

NOV 2025

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE

WELCOME
TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY



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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

If you're reading this, chances are, you're probably not very new to Prince of Peace. Most of our members joined some time ago. However, I want to start by extending a particular welcome to those newest members among us, who have given our congregation a try and decided that they would like to be a part - officially - of what God is doing at PoP. This latest batch of new members is an encouraging sign that our congregation is building some momentum as more people are inspired to take part in ministry with us. Importantly though, we do not expect our new members to be the only ones stepping up in this season.

Continued...

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS! *Continued...*

As one of your pastors - and as a part of the newest batch of members joining PoP - believe me when I tell you that we need you to show us what membership can look like!

I have been a member of several Lutheran congregations, spanning almost the entirety of my life (there was a brief stint between birth and Baptism in which I was uncommitted). With each change in membership, I've learned that, while each congregation shares the commonality of word and sacrament, there was variation in just about every other aspect of each ministry.

Worship in each setting varied somewhat. Each was involved in its local community, though the different communities presented different opportunities for engagement. Some had preschools, food pantries, campus ministries, and the list goes on. Beyond word and sacrament, one of the few common threads was the way each setting had a rhythm of life together. Each had traditions, favorite activities, and an annual pattern of sharing ministry, so that, in time, people could find their place within each setting.

Prince of Peace is not an old congregation. We are barely 65 years old. That isn't old for a human, let alone a congregation. We have been successful over these years by welcoming those

who are new and incorporating them into the life of the parish. Now, we are poised to bring some new names and faces to the roster of PoP. The opportunity falls to you, reader of this little article. See a new face and welcome them in the name of Jesus! Pray for them as they begin to get acquainted with the family of faith. Tell them what you love about this church and ask them what brought them to it. Make sure they are as connected as can be - knowing them better helps us invite them into our ministry more fully.

This invitational emphasis is the gift and challenge of being a people who are made new in the waters of Baptism. Each time we go to the font, we are reminded that we are made new on a daily basis. We are washed clean of the sin that would otherwise cling to us, and freed for the purpose of living as Christ would have us live. That reality of our new status is awe-inspiring and sometimes, a little intimidating. When I can do anything, where do I begin?

Here we remember a foundational component of our faith: extending welcome and hospitality to others (especially strangers). So, let's do that! Let's extend ourselves, our traditions, our passions, our hopes, and our life together with the newest among us. We remember God makes us new all the time, so let's be new together!



Pastor Gregg

pastorgregg@poplargo.org
727.585.9969

PASTOR RACHEL'S REMARKS

In our recent e-news publications, you likely noticed a section called “Worship Wondering.” In this section, the pastors wrote about why the presiding pastor and worship assistants have started moving off the dais during the sermon. (For the answer, see your e-news!) This was a change from the ‘normal’ rhythm of worship, and people naturally wondered what prompted this change.

When things change, or when something is new, we often ask “why?” And that can be good, depending on how we ask the question! When we notice something different, being curious – wondering – helps us explore what the difference offers, what it points out, what it challenges or adjusts. When we are curious, and open to learning the answer to “why”, our question is helpful; we find answers that may lead us forward, or simply invite us to think! However, if we come in expecting the reason to be unsatisfactory, or if our “why” is really “I don’t like it, so it doesn’t matter what the reason is”, we miss the opportunity for exploration. We may even miss the chance to discover something great!

I know that when things are changed, or unfamiliar, or ‘not the way I’ve done it’, I can sometimes react in the second way. When that happens, I remind myself that change doesn’t mean bad – it just means different. And different means opportunity. I am having lots of opportunities right now! I imagine I’ll keep having them regularly for the next year or two, as I continue to experience everything here for the first time. And while Pr. Gregg and I don’t plan to make sweeping changes, and we won’t be making any changes without a reason, the nature of new people inevitably means some change. Some things we do may be new and different for you. Some changes will be small (like the worship leaders moving during the sermon). Others might be larger (like moving Time and Talent work to its own season in the early part of the new year – more on that to come in our Stewardship Emphasis!). In any change, I invite you to wonder – and to ask why! Together, we can talk about what is different, why it’s different, and what opportunity it brings. At the very least, we will have the opportunity to get to know each other better through a conversation, and that’s a gift of change all on its own!



