

# JUNE 2023

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE



PAGE **2**  
**UPCOMING AT POP**

Opportunities in worship and learning

PAGE **4**  
**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

Upcoming ministry and serve opportunities

PAGE **6**  
**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

What's upcoming for Children and Youth at PoP.

## SUMMER MONTHS' CHANGE OF PACE

Summer months bring with them change. Sure, schools are not at full capacity and winter friends are not jostling with us in grocery store lines, but life indeed goes on. In fact, one friend pointed out that while many Pinellas County residents head off to parts known and unknown over the summer, many others just stick around, doing their exploring during the “shoulder seasons.” Regardless, God blesses us now with a season together of serving and grace.

*Continued...*

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## SUMMER AT POP

*Continued from cover*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** There are Vacation Bible School adventures to explore; plans to begin formulating for the fall; camp days to walk trails, swim, pray and play together; feeding opportunities for friends to the north and the south of us; times of serving neighbors whose lives are still marked by Hurricane Ian, and much more.

**WORSHIPPING TOGETHER** And there is the steady beat of worship together. Moments to explore scripture together.

Here's a challenge: are you in town this summer? When you are in town, and it is worship day, **BE PRESENT!** Join with all your Christian kin in worship here at Prince of Peace each week. Here the Spirit draws us together, feeds us, nurtures us and then sends us out again in our Lord's blessed name.



**SERVING OTHERS** There are many fine charities in the world around us doing marvelous work. We pray for them, encourage them.

Yet all that God graces us to do—the serving, feeding and so much more—we do as a **RESPONSE** to the life given us in Christ Jesus. Let us then gather each week in praise and prayer to worship the One whose “...name is above every name.”



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**SUNDAYS AT 10AM / COC PEACE ROOM**

## SUNDAY ADULT LEARNING

Our Lord is a master teacher, and so often he uses stories to instruct us. Simple stories. Stories of everyday experiences. And yet sometimes he included characters and settings that would have been downright shocking to his hearers. Let's explore those parables over the summer. No prerequisites required. Just come to the COC Peace Room between worship times on Sunday morning. See you there!



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**JUNE 21, JULY 19, AUG 2 / PARISH HALL**

## WEDNESDAY MOVIE NIGHTS

The Chosen is a crowd-funded television series that takes a unique perspective of our Lord's life. In this series we view our Lord through the eyes of and the impact upon the people around him. Each episode runs about the length of your favorite show. In our time together we will read the passage around which that night's episode revolves and then watch it. After enjoying the episode, we will discuss what we have just watched. And yes, there will be popcorn!



**SUN JUNE 4**

## THE HOLY TRINITY

As a principal festival of the Church, The Holy Trinity stretches back hundreds of years. In fact, celebrations of the mystery of God as Trinity have been recorded in the tenth century. By the 14th century this festival was adopted for the Church's liturgical calendar falling on the Sunday after Pentecost. We recall and celebrate on this day the creating and redeeming power of God the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.



**SUN JUNE 4 FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following worship on Sunday, June 4, there will be a called congregational meeting for the purpose of considering a proposal regarding our pipe organ. The Congregation Council has received a report from Walker Technical Company which outlines improvements to various aspects of our instrument, including surge protection, that will update electronic components for decades to come. Previous electronic work on the 70+ year old instrument took place in 2003. We hope everyone will attend.

**EL PASO TX / APR 26-30**

## ELCA BORDER IMMERSION TRIP

Eighty young adults applied for the ELCA Young Adult Border Immersion Trip and 15 were selected. The trip was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Border Servant Corps, Lutheran Immigrant Refugee Service, ELCA Advocacy, and ELCA Young Adults. Kristen Theile had the honor to be selected. This experience is an accompaniment-style immersion program, where the participants heard first hand educational experiences about border issues. Throughout their experience, the group embarked on profound exploration of the complexities surrounding immigration. They were granted unique opportunities to engage with and learn from first-generation immigrants, visit local organizations and churches dedicated to supporting immigrant populations, hold meaningful discussions with government officials regarding border protection and law enforcement, and gain insights into immigration law and the economic policies that shape the realities faced by individuals residing along the border. By immersing themselves

in the stories and experiences of those directly affected, the participants sought to cultivate a deep understanding of the challenges and realities faced by individuals at the border.

