

MAR 2026

THE LATEST @ PRINCE OF PEACE



ENEWS Each Friday and Sunday we send an e-news with up-to-date info about what's going on at PoP and in our community and how you can be involved. Sign up by contacting the church office today!

FACEBOOK Follow us on Facebook (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) and share our nearly-daily posts with friends

YOUTUBE Our online worship is published each Sunday on our YouTube page, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

WEBSITE Our website has current info, updates, and links for worship and ministry. Visit poplargo.org for more.

CHANGING SEASON

How is it possible that another Lent is upon us already? It seems Advent and all the Christmas festivities happened just a couple of weeks ago, but that is not the case. Looking ahead at another busy season, I relate more than usual to Peter in the Transfiguration story:

“Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you...”

(Matt. 17:4)

Peter's idea isn't totally out of line in Matthew's version of the story. Only here does he include the phrase, “...if you wish...”. Even so,

Continued...

CHANGING SEASON *Continued...*

the result is the same, regardless of which Gospel writer is telling the tale. Peter's desire gives way to the voice of God, who reminds the disciples that Jesus is the beloved, the Son of God, and they need to do less, instead simply listening to him. And with ears newly attentive to their master, they hear him say they need not be afraid. Jesus is with them and he will go with them, down from this transcendent experience, and on to a journey that will end - or, seem to end - on a lonely cross.

I relate to Peter's impulse because, like him, I wouldn't mind dwelling a bit longer before we dive into the busy journey towards Holy Week. I wouldn't mind taking a while longer to dwell on the goodness of Jesus and the wonders he provides here and now, delaying a bit where we know we must soon go. Selfishly, my impulse is rooted in the knowledge that Lent is a whirlwind, especially in the first year of a new call. That said, the extra worship services of the coming season afford us an opportunity to draw on the strength of God's Word. It's not all sacrifice when we

are nearer to the source of life, which is still found in Word and Sacrament.

During these forty days we will hear how Jesus endured temptation, revealed the magnitude of God's love, showed how deeply he knows us, helped the blind to see (along with the rest of us), and even called forth life where only death was expected. We will hear him do all this before we even get to Palm Sunday. The journey is already underway, with the ashes already having reminded us of our mortality. Helpfully, those ashes also offer us an important reminder: We get to begin again. We get to try again. There is still time. There is hope at the beginning of something, no matter how familiar it may be.

My hope for this Lenten season is that we would all dwell more deeply in each story from Scripture, making space to ponder what it means for us to have a God who does all this, a Christ who shows us love in this way. I have hope that the Spirit will emerge, directing us all and strengthening us for the journey, as together these narratives draw us back to the familiar, novel nature of this life of faith.



Pastor Gregg

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727.585.9969

FEB CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- + Approved First Fruits contribution of \$500 to Clearwater Free Clinic
- + Continued working on Council Covenant
- + Reviewed initial renderings of possible add-on Nursery space
- + Transferred funds from Memorial Fund to cover 2025 year-end deficit
- + Approved \$2,700 proposal for sealing, painting, and strengthening COC building supports

PASTOR RACHEL'S REMARKS

As we enter the season of Lent, I'm looking forward to more 'firsts' with Prince of Peace. Lent brings us many more opportunities for worship, with the addition of weekly noon and 7pm services on Wednesdays. This season also includes the return of the Prince of Peace Picnic, where we will gather for games and food and fellowship. The weekend following the Picnic is the annual Go and Do Likewise day of service (with a few opportunities

to serve during the week, as well!). The roster of projects for Go and Do Likewise is substantial, and I'm excited to be sharing those projects and signups in the weeks to come. I hope you'll join us for as many of these events as possible, so that we can all continue to know each other better, to praise God in word and deed, and to serve our neighbors in many ways!



Pastor Rachel

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727.585.9969

FIRST FRUITS

Since 1977, the Clearwater Free Clinic has provided health care to low-income uninsured residents of upper Pinellas County by means of office visits, medications, lab work, x-rays, and specialty referrals. The Clinic, a volunteer driven non-profit, non-government medical facility, provides primary health care at no cost to those who do not qualify for government assistance and who cannot afford private medical care. Many people who are uninsured will ignore significant health problems until a crisis occurs,

ultimately costing them greatly, both financially and physically. To prevent this, CFC provides Pinellas County residents necessary health care when they need it. To learn more, visit clearwaterfreeclinic.org

Prince of Peace has worked alongside Clearwater Free Clinic in the past! They were one of our Health and Safety Fair providers, and we have partnered with them for Go and Do Likewise projects, including planting flower beds at their location. We are thankful to continue supporting our neighbors' health with CFC.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY YOUTH FUND THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support of our Youth & the summer camp scholarship fund this past week!