Pastor Rachel

pastorrachel@poplargo.org
727.585.9969

OCT CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Approved \$500 First Fruits donations to Angels Against Abuse and Feeding Tampa Bay
- + Spent time studying the current use, functionality, & future of the Community Outreach Center building
- + Received an update on the security camera project
- + Identified a new way to approach securing the Nursery space on Sun mornings (Ushers will assist people who wish to use the space, providing a key)
- + Formed a working group to install the new AEDs
- + Approved allocation of funds received from the Jacqueline Blank estate and life insurance policy distribution, funding First Fruits, Endowment, and the Major Maintenance Fund
- + Approved new members
- + Received an update on the Stewardship emphasis

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

RUTH'S PROMISE

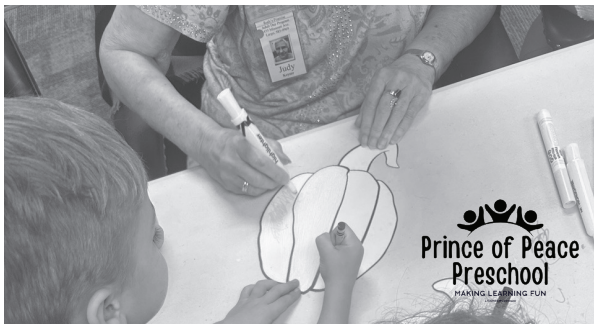
Volunteering at Ruth's Promise Adult Day program is a meaningful way to support older adults in a safe social and engaging environment. As a volunteer, you can assist with a variety of activities, including recreational games, arts and crafts, meal prep & serving, and general fellowship.

If you have a special skill or hobby, we'd love for you to share that with our clients! Playing card games, crocheting, magic tricks, singing, reading aloud, and many more activities are welcome! You can work with the whole group, a small group, or one on one, depending on what suits you best.

You are welcome any days or hours you have available. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm, but do not expect our volunteers to come for all that time! Also, volunteers are not expected to do personal care like taking clients to the bathroom; we have professional staff who attend to those needs.

Whether you're helping lead a group activity, sharing a special skill or simply offering a friendly conversation, your time and presence can make a significant difference in someone's day. As a volunteer, you contribute to a compassionate community focused on dignity and inclusion.

Contact Angie Raytchev, Ruth's Promise Director, at 727.265.2609 or Ruthspromiseadp@gmail.com.



EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING

POP PRESCHOOL

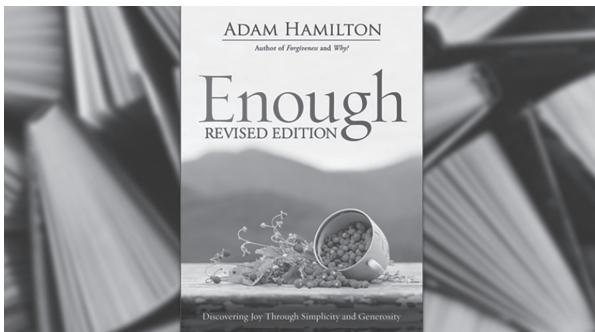
The children of Prince of Peace Preschool enjoyed an inter-generational day with Ruth's Promise in October. They heard the story of "Spookly The Square Pumpkin" and spent time coloring pumpkins with Ruth's Promise participants.



NOV 2-6, COLLECTING FOOD FOR REZ HOUSE

FOOD COLLECTION

Prince of Peace will be collecting food donations the week of Nov 2 for Rez House, which ministers to migrant farm workers in Dade City. If you are unable to bring food on Nov 2, you can bring food items to the office from Monday, Nov 3 through Thursday, Nov 6. The following food items are needed: dry rice, dry pinto beans, vegetable oil, canned tomatoes, masa harina and self-rising flour.



SUN, NOV 2, 9, 16 & 23 / 10AM / COC, PEACE
**ENOUGH: DISCOVERING JOY
THROUGH SIMPLICITY AND
GENEROSITY**

“What the world needs today is the message of contentment and simplicity, and that’s exactly what Pastor Adam Hamilton delivers in *Enough*.” That quote sums up very succinctly the purpose of this series. He “discusses the spiritual causes of the economic crisis and emphasizes the importance of living a life of sacrificial love and being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.” This is a time of thanksgiving and we can hear and discuss, once again, how God’s will for us is a simple and generous life. Please join us!



SUN, NOV 2 / WORSHIP AT 8:45 & 11AM
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Saints are people who have been made whole by the grace of God, through Baptism into Christ. All Saints Day celebrates how God has blessed and continues to bless us, as saints, to bring glory to the gospel. On All Saints Sunday, we remember the saints of this community of faith, and those connected to us, who now rest in Christ, especially those who have died in the last year.



WEDS, NOV 5, 12, & 19 / 6PM / COC, PEACE
**LOCAL MISSIONARIES IN
ACTION!**

Come and hear four dynamic speakers who minister to migrants, abused children, the elderly and those in need of housing. Come and learn how YOU and PoP might further partner with them in these ministries. There are missionaries among us. They will inspire and we will inquire! Mark your calendar for these Wednesdays where you can have a good meal, fellowship with others and hear ministry in action speakers. You are so invited!