This transformative experience left an indelible mark on each participant, expanding their knowledge, and nurturing their dedication through faith for a more just and compassionate approach to immigration. If you would like to hear more about Kristen's trip and experience, she would love to talk with you after worship or by email Kristin at [kristen@poplargo.org](mailto:kristen@poplargo.org).





SAT JULY 29

## HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

Our Health and Safety Fair will take place Saturday, July 29! Please save the date as we ask for your help to serve at this event. A core value at PoP is to serve. At our Health and Safety fair we do that by handing out new school supplies, books, offering free physicals, food, and community support.

**SERVE OPPORTUNITY** If you would like to serve and help kids in our community, please contact Kristen Theile for more information at [kristen@poplargo.org](mailto:kristen@poplargo.org).



JUNE 4-JUNE 9

## FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

PoP will be collecting food for Hope Villages of America's food pantry. Hope Villages provides nutritious food to our Pinellas County neighbors who need help stretching their grocery budget. Annually, they serve 70,000 neighbors of which 32,000 of these neighbors are senior citizens and children. Over 6 million lbs of food is distributed from our warehouse annually. We are grateful for your food donations.

WEEK OF JUNE 12-16

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

There are only a couple of spots left for Vacation Bible School at Prince of Peace the week of June 12-16. We are excited to welcome counselors from Luther Springs who will lead our children through their day camp curriculum. Children and youth ages K-8th grade will learn, sing, pray, and play alongside of their counselors. **Check out [poplargo.org/vbs](http://poplargo.org/vbs) for information and to register.**

**SERVE** High school youth and adults will also help to make VBS a success, supporting counselors and leading crafts and service opportunities for the participants. It is not too late to sign up to help. Sign up at [poplargo.org/vbs](http://poplargo.org/vbs) or speak with Pastor Adam.

**SUPPLIES** In the coming weeks keep an eye out on Sunday mornings and in the emails for items that we will need for crafts and activities. Any help you are able to provide will be greatly appreciated!



Register at [poplargo.org/vbs](http://poplargo.org/vbs)

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## STORYS OF GOD'S GRACE

In May as we came to the end of the Easter season, we explored the story of Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. In June we turn our focus to the story of the Great Commission. Jesus gathers his disciples together and

gives them a mission for what it means to be the church. Children and youth will engage with this story as part of Vacation Bible School and 3M Mondays. Check out the placemat for June at [poplargo.org/story-of-gods-grace](http://poplargo.org/story-of-gods-grace).



**SUNDAYS AT 10AM JUNE 18, JULY 9 & AUG 6**

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join other families with children of all ages as we gather in the Parish Hall for our Summer Sunday School. Summer Sunday School takes place once a month with classes meeting on June 18, July 9, August 6. We hope you'll enjoy this time of fellowship and learning as a family!



**JUNE 25-30 / SARASOTA MISSION TRIP**

### YOUTH HURRICANE RELIEF

Please hold Bob Luxa and a group of our high school youth in your prayers as they head down to Sarasota to be a part of a hurricane relief trip organized by Luther Springs. They will spend the week of June 25-30 working in the community that was hit by Hurricane Ian last year.

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**Matthew**  
missions + a meal  
[ 3 M MONDAYS ]

**3M MONDAYS STARTING JUNE 5**

### MATTHEW, MISSION, & A MEAL

This summer, Matthew, Mission and a Meal Mondays is back! On Mondays we will gather from 9am until 5pm for a full day of activity! Each week, we will have a service project in the community, a meal out at a restaurant, and a Bible Study. The afternoons will also include relaxing at POP, watching movies, and other fun activities. Invite friends!