Our Spaghetti Dinner & Hymn Sing was a fantastic night of food and song, and we are thrilled to share that you raised \$1,100 for camp scholarships that evening!

Our Shrove "Wednesday" Pancake Supper was a delicious meal shared before our Ash Wednesday

service, and your donations totaled just over \$500 more for camp!

THANK YOU!

We are also incredibly grateful to Dr. Shawn Thomas and his AFFS team for their support on Saturday, and to Beth Behrendt and her Shrove Pancake team for their support on Wednesday!

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

SAT, MAR 7 / NOON / TAYLOR PARK

POP CHURCH PICNIC

Games, fun, & fellowship for all ages! PoP will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and utensils. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and join us at: John S. Taylor Park, 1100 8th Ave SW, Largo, FL 33770, Shelter #3

MON, MAR 9 / 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, MAR 26 / 7PM / PARISH HALL

BOOKED FOR DESSERT

The book selection is "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict. All are welcome to join the group for lively conversation, fellowship and refreshments whether or not you have read the book. Contact the church office for information.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

SUNS, MAR 1, 8, 15, 22 / 10AM

COC, PEACE

WITNESS AT THE CROSS

It's a guide to Holy Friday in which Amy-Jill Levine "shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play in the Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and a message." We can come to the cross today and learn those messages. Dawn Linscott and Mary Jo Martin will facilitate this Lenten study.

WEDS, MAR 4, 11, 18 / 6PM

COC, PEACE

POETRY FOR LIFE

Is PoP experiencing a time of dreaming? What small thing sparks your senses? Are there times when gratitude and hope reawaken your heart to what's around you? Antonia Lewandowski will guide us as we ponder these questions and much more. We will use the gift of poetry to look at the things we love as Ross Gay writes in the preface to the book, "How to Love the World--Poems of Gratitude and Hope. He suggests

witness and study will help lead us to gratitude.

Doesn't that sound intriguing? Don't miss out on a very special time of learning.

WEDS / 6PM / COC, FAITH

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY

Jim Marudas leads a classic close reading text study of Genesis, exploring context, the original Hebrew language, and finding connections to other parts of Scripture. Anyone can join at any time!

TUES, MAR 24 / 10AM-NOON

PARISH HALL

WELCA BIBLE STUDY

All women are invited and welcome to join us in lively discussion. The 4th Tuesday of each month a volunteer leader guides us through a lesson from the Gather Magazine. Varying service projects are decided upon and we also have countywide events in which to participate.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

WEDS, MAR 4, 11, 18, 25

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.

- Lenten Worship, 12pm, Chapel
- Holden Evening Prayer, 7pm, Sanctuary

SAT, MAR 28 / 10AM

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join us for our annual Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 28 at 10am as we share in Easter crafts, music,

play games, hear the Easter story, and go hunting for eggs. If you would like to help with this event, please reach out to Beth Behrendt or Kaye a member of the Nurture Commission. This is a fun filled time together and we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the morning!

SUN, MAR 29 / 10AM / PARISH HALL PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us in worship as we shout "Hosanna!" honoring and celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Between services, join us for Palm Sunday Breakfast at 10am in the Parish Hall.

 PALM SUNDAY	 HOLY MONDAY, TUESDAY, & WEDNESDAY	 MAUNDY THURSDAY	 GOOD FRIDAY	 HOLY SATURDAY	 EASTER SUNDAY
 PASSION SUNDAY	March 30- April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5
March 29 Worship with Holy Communion 8:45am & 11am Palm Sunday Breakfast 10am - Free	Worship with Holy Communion Noon	Worship with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar 7pm	Worship with the Reading of the Passion of the Christ Noon Tenebrae Service 7pm	Easter Vigil 7pm	Worship with Holy Communion 8:45am & 11am

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MAR 1-5, COLLECTING FOOD FOR REZ HOUSE

FOOD COLLECTION

Prince of Peace will be collecting food donations the week of Mar 1 for Rez House, which ministers to migrant farm workers in Dade City. The following food items are needed: dry rice, dry pinto beans, vegetable oil, canned tomatoes, masa harina and self-rising flour.

