



Prince of Peace News

September 2025

Back To Church

SUNDAY

LIFE IS BETTER
TOGETHER

WORSHIP
with us!

September 21st



2600 ATLANTIC AVENUE, FERNANDINA BEACH, FL
32034

OFFICE HOURS 9AM-4PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Come... Be A Part of Peace!



Pastor's Reflections for September 2025



Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and from your sisters and brothers here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We have had a wonderful August as the children returned to school and programming is starting back up here in the congregation for the fall season. We hope to see everyone getting back into the swing of all the great groups and events we have coming up including Choir, Bell Choir, Sunday School, Mid-week Bible Study, and All Committee night. Our congregation is a vibrant place for everyone to take part in living out their faith in Jesus, where God has placed them.

Our Youth group last year picked the name "Light Keeper's" with the image of a lighthouse to represent them and their identity in our congregation and in the community. The vibrancy of the image of a lighthouse shining out in the middle of the night reminds me of our church family here at Prince of Peace. We are shining the love of Jesus all through our community and every visitor that comes in shares with me that they love the welcome and atmosphere that we cultivate in our congregation. At our baptism services when we receive our baptismal candle, we read Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." We do this to bless our new brother or sister with an authentic faith that will emanate from them in everything that they do. Here at Prince of Peace we have a glow that radiates from the congregation to everyone around us. That is the light of Christ that shines for all to see the love we have for God and neighbor genuinely expressed by all of the people here. As you go about your weekly routine reflect on how you shine the love of Christ into the world around you. Sometimes it is difficult to see, especially when you are looking at yourself. However, that light is shining through you. It is there in the compassion and care you have for others, in the honesty with which you do your tasks, and in the effort that you make to accomplish the goals that you have set before you. It is in these places and many more that the light of Christ shine through you for the world to bare witness too. For this I want to thank all of you because it is through your authentic faith that the work of God is being done in the World as the Holy Spirit works in, with, and under all of you to bring about the Kingdom of God in the world.

God Loves you, And so do I,

Pastor Ben

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Summer season is over (even though in Florida the summer weather is not over!). Hurricane season is reaching its peak. The days are getting shorter, and school has started. POP is also gearing up for a busy fall with Sunday school, Adult Bible Study, budget planning, and preparation for November 9th Annual meeting.

My memories of fall from Wisconsin are different - the days and nights get cooler, and the trees start to change color. But even in Florida, the fall season brings changes, and they remind me of the energy, warmth and welcome that fills our church and our outreach into the community. POP offers many examples of generosity and love through large and small acts such as a smile, a helping hand, a word of encouragement, educational offerings, preparing and serving a meal to those in need, donating to the monthly mission, and offering love and hope to those in prison. Our shared mission continues to thrive, uplifted by the dedication of every member and the Holy Spirit that sustains us.

We are truly blessed by this Prince of Peace community.

Carolyn Krause

Worship Assistants Schedule

<u>Role</u>	7th- Sunday After Pentecost	14th- Sunday After Pentecost	21st- Sunday After Pentecost	28th- Sunday After Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Tanya Adin	Richard Figueroa	Yuli Fosso	Lill Ekwall
Scripture Reader	Robin Howell	Mark Foutz	Tanya Adin	Pat Harris
Ushers	Ed Marotz Les Boette	Dennis Purdy Ted Richardson	Rich Ekwall John Harris	Garrett Price George Pester
Greeter	Sam Serrian	Janelle Purdy	Tanya Adin	B.J. Taylor
Altar/ Lay Assistant	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Donna Cormier / Edna Swithers	Eileen Klein	Cyndi Zenker
Tellers	Patti Marotz Gene Kilcawley	Susan Foutz Les Boette	Eileen Klein Linda Pesante	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.