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## SPECIAL PROGRAM INVITATION

# KRISTEN THEILE EDUCATION UPDATE

I began my online Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) this January at the University of Kentucky. I give thanks to the congregation who have asked me about school and shown support. That support has been so appreciated! I have thrived in my educational pursuits, receiving a 4.0 this semester and impressing my professors. Several of my Professors approached me with an exciting opportunity- the school's MSW to Doctor of Social Work program focusing on Administrative Leadership. They stated that I would be an excellent candidate for this program and endorsed my application. After submitting the application, I received wonderful news that I was accepted into the program. The program is delivered through a convenient online platform, which allows students to work full time. All DSW students are encouraged to work full time while in the program to apply learned concepts to the work field. I am deeply grateful for PoP's unwavering support, recognizing each of your roles in my journey of growth and learning!

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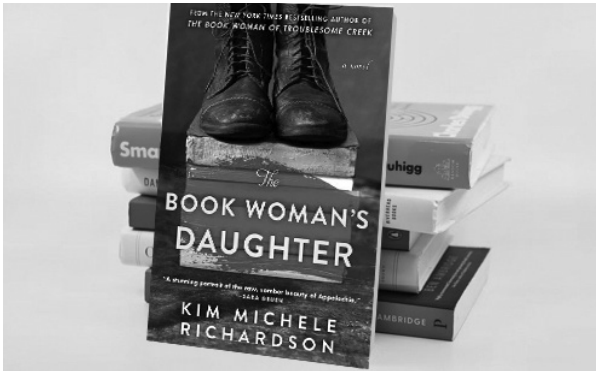
## PRECAUTIONARY PLANNING

# HURRICANE SEASON

As Floridians, we are well aware that from June 1st to November 1st, we are in the midst of hurricane season and it is not too early to be prepared. You can take the necessary steps to build your emergency kit, familiarize yourself with storm related terms, make accommodations for any special needs, ensure the safety of your pets, and secure your home. It is important to have an evacuation plan, especially for families living in mobile home communities. For those PoP families that live in mobile home communities, an evacuation plan is essential. In the event of an evacuation order, typically issued by local officials or the governor, it is important to remain calm and put your emergency plan into action. Determine where you will seek shelter, whether it be a motel, hotel, with family or friend's house located outside the storm affected area.

If you are in need of a place to shelter in an emergency, let the PoP office know – call 727 585-9969 or email Kristen Thiele at [Kristen@poplargo.org](mailto:Kristen@poplargo.org). Moreover, if you are willing and able to house a PoP member, we kindly ask that you let us know. We're compiling a list of potential hosts, just in case it becomes necessary. Stay safe and be proactive.





**THURS JUNE 22 AT 7PM / PARISH HALL**

## BOOKED FOR DESSERT

The book selection for this month is “The Book Woman’s Daughter” written by Kim Richardson. Please join the group for lively conversation and fellowship whether or not you have read the book. Contact Linda Zachow for further information at [lm.zachow@me.com](mailto:lm.zachow@me.com).



**SUN JUNE 25 2-4PM / COC PEACE ROOM**

## STITCH OF LOVE

Some of you may have a desire to learn how to create the quilts that are donated to Lutheran World Relief each year. You are invited to join us and learn the process, step by step, and stitch by stitch. Light refreshments will be served. If you have your own sewing machine, white thread, and filled bobbins, please bring them. For more information, email Kristen Theile at [kristen@poplargo.org](mailto:kristen@poplargo.org).

## MAY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Discussed and approved Ruth’s Promise accepting Medicaid patients
- + Discussed the ongoing search for a new Sexton and Parish Secretary
- + Approved the search for a Wednesdays Together cook for the fall
- + Approved a first fruits gift of \$500 for Lutheran World Relief
- + Commissions reported on projects and ministry goals for 2023

## JUNE BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Barbara Di Leo  
Ardith Forsyth  
Janice Frye  
Rex Frye  
Kristy George  
Kenndal Helland  
Virginia Higgins

Pamela lusi  
Amy Johnson  
Nancy Kaufman  
Melissa Koberna  
MaryAnn Kuefer  
Jill Lonas  
Mike Lowry

Thomas Lowry  
Susan Mateo  
Pam Morris  
Victoria Murray  
Eileen Nardelli  
Mary Osgood  
Christa Robbins

Kari Sheppard  
Sharon Smith  
Leslie Spadola



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