

# DEC 2020

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE

## Advent



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We're sponsoring thirty local children for Christmas

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## CHRISTMAS EVE AT PRINCE OF PEACE

My memories of Christmas Eve worship at Prince of Peace inspire and thrill me. Singing with acolytes around cross and scripture in the middle of the sanctuary; lighting candles with a sanctuary of expectant sisters and brothers; hearing the joyous fruit of much hard work by our choir and instrumentalists. It is indeed a blessed time to share in the wonder of our Lord made flesh and being birthed for the sake of all the world.

*continued...*

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# CHRISTMAS EVE

*continued...*

Once again, we must say that because of the virus, we have not yet decided whether we can worship in-person on Christmas Eve.

Your leaders have engaged in a long discussion about the various issues involved in this decision. The staff has been considering several options for months. Because of recent increases in positivity rates, we are waiting until the first 2 weeks of the month to make a final decision.

Please be assured that when the decision is made, we will publicize our plans for Christmas Eve worship in every avenue that we are able. Thank you for your understanding, and let us continue to pray the Spirit's guidance for us in these days.

Pastor Joe

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## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TASK GROUP

# HOW CAN I KEEP... FROM GIVING?

For weeks we have been asking that question as God's people. While this year has certainly been a difficult one for everyone, we have seen consistent reminders of how God draws us together and how we respond to God's love.

Vacation Bible School assumed a new and innovative approach allowing families to participate and grow. We continue our quilt making, and our talented sewing crew have even expanded to making face masks. Our 60th Anniversary did not turn us inward. Instead, we reached out and helped a family build a forever home through Habitat for Humanity. We will be giving the final balance of funds to Habitat very soon. Your gifts make a difference!

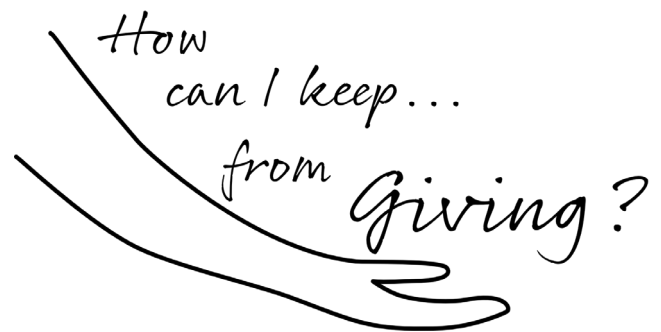
We worship together in person and at a distance with the help of technology and very

skilled friends. What a blessing to stay connected through a time that could have been even more difficult in isolation.

Each day we thank God for all our gifts and talents that make possible our ministry together as Prince of Peace. Thanks be to God for your faithfulness in submitting Estimates of Giving and Time & Talent forms for 2021.

Responses this year, however, are a bit lower, most likely due to the challenges we have been facing. We understand if submitting an EOG now is difficult, but if you are able at this time to do so, we encourage you. These estimates help our leaders in planning for 2021.

Our tithes and offerings to our Lord surely make a difference



*How  
can I keep...  
from  
Giving?*

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in the lives of friends in the community around us. And they make a difference as we seek to Welcome, Worship, Learn and Serve our Lord as God's people in this place.

We thank the Lord for all that we have received and all that we are blessed to give.

**Your Stewardship Task Group,**  
Kim Adams  
Mike Carmody  
Kari Sheppard  
Pr. Joe



**WED DEC 16 / ONLINE OPPORTUNITY**

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Long a tradition of Prince of Peace, our St. Lucia Lessons and Carols has provided a time of seasonal music, both vocal and instrumental, with lessons tracing the prophetic anticipation of the coming Lord. The popular tradition of Lucia and a delightful reception always add to the celebration.

While in 2020 we will not be able to experience this time together in person, we will have a different Lessons and Carols observance. On Wednesday, December 16 we will send to you an opportunity to share in the song and word of Advent Evening Prayer. The recording will come in our usual Wednesday email.



**BEGINS WED DEC 2**

## TAKE TEN: SONGS OF ADVENT

In the spring we began a series called Songs of Lent...Songs of Easter. Make no mistake, God has blessed us with composers and writers inspired by the Holy Spirit. With melodies and words that stir our hearts, they have helped us learn and grow in our understanding of the Lord our God. On the coming Wednesdays in December, we will explore the songs of Advent and ponder the themes of this hope-filled season. Join us and share it with a friend.