Nov 5: Pr. Bruce & Pr. Margarita from REZ House

Nov 12: St. Petersburg Volunteers of America Housing Experiment

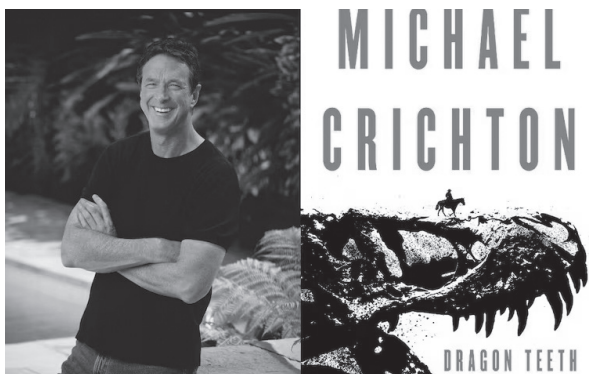
Nov 19: Margo Walbolt, “Spirituality & Aging”



**MON, NOV 10 / 6-8PM / COMMERCE BREWING
521 S COMMERCE DR, LARGO 33770**

BEER AND HYMNS

Join Shawn Thomas on the keyboard for an evening of Beer and Hymns at Commerce Brewing. This is a community sing-a-long event that will feature a variety of hymns and other familiar songs. Beer is optional, singing is mandatory! Food Truck (TBD) will be onsite, or feel free to bring your own food. Commerce Brewing is located in an adjacent building to the north of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Ample parking available at PoP.



THURS, NOV 20 / 7PM / PARISH HALL
BOOKED FOR DESSERT

The book selection is Dragon's Teeth by Michael Crichton. 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.



WED, NOV 19 / 10AM / PARISH HALL
QUILTERS

Come join the fun of creating quilts! Sewing, cutting fabric, assembly of quilts! Everyone welcome! For more information contact Jan Brewster.



SAVE THE DATE

ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Midweek Holy Communion in the Chapel:

Wednesdays Dec 3, 10, 17, at 12pm

Service of Lessons and Carols with Santa Lucia Procession:

Sunday, December 14 at 7pm



WED, NOV 26 / STARTING AT 5:45PM

THANKSGIVING EVE DINNER AND WORSHIP

All are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner! Your choice of turkey or ham with all of the trimmings! To help ensure we'll have enough seats and food for everyone, sign up on your Sunday attendance sheet or call the church office. Be sure to RSVP by Monday, Nov 24. \$6 for adults, \$3 for children.

At 7pm, after our meal together, we will join in worship. On this day set aside by our nation—Thanksgiving—we set aside a special time to sing God's praises and express our thanks for all that the Almighty does for us.

We will collect a monetary and a food offering for Rez House, which ministers to migrant farm workers in Dade City.

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|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| + Dry rice | + Vegetable oil | + Masa harina |
| + Dry pinto beans | + Canned tomatoes | + Self-rising flour |

THIS IS OUR FINAL WEDNESDAY MEAL TOGETHER FOR 2025. WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER RESUMES JANUARY 7.

SAVE THE DATE

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Night in Bethlehem (NiB) is a live nativity and marketplace experience that we share with the city of Largo during the annual Holiday Stroll. We put on a short nativity play and host several different activities that connect with the story of Jesus' birth, welcoming our neighbors to celebrate the arrival of our Lord!



NiB is Dec 6, 2025, at Largo Park, from 6-9pm. Volunteers are welcome before, during, and after!

Pre-Dec 6, volunteers can assist with costume fittings and ornament creation.

Dec 6 Non-Costumed Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Supply delivery – around 1 or 2pm, arrive at PoP, load vehicles, and take to Largo Park
- Supply Setup – at Largo Park, set up marketplace, nativity, and volunteer station
- Teardown – beginning at 9pm, take down & repack all materials
- Supply returns – around 10pm, load and take everything back to PoP
- Food/refreshments for volunteers – easy dinner and snacks for those who are participating

Live Nativity Roles include Readers, the Holy Family, Angels, Shepherds, and Magi/Wisemen

Marketplace Roles include Greeters, an Announcer, and hosts for our Bakery, Scribe, Pottery, Spice, Jewelry, and Weaving tables.

What about parking? We have 10 spots reserved for us near our space in the park! Volunteers can carpool from PoP to make the most of these spaces, or park further out and walk in. And, we have good bathroom access once you get there!

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Beth Behrendt or Pr. Rachel.



455 MISSOURI AVENUE / LARGO FL 33770 / poplargo.org

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NOV BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Davis Adams

Ann Aust

Sophie Aust

Jay Beringer

Flynn Bluett

Charles Campbell

Carolyn Glasgow

Cydney Grace

Jaden Helland

Weston Kaufman

Colby Koberna

Nathan Koberna

Aaron Lounsberry

Karen Lowry

Bob Luxa

Debbie Marshall

Joan Mathre

Sandra Nance

Linda Odette

Morgan Perez

Linda Simons

Michele Spears

Allen Temple

Claire Thompson

Micki Kiefhaber

Dianna Voss

Thomas Weitzel

Doug Wheaton



WEB poplargo.org | **FACEBOOK** @POPLargo | **ON YOUTUBE**

HOURS MON-THURS 8:30am-2pm | 727.585.9969 | info@poplargo.org

PRESCHOOL | 727.585.9790 | preschool@poplargo.org