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-LABOR DAY— CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	2 All Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	3 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30—7:30 PM	4 Ladies Group Back on “October 2nd at 10:00 am” Budget Planning Meeting 6:00 PM	5 Bell Choir Practice 10:00 am Property Use Committee Meeting 6:00pm	6 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
7 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY Sunday School 9:00 am <i>“The Forgotten Luther”</i> Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Endowment Temple Talk 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	8 Men’s Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM	9 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 PM	10 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30—7:30 PM	11	12 Bell Choir Practice 10:00 am	13 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Confirmation Class in Library 9:00—11:00 am
14 Sunday School 9:00 am <i>“The Forgotten Luther”</i> Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship & Endowment Temple Talk 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship Endowment— Legacy Giving Seminar After Worship	15 Men’s Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	16 <i>Newsletter Articles Deadline</i>	17 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30—7:30 PM	18	19 Bell Choir Practice 10:00 am	20 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Thrivent— Murder Mystery Fundraiser from 5:00—8:00 pm
21 <i>BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY</i> Sunday School 9:00 am <i>“The Forgotten Luther”</i> Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	22 Men’s Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	23 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 PM	24 Choir Practice 4:00-5:00pm Praise & Fellowship Service at Foxtail Coffee Shop, Yulee 6:30—7:30 PM	25	26 Bell Choir Practice 10:00 am	27 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
28 Sunday School 9:00 am <i>“The Forgotten Luther”</i> Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coalition for Homeless Speaker After Worship POP Band Practice After Worship	29 Men’s Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00 -1:30 pm	30				

Upcoming Events



Thrivent Financial will be hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser

"Midnight at the Masquerade"

benefitting Lutheran Social Services of Florida

on

Saturday, September 20th from 5pm—8pm here at Prince of Peace.

(Heavy Appetizers & Deserts Provided)

Please join us at either location for an interactive evening with food and your detective skills. Dressing up is encouraged.

In lieu of charging admission for this event, please consider donating to the organization.

A representative will be on hand at each event to receive your donation.

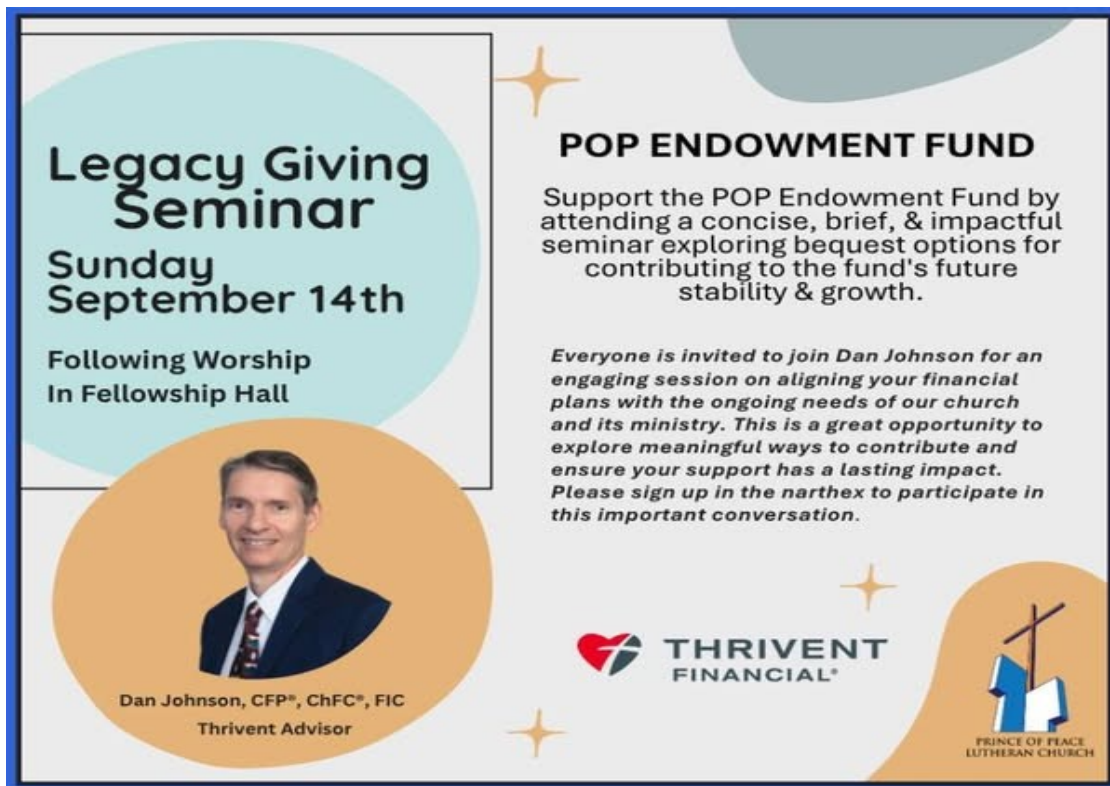
Call or email Jennifer Johnson at jennifer.johnson@thrivent.com, 904-559-8171.

thrivent[®]


Upcoming Events

POP Endowment Fund Update Session **September 14th**

Join us for a special meeting focused on Legacy Giving opportunities for our endowment fund. This session will provide insights into how planned gifts can support the long-term future of our church for generations to come.