**OUTDOORS / WEDNESDAYS NOON / DEC 2, 9, 16, & 23**

## MIDWEEK ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

We are indeed needing to make adjustments to schedules and more because of the virus. But in the busy-ness and stress of the season, it is a blessing still to share in a quiet midweek time of turning aside during Advent.

Instead of gathering in the Chapel, we will gather outdoors under the Portico just outside the Sanctuary door. Chairs will be appropriately spaced. We will hear scripture, sing songs of the season and share in Holy Communion.

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## SPONSORING 30 LOCAL CHILDREN

# ANGEL TREE: BE AN ANGEL

**O**ur Angel Tree is up and in the narthex! We are sponsoring 30 local children in partnership with Lutheran Services of Florida. Each paper angel represents a foster child and includes one of their four gift wishes. Please consider taking an angel or two to put a smile on their face this Christmas morning.

This year we have an additional small tree in the Church Office if you would like to pick up an angel during the week. Gifts can be returned on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the office during the week. Gifts must be returned unwrapped with the original paper angel that you took from the tree attached to them by Sunday, Dec. 13. Gift cards may also be purchased and angel requests will be filled by members of the Nurture Commission. Questions? Call Angie Pryor: 727.768.9961.



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SUN JAN 6

# EPIPHANY – FEAST OF LIGHTS

**O**n Epiphany, we recall the journey of the Magi, the Wise Men, who travel long distances seeking out the One born king. Here at Prince of Peace we have always marked this day with a time to review the entire Advent/Christmas/Epiphany story of our Lord coming into the world.

This year's Epiphany observance will be unique. Yes, there will be music and readings. And there will be friends dressed to create a tableau reminding us of the participants in this holy drama. But this year we all will participate in this time of worship from a distance in a different way. We will be sharing more about the service in the days ahead.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH POP

### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

We don't want anyone to miss our communications to you. Have you changed an email or a phone number? Let us know contacting MJ at [mj@poplargo.org](mailto:mj@poplargo.org) or 727-585-9969.



**WED DEC 2 / 7PM**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

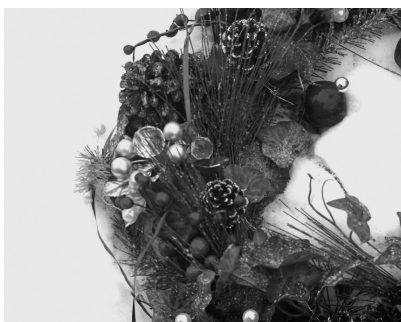
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening December 2 at 7pm. Unfortunately, we will not be able to enjoy a meal together as is our custom. But we will gather briefly to take care of our necessary business: elections, appointments and consideration of our Ministry Spending Plan for 2021. The pastors will briefly present their reports, and we will also hear reports regarding the status of Preschool and Ruth's Promise ministries given the year's challenges. Please plan to attend in person or contact the Church Office for the Zoom Link.



**DEC 11 / 10-11:30AM / VIA ZOOM**

## A LITTLE SEASONAL CONVERSATION

For many of us, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be really different this year. Join us for a ZOOM conversation to share ways of healthy coping and feel caring support from friends ( ZOOM really isn't hard to access on your computer or Smart Phone). Parish Nurse Jane and Pastor Ann are looking forward to our conversation together. Call the Church Office 727-585-9969 and let us know you're going to join the conversation. Parish Nurse Jane and Pastor Ann will facilitate these meetings.



**DROP OFF ITEMS DEC 6 THRU DEC 10**

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Many people and families have been affected by the pandemic. This year we ask you, as you are able, to join us as we collect food to bless families during this Advent season. You can drop off the items listed below Sunday December 6 thru Thursday December 10. The items will be made into baskets and given to families right before Christmas. Join us as we remind and share Christ's light with others.

### List for Food Baskets:

Boxed stuffing  
Cranberry sauce  
Gravy packets  
Pasta  
Publix Gift Cards

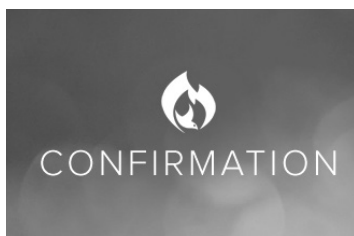
Boxed cornbread  
Canned Sweet Corn  
Mac n Cheese  
Dessert- cake, brownie, cookie mixes





## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children and Youth Sunday School are continuing on Zoom at this time. All students and teachers gather in the same “room” on Zoom and then are split up by age group for our learning time into break out rooms. Parents and teachers will receive a link by email. Please contact Pastor Adam if you have not received a link.



