

# APR 2025

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE



**ENEWS** Be sure to watch for enews from our congregation and staff

**FACEBOOK** Follow us on Facebook and please share worship online with friends.

**WEBSITE** Our website will have updates and links to our online worship services

## PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

Several years ago on Palm Sunday, I drove home from church and got out of the car. I saw crows sitting in a tree and on the roof of a neighboring apartment. I didn't know what was going on but the crows were making a lot of noise. They began diving toward the ground and that worried me. I walked over to where the crows were landing and saw a baby bird in the grass crying out. I didn't know what had happened but the baby bird was injured. I felt so helpless. Then I realized there was another baby bird about twenty feet away on the ground. I tried to herd the baby birds into the nearby bushes for protection, but the baby birds kept coming back onto the grass calling for help, calling for a parent.

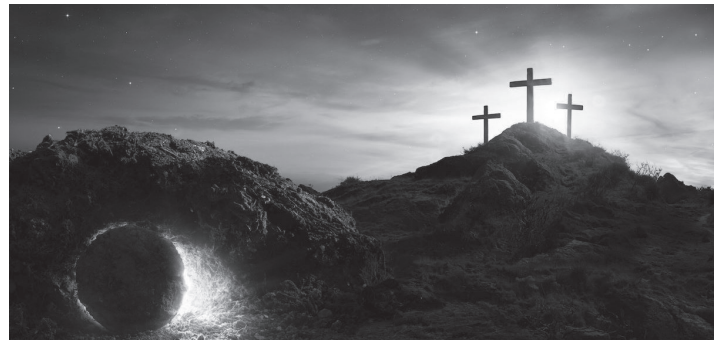
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## PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK *Continued...*

Some neighbors asked me what I was doing. I told them about the baby birds on the ground. One woman said, "You can pick them up." Well, the nest was way up in the tree. The neighbors moved on but the crows stayed, watching and waiting. Adult birds were trying to drive away the crows. I know it would not end well. I could not stand to watch. It was Palm Sunday and my heart was already heavy. Palm Sunday reminds me of a parade that ended badly.

The next morning I walked outside, afraid to look around. The crows were still hanging around. Against the blue sky, I saw one crow with something dangling from its beak - a dead baby bird. I don't know which was worse, knowing what would happen or seeing the reality.

I started thinking about God our Father watching Jesus. Watching Jesus refusing to give into temptation as death came closer. Watching the jeering crowds.

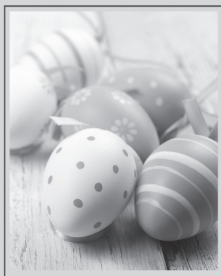


Watching Jesus nailed on the cross. Watching his blood poured out for the world. Hearing his son say, 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me?' Hearing him breathe his last breath. Watching him taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." I can hardly take it in.

A blessed Holy Week,  
Pastor Pam

**EGGSTRAVAGANZA**  
APR 12, 10AM



**PALM SUNDAY**  
APR 13  
8:45 & 11AM  
FREE BREAKFAST  
SERVED AT 10AM



**NOONDAY PRAYER  
& HOLY COMMUNION**  
APR 14-16, NOON



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
APR 17, 7PM



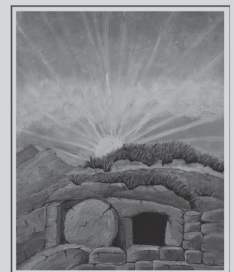
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
APR 18  
NOON & 7PM



**EASTER VIGIL**  
APR 19, 7PM



**EASTER**  
APR 20  
8:45 & 11AM



# Holy Week

Nursery available every Sunday  
and at all evening worship services



**PRINCE of PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

455 Missouri Ave, Largo, FL  
[poplargo.org](http://poplargo.org)

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## MARCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Bathrooms to be updated in Sacristy and Church office Building
  - + First Fruits - \$1,000 donation to Rez House
  - + Preschool and Ruth's Promise participating in intergenerational activities
  - + Palm Sunday Breakfast to be served by youth between services on April 13
  - + Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 7
- 



### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Along with our Sunday morning worship times, on the five Wednesdays in Lent we set aside other times for gathering in Jesus' name for worship. Here's the schedule:

**Responsive Prayer at Noon in the Chapel.** This thirty-minute time of worship includes prayer, readings, song, and a brief meditation offered by the pastor.