Legacy Giving Seminar
Sunday September 14th
Following Worship
In Fellowship Hall


Dan Johnson, CFP®, ChFC®, FIC
Thrivent Advisor

POP ENDOWMENT FUND
Support the POP Endowment Fund by attending a concise, brief, & impactful seminar exploring bequest options for contributing to the fund's future stability & growth.

Everyone is invited to join Dan Johnson for an engaging session on aligning your financial plans with the ongoing needs of our church and its ministry. This is a great opportunity to explore meaningful ways to contribute and ensure your support has a lasting impact. Please sign up in the narthex to participate in this important conversation.

 **THRIVENT FINANCIAL®**


PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Back to Church
SUNDAY
September 21st

LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday School 9AM

Worship Service 10AM

Fellowship Luncheon & Activities
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

JOIN US AT BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY !

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Join Us for National Back to Church Sunday

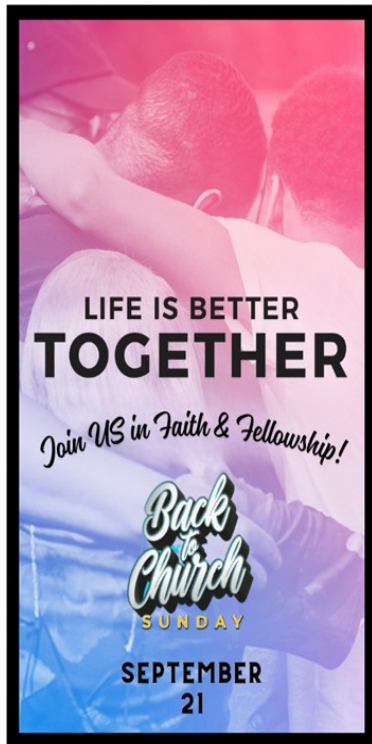
Come together with us on September 21st for National Back to Church Sunday—a special day to invite friends and family for a meaningful time of worship and spiritual renewal.

This year, we are focusing on the theme “Life is Better Together.” Everyone is encouraged to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors, and invite them to church and discover the warmth, hope, and support that our community at Prince of Peace provides.

Be sure to join us for Sunday School and worship, followed by a festive fellowship luncheon filled with fun and connection. Visit the Sharing Gifts table to find out how you can participate in church leadership, various roles, and activities, and discover ways to share your unique talents.

Experience the joy of faith, fellowship, and unity at Prince of Peace. Let’s come together to celebrate the blessings of community and the joy found in gathering together.

George Pester



YOUTH & ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9AM

WORSHIP SERVICE with Holy Communion

10AM

Fellowship Lunch following worship

With a Sharing Gifts Table & activities for all



Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Psalm 150:1-2

FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD AT BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY *A Winning Combination!*

After our Back to Church Sunday worship, we invite everyone to remain for a time of fellowship and food—a celebration of community & connection.



Instead of heading to a restaurant, join us in our fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious spread of pulled pork with all the fixings. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in God's purpose for our church, reconnect with friends, and welcome new faces over a hearty luncheon. Children are welcome to enjoy activities designed just for them and enjoyable for all ages.

Sign up in the narthex to ensure your spot at this special event. Don't miss this chance to share God's grace and build lasting bonds within our community.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3



Share Your Gifts and Talents ***Get Involved in Our Church & Community***



Are you interested in finding ways to share your gifts and talents with our church? Join us at the BTCS fellowship luncheon after worship, where a special “Sharing Gifts” table will provide all the information you need to become involved.

Ways to Serve

There are many ways you can contribute during worship: become a worship leader or assistant, sing with the choir or bell choir, serve as an usher or greeter, or volunteer as a reader. If you have musical abilities, consider joining the POP band.

Consider joining one of our groups, such as the Potters Daughters Ladies Group, which focuses on faith and sisterhood, or the Nehemiah Men's Property Group and Garden Helpers, dedicated to maintaining and beautifying our campus. Get involved in Fellowship and spread God's love with a variety of social programs.

If you're interested in sharing leadership skills, you can join the Church Council or share your expertise with the POP Endowment Fund. Assistance in the church office is always appreciated as well.

Learn about our Outreach and Community Missions. You can help those in need by volunteering with our missions, including the Interfaith Dinner Network, Barnabas, Salvation Army bell ringing, working with America Youth, and addressing other community needs.

Whatever your talents or passions, there's a place for you here. Visit the “Sharing Gifts” table on September 21st to discover all the ways you can get involved and be a part of our vibrant community!