## YOUTH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Throughout the fall our confirmation students have had the option to meet on Zoom or in person each week. Confirmation classes are taking a break and will resume on January 13. Every other week our high school youth gather for Bible Study and youth group at 6:15pm.



## YOUNG ADULTS

On November 24 our young adults gathered to cook Thanksgiving meals for POP members who are not able to be out around family this year. Please let Pastor Adam, Kristen, or Angie Pryor ([angiepryor@rocketmail.com](mailto:angiepryor@rocketmail.com)) know if you or a young adult in your life would like to know more about upcoming events.

### SUNDAYS IN ADVENT ON ZOOM

## FAMILY ADVENT WREATHS

Each Sunday in Advent POP families will be gathering on Zoom at 4pm for a brief time of prayer and devotion as we light our Advent Wreaths. Families with children received an “Advent at Home” bag to help them prepare for this season. If your family did not receive a bag and would like one, please let Pastor Adam know. The entire congregation is invited to these devotion times led by POP families, if you would like the zoom link, email Pastor Adam, [pastoradam@poplargo.org](mailto:pastoradam@poplargo.org).





LED BY TOM OLSON ON ZOOM

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

**Meetings schedule:** December 14 & 28.

PoP is hosting an online Bible study via Zoom to study Paul's letter to the fledgling Colossian church. We are meeting twice monthly. The next session is at 2:30 pm. If interested, please call the church office or Tom Olson at 727-518-8370 to sign up. The Sunday before, you will receive an email with details of the meeting and a link to the Zoom website.



## UPCOMING CONCERTS



**JANUARY 31, 2021 / 3PM**

**ASTRALIS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

Music for flute, trumpet,  
and harp



**FEBRUARY 21, 2021 / 3PM**

**THREE ORGAN SPECTACULAR!**

Music for choir, handbells,  
and three organs



**MARCH 28, 2021 / 3PM**

**RING SARASOTA**

Florida's premier handbell  
ensemble

**NOVEMBER 16 2020**

## COUNCIL MEETING

- + Engaged in protracted discussion regarding worship opportunities with virus positivity rates rising; agreed after hearing all viewpoints to abide by the final decision of the staff
- + Received report of current status of "How Can I Keep...from Giving?" emphasis, with comparison data from previous years
- + Voted to give \$500 from First Fruits fund to ELCA Disaster Response for hurricane relief



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## DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Shirley Acker  
Ryan Aurie  
Linda Baker  
Kim Beringer  
Maxine Bignotti  
Sherita Buckner  
Terri Carmody  
Cooper Casasnovas  
Alex Delarosa  
Amriana Delarosa  
Signy Elmore  
Sharon Hadada

Lynette Hartmann  
Nelson Hawkins  
Dylan Iusi  
Mark Iusi  
Debra Jaramillo  
Kylee Lane  
Ausma Mackus  
Phyllis Majer  
Brenda Mason  
Rodney Mason  
Christopher Mateo Jr.  
Tyler Metz

Wilmette Morris  
Nancy Pappas  
James Patton  
Stefanie Porta  
Ridgely Potter  
Ridgely Potter Jr.  
Margi Prater  
Calob Pryor  
Doug Pryor  
Jacob Pryor  
Livia Pryor  
Rich Rayner

George Rothfuss  
Jane Rubinic  
Billie Jean Sachs  
Bonnie Sterry  
Anson Surplus  
Cindy Taylor  
Rae Arden Tipton  
Carol Turrell  
Jack Zachow  
Chloe Zitzelberger  
Jaida Zitzelberger  
Jean Zoller



**WEB** [poplargo.org](http://poplargo.org) | **FACEBOOK** @POPLargo | **ON YOUTUBE**

**HOURS** MON-FRI 8:30am-2:30pm | 727.585.9969 | [info@poplargo.org](mailto:info@poplargo.org)

**PRESCHOOL** | 727.585.9790 | [preschool@poplargo.org](mailto:preschool@poplargo.org)