

FEB 2021

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE

*journeying together in the wilderness*LENT **PAGE 2**
LENT FOCUS

Sharing our journey in faith
through prayer and worship

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Collecting canned food and
donations for those in need

OBSERVING LENT

I have always thought the expression “observing Lent” to be humorous. When I think of “observing” anything, whether it be children on the playground or, as in recent months, a man dressed in a pizza suit [that’s right!] at the airport, I am giving it a passing glance. Maybe making a mental note. Just looking on.

But observing a season of the Church means more. This kind of observing means getting involved. Turning to the writings and prayers of the season and letting them plant you firmly into its

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OBSERVING LENT

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themes. For centuries many Christians have immersed themselves in the life of the Church, observing the seasons, as a way of “seeking the Lord,” as the scriptures teach us.

So, in Lent as we look to our Lord, we turn to the ancient disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer and acts of charity. We observe such disciplines. We practice them, as a means of

focusing on our Lord, who came giving himself for us. In our fasting we set aside those things that distract us from our Lord’s path. We turn more intentionally to prayer and listen for our Lord. We follow more closely our Lord’s example of loving service for all.

Through worship, serving, study, prayer, Lent stirs us in our discipleship, all the while reminding us of the journey



on which the Spirit set us since we dripped with baptismal waters. Come, let us observe this season of Lent together.

LENT AT PRINCE OF PEACE

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WILDERNESS DOESN'T STAY IN THE WILDERNESS

Throughout scripture we have stories of wilderness days. There are familiar ones like Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness to the promised land and our Lord being tempted by the evil one in the wilderness. But there are more. From Abraham to Elijah, Joseph even to our Lord’s disciples, we see examples of wilderness times in the lives of God’s people.

The past year has been a wilderness time for all of us. With lives, routines, incomes and even relationships touched by the virus, we find ourselves in places we thought we would never be. Isolated from those we love. Fearful of becoming ill. Frustrated with not being able to do the things we enjoy. Even learning how to worship “at a distance” from brothers and sisters in Christ. A wilderness time to be sure.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER

During Lent our Wednesday prayer times will focus upon the wilderness times we all experience. How do we survive these times? How are we able to make our way through them? As we emerge from these times, what will accompany us in days ahead? And where is God in all this? Let’s open our hearts in these Lenten days to all the possibilities of God with us.

February 17	Walking in the Wilderness
February 24	Tears
March 3	Trust
March 10	Prayer
March 17	Peace, Love
March 24	Hope

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING FEB 17

MIDWEEK IN LENT

As we schedule Lenten worship, we are confronted with choices that have plagued us for more than a year. At the printing of this newsletter, we are uncertain whether we will experience Evening Prayer in person or at a distance. In the next two weeks we will be checking the status of positivity rates for the virus in our area. We will communicate through all our channels how we will move ahead in our worship schedules in the season.

Regardless whether we worship in person, we will email a video link for a Midweek Advent Devotion each week. No doubt, this year's Lenten journey



will be strange, just as our journey in 2020 was interrupted as the virus began its spread. Even so, we share in this season of our journey with faith in the One who goes with us “behind and before.”



SUN FEB 14

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Transfiguration Sunday is the other “bookend” of the Sundays following the Epiphany of our Lord. The first one is the Baptism of our Lord. These two festivals surround the days after the Epiphany when we hear stories of our Lord beginning his ministry. There are often accounts where we see our Lord's identity being revealed little by little, until we find ourselves on the mountain with our Lord and Peter, James and John. There on the mountaintop in the brightness of Jesus' transfiguration, these disciples and the rest of us learn just who this man of Nazareth is.



WED FEB 17

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, the passageway into Lent, comes February 17. Because of the virus positivity rates in the county, we will decide by February 10 whether our Ash Wednesday worship will take place in person or online. Even if we must worship online, we will have opportunities to receive ashes and Holy Communion in the same fashion that we have done so with the sacrament on Sunday afternoons. Again, we will communicate our plans starting February 10 by email and other channels.



SUNDAYS IN FEB AFTER 10AM WORSHIP

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Inquirers' Class of 2021 continues in February. If you would like to learn more of the Lutheran tradition of the faith or more about our ministries here at Prince of Peace, join us.

We will be meeting in the Parish Hall between worship times on Sunday mornings. We will be well spread out with plenty of fresh air, meeting much as other groups do now.

Friends who have been attending the Inquirers' Class will be joining the congregation at worship on Sunday February 14.

WINTER CONCERTS POSTPONED

AFFS SERIES UPDATE

It is unfortunate that we must postpone our planned concerts for this winter. We are hopeful that our expanded concert series will begin in October of 2021. Donations, large and small, help to maintain the concert series and allow us to bring outstanding performers to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Please consider supporting Art For Faith's Sake at a giving level comfortable for you by emailing Shawn Thomas at shawn@poplargo.org.



