

AUG 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.

SUN, AUG 2 / ONE SERVICE AT 10:30AM BELONGING SUNDAY

You belong at Prince of Peace! On Sunday, August 2, we will gather for 'Belonging Sunday' to celebrate our community and create stronger connections. We will have a **special combined worship service at 10:30am** (please note this will replace our usual two services). During this service, we will bless our new church name tags, which we will be able to use every week, to know each other even better.

After worship, we hope you'll stay for a potluck! The church will provide fried chicken, and we invite you to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please join us for Belonging Sunday as we worship and give thanks that we all have a place to belong, right here at Prince of Peace!

VBS 2026: A WEEK TO REMEMBER



Creation Speaks VBS with Luther Springs was a great week at Prince of Peace! We welcomed children and youth from ages 4 through 17, including long-time members and brand-new faces. 9 Luther Springs Counselors joined us to spend the week sharing and growing faith! This staff was supported by our PoP volunteer team, made up of youth and adults from our congregation and community, who gave so much time and effort to make VBS an awesome experience for everyone involved.

Each day, we learned how Creation reveals God to us. Our counselors opened and closed every day with God's word, songs, skits, and prayers connected to the theme. In the mornings, our counselors taught us the day's Bible story, led crafts, and played games.

Our Preschool VPK friends had their own VBS in the morning, as well. We enjoyed themed snacks and eating lunch together. In the afternoons, PoP volunteers led an art station and an experiment station, and the counselors led more camp games and activities.

On Monday, we learned that Creation Speaks of God's Power through the story of Creation. We made star mobiles and tissue paper impressionist art. We experimented with water tension, density, and buoyancy, balancing droplets on pennies and hypothesizing which objects would float and which would sink. We welcomed Keep Pinellas Beautiful for a presentation about shorelines and protecting our environment.



On Tuesday, we learned that Creation Speaks of God's Care; in Matthew 6:25-30, we heard that God provides for the flowers and the birds - surely God also cares for us! Our Preschool campers made birds in nests, and our older campers made bird feeders. We created self-portraits and experimented with feathers, learning how they keep birds warm. We enjoyed a presentation about pollinators from John Beringer, and some of our kids got a garden tour!

On Wednesday, we learned that Creation Speaks of God's Faithfulness. We heard the story of Noah and God's promise in the rainbow. We made rainbow bead keychains and necklaces, and we experimented with different ways to make rainbows, using spray bottles in the sun and flashlights inside. We decorated popsicle sticks to create wall hangings, including a large one built from a stick from every camper.



On Thursday, we learned that Creation Speaks of God's Presence. We heard the story of the Road to Emmaus, and we looked for God's presence outside. The Preschool VBS made binoculars and butterflies, and the older campers made nature books and created aboriginal-style art. We learned water and oil don't mix, and experimented with ways to remove oil from water. Then we ended the day with outdoor water games!

*"The laughter,
curiosity,
and joy of
our campers
reminded us
that God is
still at work,
growing faith
one child, one
conversation,
and one
adventure at
a time."*





On Friday, we learned from Psalm 148 that Creation Praises God. We painted rocks with decorations and words of praise, as even the rocks praise God! We took part in creation by building Lego gardens, cars, forests, towers, and more. We experimented with centripetal force, made tornados in bottles, and used baking soda with vinegar to power a bottle boat! We invited our families to join us at the end of the day to share in some songs and skits during our Closing Word.

We had an awesome week, and your support made all the difference! Thank you to everyone who prayed for VBS, donated supplies or funds, volunteered, and offered other support. We are so grateful!



CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The Congregation Council did not meet in July. However, they will meet twice in August! in the first week of August, Council will be discerning our congregational goals for 2027. We invite your prayers as they listen for God's direction for PoP in the coming year.



TEACHER APPRECIATION DRIVE

Thank you for supporting our 2026 Teacher Appreciation Drive! Your generosity will provide school supplies to hundreds of students through the 42 teachers who will receive your donations in the next two weeks!