**Evening Prayer at 7pm in the Sanctuary.** Marty Haugen's beloved setting of Holden Evening Prayer guides our worship time. Hear a brief meditation offered by the pastor as our prayers "rise up as incense."

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**SAT, APR 12 / 10AM**

### EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join us for our annual Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 12 at 10am as we share in Easter crafts, play games, hear the Easter story, and go hunting for eggs. This time of fun and learning will take place outside, with the egg hunt divided into three different age groups: Pre-k, K-2, and 3-5. If you would like to help with this event, please reach out to Beth Behrendt or Kaye Marudas. This is a fun filled time together and we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the morning!

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**FRI, APR 25 / 10AM / PARISH HALL**

### CARD PRAYER MINISTRY

Please join us for a time of prayer and socializing as we craft greeting cards delivering messages of hope and love to those in need of an encouraging word. We will meet April 25 at 10am in the Parish Hall. For more information contact Debbie Freedman at [beachmom4vr@gmail.com](mailto:beachmom4vr@gmail.com) or call the church office.



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## PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE

# CALL COMMITTEE CATCH UP

Change can happen quickly or it can seem as “slow as molasses!” We have had times of both at PoP, haven’t we? These Lenten days are full of both. Your Call Committee has been interviewing prospective candidates once again; does it seem like “How long, O Lord?” Maybe—BUT! The really good news and a very recent change is that we have identified a Primary Candidate and that person has agreed to be our Primary Candidate. That means soon the process will go forward with other new steps.

The Call Committee will be meeting with the Congregational Council in April to give them our report in detail. Then their discernment kicks into high gear.

But there is a time of “pause” ahead for us and the candidate. We (and the candidate’s congregation) will have a short April hiatus from additional steps in this process while we pray, fast, and serve others during Lent. I can tell you from the interviews that prospective pastors LOVE to see PoP continuing their service to



the community! There are many opportunities here to serve and celebrate during April. And then we celebrate his resurrection at Easter. He is risen indeed!

Always, always pray without ceasing for the Council and for the candidate who is listening for the Lord’s leading too. So, we revert to slowness once again. We will keep you posted on next steps; we do trust that God’s hand is guiding us daily. Be alert for bulletin announcements, emails, letters, etc.

Prayerfully in his service,  
Dianna Voss  
Call Committee Chair

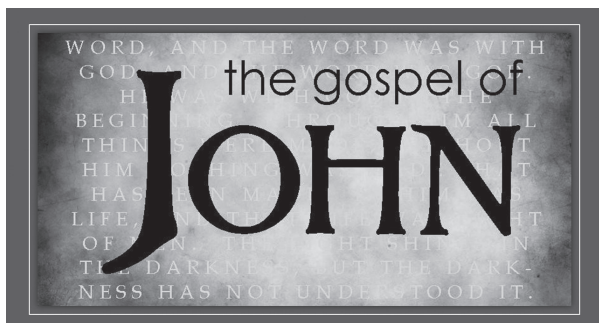


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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED / MON, APR 21 / 9AM

### EASTER FLOWER DELIVERY

Bring Easter joy of our risen Christ to those who are homebound, hospitalized or residing in assisted care facilities. We will meet at church at 9am and you will be given names and addresses. This special delivery brings hope and promise to recipients of this iconic flower. Sign up on your attendance sheet to serve as a delivery driver. Questions? Contact Debbie Freedman or the church office.



