open

19th: Open

26th: REFORMATION SUNDAY—

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 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.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

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boette10@gmail.com

Carolyn Krause
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Garrett Price
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Dennis Purdy
dennis.purdy36@gmail.com

Duane Whitesel
ddwhitesel@outlook.com

2025 Congregational Financial Report

YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCOME VS. TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

Year To Date Income Thru August 31, 2025

General Contributions	\$204,015
Miscellaneous Income	\$0
Keep It Simple	\$1,880
Rental Income	\$1,500
Earned Investment Income	\$3,309
Transfers from Savings	\$46,000
Fund Fundraising	<u>\$4,760</u>



Year TO Date Total Income	\$261,465
Year TO Date Total Expenses	<u>\$254,058</u>
Difference Year To Date Income Versus Expenses	\$7,407
BEAR Fund	\$11,354
Disaster Recovery Fund Balance	\$11,592
Mortgage Balance Remaining	\$144,817
Endowment Fund	\$87,330

Special Note From Church Council

1. Generous additional donations of \$6,417.80 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 July/August expenses exceeding income.
3. Lightkeepers are fundraising with total of \$5,722.68 towards 2027 National Youth Gathering.

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.



**ROOTED IN GOD'S GRACE: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AT PRINCE OF PEACE!
2025 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE TO FOCUS ON OUR TIME AND TALENTS!**

"Then the father said to him, 'You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.'" (Luke 15:31)

To all my sisters and brothers in Christ at Prince of Peace:

Thank you for all that you do to keep our Ministry active here at Prince of Peace, both in keeping the Congregation going and in reaching out to our neighbors outside of our doors. But, as you know, in the daily distractions of our lives and the cares of the world, and in a perspective of scarcity that pervades our culture, we sometimes forget the overwhelming grace that the father shows the older son in the parable of the Prodigal. You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

God makes this promise to each one of us and in God's economy there is enough for everyone. God's abundance flows over us in the waters of baptism, we see it every week embodied in the bread and wine of Christ's table where everyone is welcome, and we see it in our own lives with the gifts and talents that God provides for us to share with our neighbors in a world in sore need of grace, mercy, and compassion.

Over the four Sundays in October, we will invite four members of our Congregation, in a brief Temple Talk, to tell us why they do what they do for our Congregation. What drives them to use their time and talents to come in early on a Sunday morning to teach our children, or to fix the plumbing in the Ladies Room, to cook a meal for a perfect stranger, or to lead our choir in a hymn of praise. Each of their stories, I suspect, will be illustrations of how God uses their hands to tell of His grace and abundance. I don't know how many people have noticed but Pastor Ben has put on our sign on Atlantic Ave. that "Love Abides Here." It certainly does! We offer an alternative vision for the world: instead of isolation, there is community, rather than uncertainty, there is the rootedness of God's grace, rather than scarcity, there is abundance.

Sometime in early October, you will receive a mailing from Prince of Peace. The mailing will contain three items. You will receive the 3rd quarter statement of your contributions; a time, talents, and treasure pledge card; and finally, a notice for our annual meeting on Nov. 9th following the Sunday service. When you receive the pledge card, prayerfully consider the abundance that God has given you in time, talents, and treasure and give as generously as you can. As surely as love abides here at Prince of Peace, let us abide in God's graciousness, sharing with us the abundance of God's creation, and let us share in kind the gifts God has given us for building up God's presence in and for the world.

On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2nd, as we honor the memory of the Prince of Peace Saints that have gone before us, and the time, talents, and treasure that was part of their legacy to us, I believe it is fitting that we, the future Saints, present our pledges for 2026 during our Offertory time.

In Christ,

John Harris, Stewardship Leader

I would like to thank the New England Synod of the ELCA for many of the ideas in this letter. I also would ask the Congregation to consider the Endowment Board's Seminar on Legacy Giving on Sunday, Sept. 12th.



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 September 15, 2025

(See detailed Committee reports in the newsletter)

Midweek prayer and praise is now taking place at the Foxtail Coffee shop in the Wildlight shopping center – from 6:30-7:30 pm. Four-six people are attending with interest expressed by passers-by.

Confirmation is planned for Sunday, October 26th. Confirmands will be considered full voting members of the church.

Recruitment continues for an organist/pianist.

A Bible study on the Book of Ruth will be held on Tuesday afternoons through October, starting October 7th @ 3:30pm at the Holy Grounds Coffee Shop. A Zoom Bible study on the Book of Job is being planned for January.

October will have a focus on stewardship with brief temple talks during October services. Stewardship pledge cards (including time & talents) will be included in the mailing of 3rd quarter giving statements. The mailing will also include a formal announcement of the November 9th Annual Meeting.

Discussion regarding unsatisfactory cleaning service of the church. Alternatives are being explored by the Property chair.

The draft 2026 budget was approved and will be included in the annual report for the congregation to review and vote on at the November 9th annual meeting.

Annual reports are due to Terry by October 6th so they will be available for distribution prior to the annual meeting.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Krause, President of the Church Council



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	ctylerodom@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