We currently support four organizations during the year, and based on their needs, we use this schedule:

- Hope Village of America - January, June, September
- Pack-a-Sack - February, April, August
- Rez House - March, November, (Thanksgiving), December
- Ruth's Promise - May, July, October

WED, MAR 18 / 10AM / PARISH HALL QUILT MINISTRY

Learn how to create a LWR 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. **Contact:** Jan Brewster or the church office

FRI, MAR 27 / 10AM / PARISH HALL CARD PRAYER MINISTRY

We gather to write words of love, hope and compassion for those who are homebound, hospitalized, living in assisted care or needing words of encouragement. **Contact:** Debbie Freedman or the church office

WED, MAR 14 GO & DO LIKEWISE

PoP's annual service day is Saturday, March 14! We have many projects for this day, and a few during the week. For most projects, we'll spend the morning serving, then come together for lunch in Parish Hall to celebrate and debrief what we've done.

Signups for our projects will be available from March 1 to March 8. Sign up in person on Sundays, use the link in the e-news, or call the church office.

Our 2026 projects, dates, and times are:

Saturday, March 14, 9am at Prince of Peace

- **CASA Kits:** build toiletry & menstrual kits for those escaping domestic violence
- **Quilting:** any and all parts of the process - cutting fabric, laying out pieces, sewing, tying, sorting, organizing
- **Pinellas Hope Dinner:** make meatloaf, sides, & dessert, which will be taken to Pinellas Hope by another group in the afternoon
- **Preschool Playground Cleanup:** pressure wash playground equipment
- **Card Ministry:** make cards to be sent to those who could use a heartfelt message of care
- **Volunteer Lunch:** make lunch for the volunteer group to share

Saturday, March 14, 9am, Offsite

- **Lighthouse for the Blind:** painting parking bumpers
- **Visiting Singers:** singing at local care facilities

Saturday, March 14, 4pm, Offsite

Pinellas Hope: Deliver and serve dinner to neighbors

We also have volunteer opportunities with **Ruth's Promise** in the week leading up to G&DL!

- **Pack-a-Sack:** pack with the participants- **Tuesday, March 10, 10am**
- **Craft Coordination:** cut out, organize, and assemble craft supplies for upcoming projects - **Wednesday, March 11, 10am**
- **Bingo Buddies:** help friends play Bingo - **Wednesday, March 11, 11am**
- **Treat Baking:** bake sweet treats, including dietary-friendly items, in the PoP kitchen - **Thursday, March 12, 10am**

If you have questions, please contact Pr. Rachel or Rene Lowry. Thank you for your support!



SUN, MAR 1 / 3PM / SANCTUARY

ARCOSTRUM

Praised as “a first-rate ensemble among the new generation of performing artists,” ArcoStrum is a genre-blending violin-guitar duo hailed for their creative concert design and innovative programming. Juilliard-trained and known for their dynamic on-stage chemistry, ArcoStrum is championing the 21st-century violin-guitar art form with programs that fuse classical repertoire, Chinese folk traditions, and global influences. Their vibrant performances often feature traditional Chinese instruments like the erhu and dizi, creating one-of-a-kind musical experiences.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be received. A meet-the-artists reception with light hors d’oeuvres follows.



NEW TURF IN PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND!

POP PRESCHOOL

During Spring Break in March, we will be having new turf installed on the preschool playground. This is done for both safety and beautification reasons. We will also be creating a “garden” in the front of the preschool building so you can “see what’s growing” at Prince of Peace Preschool! We can’t wait for you to see these improvements.



POP BRANDED APPAREL AND MERCH

If you’ve been looking for a great new t-shirt, polo, umbrella, mug, blanket, or bag, we’ve great news for you! A new line of PoP apparel and merch is launching! Using our current PoP logo, we’ll have all kinds of wearable and useable items ready for you to style.

On Sunday March 1 & 8, Michele Spears will have samples of the apparel items available for you to see and touch, as well as forms for you to order all the items you’ll be sure to want! We also have a website where you can see the items in advance (use the QR-code), and order online if you won’t be with us in person. Orders placed by March 15 are anticipated to be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, March 29!

PLEASE NOTE: Every product is custom made to order, and there are NO returns or exchanges once the products are made, regardless of whether you order in-person or online.



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