

# OCT 2025

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE



**ENEWS** Be sure to watch for enews from our congregation and staff. Sign up by contacting the church office today!

**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. [poplargo.org](http://poplargo.org)

## YOU NEVER KNOW

You never know who you're going to run into at church.

Last week, I was walking through the back of the Sanctuary building, in that hallway between the sacristy and the chapel, when I saw something moving quickly in front of me. I assumed it was just a strange shadow at first, but as I continued, so did the little shape. Two times, it kind of jumped up, bouncing off the side walls. I pulled out my cell phone to use the flashlight app, and that's when I realized that the shadow was a little lizard. I thought it was unfortunate that this creature ended up inside, but I went about my business. I made my way to the sacristy, got what I needed, and headed back the other way to leave. I was thinking about that lizard, though, and passed it again

*Continued...*

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## YOU NEVER KNOW *Continued...*

on the way, careful not to step on it. I thought to myself, “That little guy is doomed. If it can’t find its way out again, it will become dehydrated and die.” I also thought, “Thank God there are so many lizards. We can afford to lose a few.”

This kind of thinking is all too common in the world. If we think beyond ourselves, we might notice the struggle all around us. Whether it’s the tree that was massively cut for the sake of power lines, the animal losing its habitat, or the person experiencing a series of really rough breaks, life around us persists, but it struggles to do so. It’s easy to look away, proceeding with our lives as though we never noticed. But, when we do, what do we do?

The weight of the world does not belong on any one person’s shoulders. God is the only one who can hold all things together. Still, there are moments when opportunities present themselves in which we are able to take on a little of the creative, redemptive work of God, making things a little better. I have a theory about that. I think those opportunities are not presented as more tasks for our already busy lives, but at the very least, reminders that those lives are about more than ourselves. Perhaps you’ve been the recipient of someone’s decision to show kindness when they

didn’t need to. It is an uplifting thing, when somebody notices us, sees the struggle we face, and goes out of their way to lighten the load. Their kindness is a Christlike sacrifice that reminds us of the goodness present in God’s children. And, hopefully, a reminder that we, too, can be Christlike.

There in the hallway behind the Sanctuary, I stopped. I had this strange but powerful thought that, if I were stuck in a building, with my demise being the most likely outcome, I would want someone to have a more charitable approach than, “Thank God there are so many pastors. We can afford to lose a few.”

I found a way to catch the little lizard and set him down again outside the chapel door. Immediately, a much larger lizard started running in its direction. I thought, “Great! Out of the frying pan and into the fire!” Fortunately, the big lizard had other plans. The little guy I saved remained unharmed, apart from the hyperventilating. That’s the way it goes when we try to be Christlike. We cannot be certain our efforts will make the impact we hope to make. Nevertheless, a deeper connection with Jesus can be found when we are willing to bear another’s burdens, making our earnest efforts worthwhile.



**Pastor Gregg**

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# PASTOR RACHEL'S REMARKS

A few weeks ago, I preached about hospitality and our call to share the goodness we experience at God's table by inviting people to join us at Prince of Peace. Rex Frye emailed me later that day, with an idea that came to him during the sermon – we could create a small card that Prince of Peace members could hand to those they invited to worship! Having something to hold on to, with worship and PoP information right there, would make the invitation tangible (and ensure they have our address and worship time). This idea came just as we were discussing a 'church business card' for the front desk, and the connections were for me a clear sign of the Holy Spirit's activity. An invitation - more than just information - is much more in line with what it is to be the church!

Having a card right in our wallet, ready to go, makes the invitation easier – and the information isn't lost if our friend misremembers the website, or phone number, or even the name of our church. We can instead focus on sharing why

we love coming to PoP and why we think they'd love it, too. We can focus on connecting with our friend in our conversation, and let the card take care of the details. The Proclamation Commission is in the process of getting these cards made, and we look forward to having them available for you soon!

In the meantime, please be sure to take one of the little cards currently available in the Narthex, which say "Text The Pastors!" These cards have Pr. Gregg's and my phone numbers on them, with the invitation to put our numbers in your phone, and then text us your name and a photo, if you like, so that we can have each other's numbers, and so you can be in touch with us directly when you need us. (If you won't be in the Narthex for a bit, please call the church office for our numbers!) We have really enjoyed the photos we've gotten so far – it's lots of fun to see what everyone chooses to send! Thank you to those who have already done this, and thanks in advance to those who will!