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Leanne Peacock-1st
 Sam Serrian-10th
 Tim Miller-10th
 B.J. Taylor-12th
 Sherry Vaughn-14th
 Tess Mandrick-20th
 Aaron Opheim-22nd
 Emily Pittman-25th
 Les Boette-25th
 Atleigh Cross-27th
 Pastor Ben Mandrick-28th



Bob & B.J. Taylor-3rd
 Eric & Samantha Stommel-15th
 Terry & Darren Smith-19th
 Blake & Nancy Carter-21st
 David & Karen Evans-28th
 George & Michele Pester-28th



BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been on break for the taken time off during the Summer so there is nothing to report at this time. The committee will be back on Tuesday, September 2nd at the All Committee Meeting at 6:00pm. They will be discussing planned music for October and the current status on an organist.



THE LIGHTKEEPERS—YOUTH EVENTS

High School Lightkeepers have also been on Summer Break so there is nothing to report at this time. No events as of yet have been planned for September, but if any are planned we will announce it later.



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 new location, the Foxtail Coffee, 75980 William Burgess Blvd Ste 4, Yulee--Wildlight every Wednesday in September 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



OUTREACH COMMITTEE



As fall arrives and preparations for yearly reports begin, I am so touched by the continuing commitment of this congregation to be the face of Christ to others. It is a privilege to be part of Prince of Peace Lutheran church and to work with such generous and dedicated people.

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. A speaker will be here on Sunday, September 28th and more information will be in the bulletin, as well as on the website. We are excited about this mission that helps so many people in our community!

Our current **August** mission is 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. Two representatives from LSS spoke after Sunday service on August 3rd. They answered questions during our monthly birthday celebration regarding the many crucial programs LSS provides, and the diverse populations they serve. Thank you to both of these representatives for providing an opportunity to learn about this amazing organization! LSS of Northeast Florida tax exempt since 1980, EIN:59-1965600

IDN was August 4th with over 100 people served. Seven volunteers from Prince of Peace Lutheran prepared a menu of pulled BBQ chicken, coleslaw, pork-n-beans, brownies and bananas finished off with water. We served 95 adults and 17 children. America's Youth was closed for after school program preparations so no food was delivered there. Thank you to all who welcomed Brenda and helped her organize her first IDN dinner! A special thank you to Edna for her dedication, service to IDN, and all her help and mentoring! Congratulations to all on a great dinner!

Our **Summer** mission has provided school/art/craft/ supplies for America's Youth, and we will continue to collect donations through August. So far, we have helped provide supplies for over 150 children, as well as supplies for their summer and fall programs. America's Youth has a summer program for children and an after-school program for low-income families. I will deliver the donations as they come in until the end of August. School supplies are so expensive, particularly if there is more than one child. These donations help them to be in school and learning much more manageable and pleasant for the children and their families. Thank you so much to all who contribute!

The **July** mission was in honor of our military. Cards for veteran organizations, veterans at Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation, and veterans in our congregation received cards thanking them for their service. Thank you to Robin Howell for providing cards and organizing the delivery of these cards to our veterans.

Our beach fliers were well received again this year with over 150 beach fliers distributed to hotels and rental agencies.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Our **May** and **June** missions for residents at Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation were a success with over 425 items delivered. The mission ended with a nice Thank You note from their Recreation Director.



Used eyeglasses 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 helpers' volunteers, and good cooks made this a fun way to learn about "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World". A monetary donation was given to Kids to Kids again this year.

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 is providing the hot breakfast, each fifth Wednesday of the month (four times per year). In July, Pat, Jenn Paiz and Kay Stockstill provided the breakfast and Kay delivered it. Robin Phillips has volunteered to help in October. A big thank you to all who help!!

Status specifics of the Nassau Co. Coalition for the Homeless are, 501 (c) (3) EIN #26-1663434; tax exempt since August 2008. Address 2398 Sadler Rd, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. President Richard Ballard

Future Events

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.

We will continue the annual Shop with Cops mission in **November**. A container for donations will be in the narthex. A positive relationship between policemen and our children is critical and more important now than ever before. The **December** mission will be our annual Christmas tree. We will provide gifts for one or two families. Details to come.

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.

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

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

Linda Pesante



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

August is drawing to a close, so the fellowship team will need to get back in gear. It's not that we haven't been doing anything; just take a look at the cleaned and organized kitchen. Thanks to Donna Lind for directing this project.