THE LORD'S PRAYER SERIES

TAKE TEN PAUSED DURING LENT

Our Take Ten series pondering the Lord's Prayer will continue after Holy Week. During Lent let the prayer guide you in your daily prayers.



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 or 727-585-9969.



ZOOM CLASS / FRI FEB 12 AT 10AM

2ND FRIDAY ZOOM SUPPORT

We'll encourage, laugh and talk with one another as we journey through 2021. Join Pr. Ann and Jane monthly on Zoom the second Friday at 10am-11:30am. Come be church together as we navigate our way through the months ahead. Please email MJ and/or Jane to sign up for the small group.



TENTATIVE PLANNING UNDERWAY

VBS 2021 & SUMMER CAMPS

Our tentative plan is to hold VBS the week of June 28-July 2. What exactly VBS will look like will depend on the health situation as we near summer. No matter what, we will have VBS in some form. Plans for summer camp are also underway. Our hope is for youth to go to camp the week of July 19-23.



FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FAMILIES

ALLELUIA BANNER DECORATING

This year our children and youth families are invited to decorate a letter for our Alleluia Banner. We will collect all of the letters and put them together for the banner that we will bury on Shrove Tuesday and raise up with shouts of Alleluia on Easter morning. If you have not received a letter and would like to decorate one, please contact Pastor Adam by email at pastoradam@poplargo.org.



SUN FEB 21 3PM

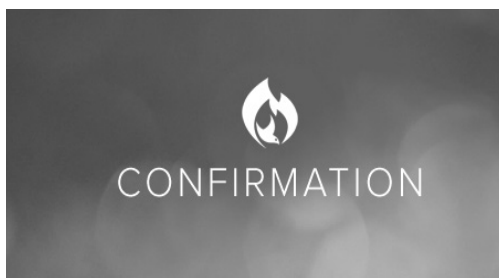
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Cancer support group meets Sunday, February 21 at 3pm in the COC. If you or a loved one is impacted by Cancer, this group is ready to provide support, encouragement, and prayer for you and your family. For more information, contact Jane in the Church Office by email at jane@poplargo.org.



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 resumed on January 13. Every other week our high school youth gather for Bible Study and youth group at 6:15pm.

BENEFITTING THE RCS FOOD BANK

SOUPER BOWL CANNED FOOD & DONATIONS SUNDAY



It started with a simple prayer that gave birth to an idea of looking beyond ourselves, using a time of gathering, fun, football and food to unify our nation to collect money and canned food for those in need. Please consider donating money and/or food Feb 1-Feb 5 at the Church Office. Our youth have decorated shopping carts that will be outside the office. One for the Chiefs and one for our Buccaneers. Drop your food into the cart of the team you are pulling for. All food collected and any monetary donations will go to the RCS Food Bank.

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”



HELPING LARGO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS MENTORS NEEDED

We continue to look for members in our congregation who would like to mentor a student in the Pinellas County School system. Largo Middle School has expressed an urgent need to find a mentor for one of their students. This would involve only a commitment of half an hour each week. Pinellas County is doing all their mentoring virtually, so you would need to have access to a computer or tablet. This is a very rewarding experience, and you can make a big impact in a child's life. You would not be expected to be a tutor, but rather someone the student can talk to and get support from. If you would like to mentor, or have questions about mentoring, contact Frank Beekman at (727) 319-3217.



DONATIONS TO FUGUITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We are grateful that we had an abundance of school supplies donated for the Health and Safety Fair even in the midst of the pandemic! We know that school supplies are not just needed in the beginning of the year but especially needed half way through the school year. There are typically not the same sales and discounts at this time of year. With that said, our church was able to provide many school supplies to students at Fugitt Elementary School this month. We give thanks for the abundance that continues to bless and help others.

JANUARY MEETING

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Reviewed 2020 worship attendance statistics and how such statistics were compiled
- + Heard report from Preschool regarding fewer children than in past years
- + Received year-end report of 2020 financials; approved setting aside monies to different funds for 2021
- + Approved First Fruits gift to Largo Middle School of a water bottle for each youth
- + Voted to approve pastors' housing allowance designations for 2021
- + Received update regarding Paycheck Protection Program and our pre-approval for loan forgiveness



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FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Ken Abkemeier
Ashley Behrendt
Beth Behrendt
Michael Carmody
Kellie Dreger
Ashley Fields

Cynthia Gorski
Tony Hanson
Marilyn Holmes
Mary Kay Koch
Marian Kooiman
Cooper Koryn

Richard Landeen
Karl Mackus
Cailey Mateo
Elizabeth McEntegart
Jon Morris
Carol Murphy

Thomas Olson
Deloris Pudwill
Tim Riley
Casey Temple
Linda Tindall



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