**Pastor Rachel**

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## SEPT CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Approved \$500 First Fruits donation to Wheelchairs for Kids
- + Set Council Retreat date for January 17, 2026
- + Worked on Fall Stewardship drive and goal setting
- + Accepted resignation of Jen Lord, director of Administration and Development for Ruth's Promise
- + Authorized Pr. Gregg to work with Angie Raytchev to make necessary hires on Council's behalf for Ruth's Promise
- + Received update on the camera expansion project (expanding the current coverage across the PoP campus)
- + Council members were asked to submit feedback to the FB Synod regarding the call process.
- + Adjusted process for reports. Commission and Staff Reports will now be due one week before Council meetings, allowing for a Council information packet to be created and the resource shared among Council members in advance of monthly meetings.



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## Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

## RUTH'S PROMISE

Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program is seeking caring volunteers to assist with activities for our participants. Just a few hours of your time can bring joy, connection, and support to older adults in our community. For more information, please reach out to Angie Raychev, Director (727.265.2609) or the church office.



## Prince of Peace Preschool

MAKING LEARNING FUN

LICENSE#C060920

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

## POP PRESCHOOL

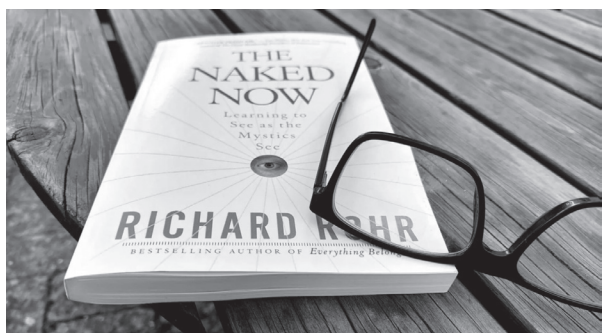
Do you enjoy laughing and smiling with young children? Join "PoPTots" and help support this vital community ministry. PoPTots provides refreshments at preschool events and makes holiday treat bags for the children to take home. Or, visit our classrooms as a Friday morning Story-time reader (we supply the book, and often an activity to go with it). Come and interact with our children, support our teachers and share the story of how much God loves each of them. To get involved, contact the church office or talk to Margo Walbolt.



### **WEDNESDAYS / 5:15PM / PARISH HALL**

## WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER

Wednesdays Together mark the center of our week at Prince of Peace. Dinner is served at 5:15pm (\$6/adults, \$3/kids), then we move to activities for youth and children, as well as adult Bible Study, at 6pm. Choir rehearsal follows at 7:30pm. Please join us for a delicious meal and good conversation!



### **WEDS, OCT 1, 8, 15, 22 / 6PM**

## THE NAKED NOW

Here's the scoop: Pastors Rachel and Gregg suggested we read and study this book, written by a Franciscan priest, Richard Rohr. The book will awaken your desire for God and connect you to the joy already within you. So our Wednesdays in October will help us answer the question, "Just what is the Naked Now?" The first chapter is "The Gift is Already Given." Come and delve into this spiritual awakening and bring a friend.



## Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program

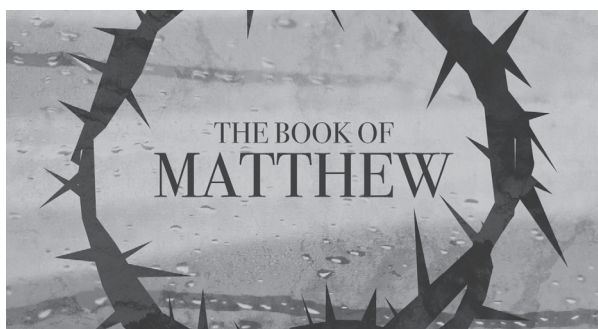


### OCT 5-9, COLLECTING FOOD FOR RUTH'S PROMISE

## FOOD COLLECTION

The first week of October, we are collecting snack items for Ruth's Promise, our adult respite care ministry. Each day, our clients are provided with a snack as well as lunch. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry. Our clients and their caregivers thank you!

- SF (Sugar Free) Puddings
- Snack pack crackers
- Nutrigrain Bars
- Canned fruit or fruit cups
- Applesauce
- Brownies
- Keto breakfast bars
- Fun size candy bars
- SF candy (individually wrapped)
- Crystal Light lemonade mix
- SF Sprite (2 liter)
- SF Jello cups
- Belvita breakfast crackers
- Pop Tarts



SUN, OCT 5 & 12 / 10AM

## MATTHEW: TOGETHER BY GRACE

We are gathering to strengthen our relationships with each other and our Lord. We are dwelling in God's Word, Matthew-reading it and asking questions. Ever thought what Mary, Joseph and Jesus did for the 2+ years they lived in Egypt in safety from Herod? Did they have friends and neighbors? When they traveled to Nazareth did they go alone or with a group of friends? We are engaging faith. You are invited to try it out.