Now, it's back to planning all the fun and frolic. We'll be meeting along with the other team meetings on Tuesday evening, August 2, to resume to make plans. The big event in the month of September to be planned will be

Back-to-Church-Sunday. We are looking forward to a great day of fellowship, food and games after the church service. It will be our job to make it a big success. As a warm-up, though, we will be having an evening of ice cream with all the trimmings and a movie on Saturday, the 13th. We also need to brain-storm for ideas for the Fall and holiday seasons. We're looking forward to your joining the team to plan all the fun!

Bill Hansberry



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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*" starting in September 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 johncharris72@gmail.com or call at 603-748-0623 with any questions.



**NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
&
THE NASSAU COUNTY 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 Nassau County 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

LADIES GROUP

The Potter's Daughter are still on Summer break, but will be back on **Thursday, October 2nd at 10:30 am.**

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 on **OCTOBER 2nd!**



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

PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



SEPTEMBER MISSION

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. A speaker will be here on Sunday, September 28th and more information will be in the bulletin, as well as on the website. We are excited about this mission that helps so many people in our community!

Help us make a difference!



SEPTEMBER MISSION



Donate Items or Cash
Please bring your donations to the Narthex

<p><u>Hygiene Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bug spraySunscreenChap stickDisposable RazorsShampooTravel SizeShaving CreamDeodorantBody Lotion	 <p><u>Essentials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper platesPaper bowlsPlastic silverwarePaper napkinsPaper cupsPaper towelsZip lock bagsGarbage bags	<p><u>Food Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Individually wrapped snacksLarge boxes of cerealLarge bottles of 100% juice (not refrigerated)
<p><u>Clothing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Men' & LadiesT- Shirts &Underwear		<p><u>Clothing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sports BrasMen's & LadiesSocks

Cash donations are especially appreciated enabling resources where they are most needed

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.



The poster features a patriotic theme with an American flag graphic on the left that says "America's Youth Inc." A yellow banner at the top right reads "Art & Craft & School Supplies Drive". The title "SUMMER MISSION" is in large, bold, red letters with a blue outline. Below the title are two circular images: one showing four diverse children standing next to a large container of art supplies, and another showing a collection of donated school supplies like paper, glue, and tape. The text "Join our Mission helping kids from low-income families with donations of school supplies & bring donations to the narthex. Make a difference today!" is centered below the images. At the bottom, a box titled "Supplies Needed" lists various items in four columns.

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 September Sponsors

7th: Bob & B.J. Taylor—In honor of 20th Wedding Anniversary

14th: Alice Hansberry—In memory of sister, Sharon Lones

21st: Open

28th: Open

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

Les Boette
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Dennis Purdy
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Duane Whitesel
ddwhitesel@outlook.com

2025 Congregational Financial Report

YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCOME VS. TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

Year To Date Income Thru July 31, 2025

General Contributions	\$187,699
Miscellaneous Income	\$0
Keep It Simple	\$1,707
Rental Income	\$1,500
Earned Investment Income	\$3,167
Transfers from Savings	\$26,000
Fund Fundraising	<u>\$4,299</u>



Year TO Date Total Income	\$224,372
Year TO Date Total Expenses	<u>\$224,088</u>
Difference Year To Date Income Versus Expenses	\$285
BEAR Fund	\$11,354
Disaster Recovery Fund Balance	\$11,592
Mortgage Balance Remaining	\$146,731
Endowment Fund	\$36,457

Special Note From Church Council

1. Generous additional donations of \$6,217.84 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.

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.



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 Sunday, September 14th after worship**. 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 August 18, 2025

(See detailed Committee reports in the newsletter)

Although the mid-week service at FSJC in Yulee has been well received and attended by 6-12 people, the contract will not be renewed for space rental in September. Alternate space that will not require a rental fee is being explored with the plan for an informal, Bible study type of format.

Recruitment continues for an organist/pianist. There have been a couple of inquiries into the position which are being pursued by Duane Whitesell and Pastor Ben. The Council is praying one of these options will be the right one for POP.

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

The All-Committee meeting will be held on September 2 at 6PM. This meeting will focus on budget preparation for 2026 and provide Committee and congregational members with an opportunity to have input into activities and budget needs for 2026. Following the September 2 meeting the frequency of All-Committee meetings will be evaluated with input from the Committee liaisons.

Committee and congregational budget worksheets are due to Robin Phillips by September 4. The Council budget meeting is scheduled for September 11th with the Council to approve the 2026 budget at the September 15th Council meeting.

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.

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 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	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