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL! POP PRESCHOOL

Tell your friends and family with children that they can enroll in our Preschool, starting at age 2 through VPK! Our preschool offers loving teachers, engaging activities, great friendships - and more. Contact our Preschool Director, Priscilla Luster for more information, or visit poplargo.org/preschool.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

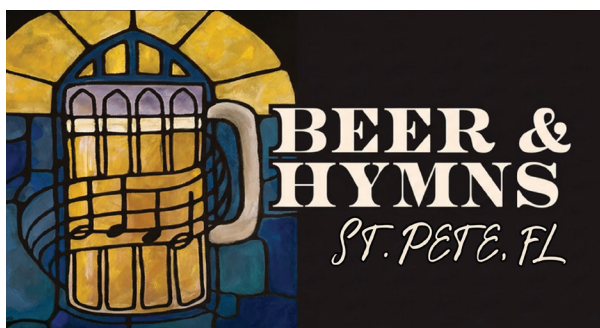


WEDNESDAYS / NOON / CHAPEL

WEEKLY NOONDAY PRAYER

Join us on Wednesdays at noon for a service of Scripture, song, and prayer. We will share joys and concerns, and then pray, read, sing, and grow together. We hope you will be able to come encounter the Word of God with us, whether once in a while or every week. See Pr. Gregg's June Newsletter article for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT



**MON, AUG 10 / 6-8PM / VOODOO BREWING CO
220 4TH ST N, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701**

BEER AND HYMNS ST PETE EDITION

This month, we are traveling! Join Shawn Thomas on the keyboard for an evening of Beer and Hymns at Voodoo Brewing Co., St. Pete. 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! VooDoo Brewing has an in-house kitchen with a wide menu, as well as numerous non-alcoholic beverage options.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



AUG 2-6, COLLECTING FOOD FOR PACK A SACK FOOD COLLECTION

Our First Sunday Food partner is Pack-a-Sack. Each week we prepare more than fifty bags of nutritious food and snacks for students at Fuguitt Elementary and our own PoP Preschool - to make sure that disadvantaged children have something to eat over the weekends. We are collecting individually packaged snacks of Goldfish, pudding, mac 'n cheese, peanut butter, juice boxes/pouches, squeeze applesauce, peanut butter or cheese crackers, instant oatmeal, cereal, and breakfast bars. Bring to worship Aug 2 or to the church office during the week.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CONT.



COLLECTING ON AUG 2

CLOTHES TO KIDS

Each year, more than 91,000 pairs of new underwear are distributed to children in need who shop at Clothes to Kids. You can help by donating pairs of new underwear on Sunday, August 2, during the annual donations drive at PoP. Most needed sizes include:

Little Girls Bikini-style: Size 4–16

Young Women Bikini Style: Size 5 and up

Little Boys Boxer Briefs: Size XS–XL

Young Men Boxer Briefs: Size S–XXL

A donations table will be set up in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting Clothes to Kids!



MON, AUG 3 / 2PM / OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

HUNGER TASK FORCE

Prince of Peace Hunger Task Force has two very special projects. First, every Thursday evening, we pick up leftover bakery items at the Panera in Belleair Bluffs and deliver them to area facilities supporting people in need of food.

Our second project is Pack-a-Sack, which provides food and snacks for the weekend to children Fuguitt Elementary School

and our preschool. The bags are packed by our Ruth's Promise guests each week and delivered for distribution to the children on Friday. We currently support approximately 50 students each week.

If you would like to be part of the Hunger Task Force ministry, please call the office at 727.585.9969 or join the task force at its next planning meeting on Aug 3.



WED, AUG 19 / 9:30AM / 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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CONT.



FRI, AUG 28 / 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

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



SUNDAYS / 10AM / COC, PEACE WIRED WORD IN THE SUMMER

Did you read about the 2 Russian visitors who climbed the outside of the Empire State Building in July? Our Sunday Wired Word group did, and we used the OT book of Habakkuk 2:2 to guide our discussion. It centered around the message the 2 roof toppers unfolded, "When the power of love beats the love of power, the world knows peace." We also addressed the legality/illegality of the climbers and how their actions put some emergency responders in danger. The discussion was lively and based on God's message, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets." Is God's message plain for all here at PoP? If it is not, how do we PoP members make God's message plainer? How do we spread it abroad and in Largo?

Each Sunday we have Scripture based discussion about a contemporary topic. We'd love for you to become part of our group! We would love to hear YOUR ideas!



SAVE THE DATE

Sept 9: Wednesdays Together Resumes

Sept 13: Sunday School Starts

Sept 14: Beer & Hymns at Commerce Brewing

Sept 16: Prayer Around the Cross



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