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## APR 6 & 27, MAY 4 / 10AM

### IS JOHN YOUR FAVORITE GOSPEL?

John is a powerful gospel. It is also beautiful because it shows the depth of Jesus’ love for us in a way other books or readings might not. Is it your favorite gospel? Whether yes or no, it is a worthy study that we will delve into during some of these spring Sundays (with a Holy Week pause).



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## COLLECTING APR 6-10 FOR LUTHERAN APTS FOOD COLLECTION

We are collecting food items for the residents of Lutheran Apartments, which provides subsidized housing for low-income seniors. Once a month, our church disciples go out and deliver grocery bags to over 30 of the residents. Please pick up the following items, as certain non-perishable items and items that are easy for them to cook are their preferences. **NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:** fruit cups/canned fruit, canned meat, granola or fruit bars, microwaveable meals, canned chili/soup, canned vegetables, rice a roni, and oatmeal packets. During the week, items can be dropped off at the Church Office.



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## CELEBRATING LOTS OF LITTLE VOICES

The sound of young voices is a bit louder around here these days! Prince of Peace Preschool has 44 children and classes are currently full. A big thanks to Director Priscilla Luster, our teaching staff, and our families who have helped spread the word about our caring learning environment. The Preschool will hold an Easter egg hunt the morning of Thurs April 17. Five volunteers are needed that day to hide eggs as groups of children come out to hunt for them. Can you help? Email [preschool@poplargo.org](mailto:preschool@poplargo.org) or call the Church Office.



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## SETUP YOUR ONLINE GIVING ACCOUNT

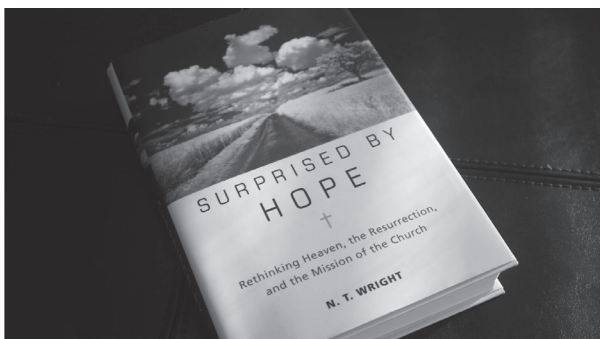
As online banking and bill pay becomes increasingly prevalent, online giving is a convenient method to give to our congregation. Prince of Peace uses Vanco, a trusted online giving servicer that has never had a breach in their security. Vanco is endorsed by several major denominations, including the ELCA. While these steps can be overwhelming at first, in the long run your process of giving will be easier. No more checks to write or worrying about remembering your envelopes. Online giving is not replacing our traditional method of providing envelopes for our tithes and offerings, this is just another option available. If you are interested in setting up your online giving account through Vanco, speak with Shawn Thomas in the church office or visit [poplargo.org](http://poplargo.org) and click “give online” in the top right corner.



**SUN, APR 13 / 10AM**

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us in worship as we shout "Hosanna!" honoring and celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Between services, our camp-bound youth at Prince of Peace and their parents will host Palm Sunday Breakfast at 10am in the Parish Hall.



**WEDS, APR-MAY / 6PM**

## SURPRISED BY HOPE

Is there hope for the present world? Don't scoff! N. T. Wright leads us to clarify ways in which Christian hope can break into the world and our Largo community with acts of love and justice. We look at now and hope in the future. It is two themes of hope--for now and for the future. See you mid-week study time together.



**SUN, APR 6 / 2-4PM / COC, PEACE ROOM**

## LWR QUILTING 101

Learn how to create a Lutheran World Relief quilt from start to finish. Session includes cutting squares, piecing the quilt top, stitching the backing, building the sandwich, zigzagging to secure, and tying to finish. Not familiar with these terms? We will demonstrate. Join us in Peace Room to figure out which tasks fit you best. Bring your sewing machine, white thread, and bobbins if you can. Some machines and all materials will be supplied. Contact Linda Greilick at 727.460.0519.