SUN, OCT 5 / 2-4PM / PARISH HALL

## QUILTING

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 the Parish Hall 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 Jan Brewster or the church office for more information.



**SUN, OCT 5 / 8AM-1PM**

## BLOOD DRIVE

It is once again time to roll up our sleeves for another blood drive. The Blood Mobile will be in its usual location, north of our parking lot on Commerce Drive South on October 5, from 8am-1pm. You can make an appointment online ([oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org)) or simply show up on the day of the blood drive. If you are able to donate we would be very thankful.



**WED, OCT 15 AT 7:07PM / INVITE FRIENDS**

## PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

Prayer Around the Cross is a brief time in the middle of our noisy, busy weeks to enter a quiet moment of prayer, song and scripture with all our siblings in Christ. We sit and listen together, voicing our own prayers in silence, while the pastor speaks prayers for us all. During our time together, friends rise and light candles, placing them around a cross laid across the chancel steps as they bring loved ones before the Lord. Join us on this special evening, after our meal and classes, as we end the day together in prayer.



**OCT 19 & 26 / 10AM**

## ADULT ED: WIRED WORD

Wired Word (WW) explores current events from a Scriptural foundation. We have discussed many topics that interest us and sometimes cause us angst. It is good to discuss some of these topics like the return of the two astronauts from 9-months in space, the new pope, parenting and many more. We read the synopsis of the event, turn to Scripture and learned professionals for insight and then discuss, discuss, discuss. It is a great time. Join us!

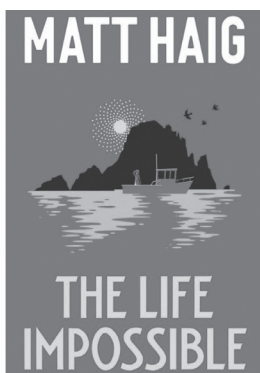


**SUN, OCT 19 / 3PM / SANCTUARY  
CERUS SAXOPHONE QUARTET**

## ART FOR FAITH'S SAKE

Emerging as one of the most compelling chamber ensembles of their generation, hear both new music as well as timeless repertoire performed by four saxophones.





**THURS, OCT 23 / 7PM**

## BOOKED FOR DESSERT

The book selection is "The Life Impossible" by Matt Haig. All are welcome to join the group in the Parish Hall for lively conversation, fellowship and refreshments whether or not you have read the book. Contact the church office for information.



**FRI, OCT 24 / 10AM / PARISH HALL**

## CARD PRAYER MINISTRY

We gather in Parish Hall in thoughtful prayer and conversation; sending words of love, hope and encouragement to others who are unable to worship with us in church. These cards connect folks in a very meaningful way... those who are homebound, ill, new to our worship family, or facing challenging times. Please join us. Any questions, contact Debbie Freedman or the church office.



**WED, OCT 29 / 6PM**

## COMMUNITY SPEAKER

Sandy Kearney intended to be a community speaker last fall 2024 but two hurricanes prevented that. So, we are fortunate to have her speak to us on her ministry, Angels Against Abuse. She is the president and founder of this ministry that educates all of us about child abuse. She will speak and then we might respond. What might that look like?

### SAVE THE DATE

## NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

The Largo Stroll will be held on Saturday, December 6. We are excited to once again have the opportunity to share the Christmas Story with our community! This year's event is sure to be a powerful outreach opportunity. We will need your help!

- **Transportation & Set Up Crew:** Volunteers needed to load, lift, and carry items. We also need trucks and vans to transport.
- **Nativity & Marketplace Cast:** Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, wise men, shepherds and angels needed.
- **Food/Snack Coordinator:** Setup food and snack stations POP volunteers.
- **Readers for Live Nativity:** We need 2 English and 2 Spanish speaking readers to tell the Christmas story from a script.
- **Clean Up Crew:** Arrive at the park at 9pm to break down and return supplies to PoP.



An interest meeting will be held soon. Stay tuned for more details!



455 MISSOURI AVENUE / LARGO FL 33770 / [poplargo.org](http://poplargo.org)

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## OCT BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Lang Adams	David Grassick	Kaye Marudas	Beryle Patton
Dave Babbitt	Gloria Grassick	Hailey McEntegart	Lori Pemberton
Maxine Bitting	Royce Haddad	Linda McPherson	Sharon Sutherland
David Burgin	Kristina Hartmann	Brian Mendenhall	Christian Swanson
Jason Dahlvik	Kimberly Hume	Bonnie Moseley	Sue Swanson
Lucy Dahlvik	Barb Lindenrneyer	Marian Moticha	Corey Taylor
Christine Edens	Alexander Luxa	Sandra Olson	Marian Wuertz
Ann Fields	Jack Mallard	Vicki Painter	Carolyn Zill



**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)