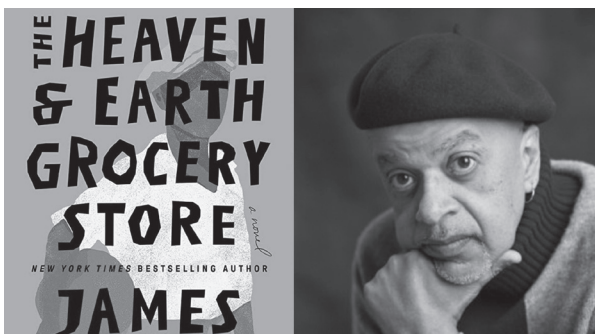


**SAVE THE DATE / JULY 7-11**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us the week of July 7th for Vacation Bible School! Participants from Kindergarten through 8th grade will be led by counselors from Luther Springs Camp and participate in games, songs, skits, crafts and Bible stories.





**THURS, APR 24 / 7PM**

## BOOKED FOR DESSERT

The book selection for April is "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," written by James McBride. The group meets in the Parrish Hall for lively conversation, fellowship and refreshments. All are welcome, whether or not you have read the book.

Contact Linda for information at [lm.zachow@me.com](mailto:lm.zachow@me.com).

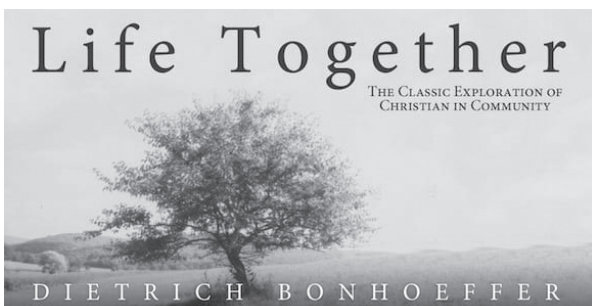


**COLLECTING MAY 4-11**

## MOTHER'S DAY BABY ITEMS DONATIONS

Each Mother's Day, Prince of Peace collects baby care items and clothing to be donated to agencies in our community to support families in need. Most needed items include:

Infant and toddler clothing and sleepers, infant and toddler diapers and unscented baby wipes, lotion and shampoo, infant socks and booties. All clothing must be new and unused. Baby food and infant formula is not accepted.



**WEDS, APR-MAY / 6PM**

## IT'S TIME: BONHOEFFER'S "LIFE TOGETHER"

Time to rummage around on that book shelf and find your copy of Bonhoeffer's book Life Together. You know it is there somewhere. We'll be studying it in April and May on Wednesdays so this gives you time to find your copy, order one from Amazon or borrow it from a library!

## Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS**

## RUTH'S PROMISE ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Do you have 1-2 hours a week to make a difference in the lives of others? Then Ruth's Promise would love your help! No experience necessary! Play Bingo and other games with us, serve prepared lunches, read a short story, help with simple crafts, exercise with us, help us host happy hour, and more. It's fun and easy to ease the struggles of our seniors. Try us out! Contact Angie at Ruth's Promise, M-F, 9am-3pm, 727.265.2609.



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## MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Jamie Ahenkora-Bediako	Stephanie Gary	Thomas May	Jason Roe
Allanah Berghmans	Danielle Henderson	Nora McEntegart	Lois Schultz
Nicole Bowling	Benjamin Johnson	Mackenzie Mendenhall	Robin Temple
Jason Brown	Emeric Koller	Ricky Mendenhall	Justice Trivino
Nancy Cabelus	Teagan Koller	Cheryl Nielsen	William Warren
Ryan Carter	Ruth Lockerbie	Britney Oates	David Wuertz
Debbie Christie	Sally Loesch	Kailie Pemberton	Steven Wuertz
Steve Crose	Max Lonas	Addison Potts	
Bryan Deibel	Jasmine Luxa	Angie Pryor	
Susan Gahan	Diane May	Dennis Roe	



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

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

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