



Prince of Peace News

Monthly Newsletter September 2026

Come... Be A Part of Peace!

**JOIN US
SEPTEMBER 13TH**

**AT
Back
To
Church
SUNDAY**

**9 AM Breakfast & Sunday School
10 AM Worship with Holy Communion
Fellowship Lunch & Activities after worship**



2600 Atlantic Ave. Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

Office Hours Monday thru Friday 9am - 4pm

904-261-6306

www.poplweb.com

Pastor's Reflections for September 2026



Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord, and from your sisters and brothers here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We have had an amazing summer season with growth in the congregation, activities for the community, and transition in office. The fall season is coming and most of our groups are returning in September. If you are interested in Christian education opportunities, fellowship, or worship there are places for you. We look forward to continuing God's mission in our lives and the relationships we are blessed to share.

God continues to call to each of us throughout the different seasons of our lives with new and exciting ways of being part of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. This does leave us sometimes asking questions about when it is ok to change from our current way of being part of God's mission to a different variety of serving God and neighbor. Occasionally this can lead to well-meaning people forcing themselves to change before they have made peace with all that the transition entails; or conversely this can leave folks frantically juggling former responsibilities in addition to a host of new situations that have arisen over time. Many people find themselves struggling if caught in these positions as it can feel as though they are letting the community down or worse letting God down. This can bring immense stress and fatigue to their whole life but especially to their faith. While I sincerely hope that none of you feel caught in one of these places; if you or someone you know is, how do we navigate through this trapped feeling. The answer, while seemingly simply, can be deeply rewarding. Freedom from feeling trapped in transition can be found in spending time in prayer with God. It is the time that we spend in prayer with God that helps us develop our understanding or where we fit into God's will. The Peace of God that surpasses understanding is not reserved for those saintly disciples in ages long ago; nor is God's Peace only from those pious enough to earn it. The Peace that God gives is meant for all his children as it is the mercy of God given out in grace. This can often sound like reassurance that you are enough, or that you matter, and that the things that you are able to achieve do not increase or decrease your value. It is when we go to God in prayer that we receive reassurance of forgiveness, mercy, and most of all that we are loved. When people feel loved for who they are it becomes easier to share honestly how they feel with their community and when needed to let things go or to step up to new opportunities. God has called each of you by name, God loves you for who you are, and this congregation and community will only benefit from being in authentic relationship with you. Your role, job, gifts, or abilities don't change how much God loves you and it won't change how much we love you. Together let's get out to this world and let them know how much God loves them.

God Loves you and so do I,
Pastor Ben

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Prince of Peace members,

Here are some highlights from August at Prince of Peace.

1. BIG THANKS to Robin Phillips, Robin Howell, Dana Sargent, and others for covering the Office Manager position while we work to find a new person for the position.
2. We are actively working to fill the Office Manager position, and we expect to have a new person hired by September.
3. We are procuring tee shirts with the God's Work / Our Hands theme of Back-To-Church Sunday. Also, we will be ordering polo shirts with the POP logo on them for purchase at a cost of \$35.
4. We are transitioning the method of preparing the Sunday bulletins / inserts, weekly happenings, and the monthly news so you may see some minor changes. This is happening because a software that has been used for many years is being discontinued in October.
5. We have had some issues with the Sunday Worship facebook live streaming in August. Some were related to Comcast's service, and some were POP responsibility. We will resolve these issues.
6. Repeat of information from last month: Because we have a lot of web-based programs that require two-step verification via a cell phone we have purchased a cell phone for this task. The phone number is 324-888-6930 and will be used by personnel using POP web-based programs.

Les Boette



Worship Assistants Schedule

<u>Role</u>	6th- Sunday After Pentecost	13th- Sunday After Pentecost	20th- Sunday After Pentecost	27th- Sunday After Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Bill Hansberry	Duane Whitesel	Tanya Adin	Lill Ekwall
Scripture Reader	Bill Goldwire	Ken Bryson	Richard Figueroa	George Pester
Ushers	Ed Marotz Ken Bryson	Garrett Price Ted Richardson	Gene Kilcawley John Harris	Garrett Price Richard Figueroa
Greeter	Sam Serrian	Rich Ekwall	George Pester	Dennis Purdy
Altar/ Lay Assistant	Eileen Klein	Karen Blair / Jeanette Chaffee	Donna Cormier / Jeanette Chaffee	Tanya Adin
Tellers	Susan Foutz Whitney Chicco	Gene Kilcawley Patti Marotz	Barb Ehrenberg Jane Malcolm	Linda Pesante Eileen Klein



Thanks for
Worshipping With Us

“To strengthen our faith in Jesus through worship and fellowship; to be the face of Christ for others.”



Our Vision

“To provide the love of Jesus through a welcoming, caring, and growing Church guided by the Holy Spirit towards inspirational worship, Christian education, and service to our local and world communities.”

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Coffee with Shannon 9:00 am-12:00 pm Choir Practice 4:00 pm	3	4 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	5 Celebration of Life for Bob Taylor 11:00 am
6 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship	7 Labor Day Holiday Church Office Closed Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00—1:30 pm	8	9 Choir Practice 4:00 pm	10	11 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	12 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Confirmation 10am-noon
13 Back-to-Church Sunday Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship Luncheon After Worship	14 Men's Property Group 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 am AA Group 12:00—1:30 pm	15	16 Choir Practice 4:00 pm	17 Council Budget Meeting 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall	18 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am Publix – FB – Barnabas Food Drive 11 am – 5 pm	19 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am Confirmation Make-up Class 10am-noon Walmart & Publix – FB – Barnabas Food Drive 11 am – 5 pm
20 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship Youth Luncheon After Worship	21 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00—1:30 pm Church Council Meeting 5:30 pm	22 Newsletter Articles Deadline	23 Choir Practice 4:00 pm Music and Worship Committee Meeting 5:00 pm	24	25 Bell Choir Practice 11:00 am	26 AA Group 9:00-11:30 am
27 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am POP Band Practice After Worship BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	28 Men's Property Group 9:00 am AA Group 12:00—1:30 pm	29	30 Coalition for Homeless Breakfast Choir Practice 4:00 pm			

FLORAL & BULLETIN SPONSORS

Celebrate your special occasion or honor a beloved individual when you sponsor Altar Flowers and our Bulletin

The Flower Chart is located outside the Church's office to confirm the date you wish to sponsor.

If you prefer, you can call our church office during the week to initiate your sponsorship.

The cost of sponsorship is **\$35** and can be placed in offertory plates.

Thanks to September Sponsors

6th:

13th:

20th:

27th:



CHURCH POLO SHIRT SIGN-UP

Would you like an embroidered polo featuring our church logo?

We are now taking orders for church polos. The estimated cost is \$32 per shirt, provided we can get approximately 30 orders. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for anyone interested in ordering.

Be sure to add your name to the list!



Leanne Peacock - 1st
Jessica Miller - 8th
Erin Schram - 9th
Karen Nucci - 9th
Sam Serrian - 10th
Tim Miller - 10th
BJ Taylor - 12th
Sherry Vaughn - 14th
Tess Mandrick - 20th
Aaron Opheim - 22nd
Janice Vogel - 23rd
Steven Ternoey - 24th
Emily Pittman - 25th
Les Boette - 25th
Atleigh Cross - 27th
John "Ben" Mandrick - 28th



Bob & BJ Taylor - 3rd
Eric & Samantha Stommel - 15th
Blake & Nancy Carter - 21st
John & Margaret Holden - 24th
Mr. & Mrs. Gerber - 25th
Mr & Mrs. Passarge - 26th
David & Karen Evans - 28th
George & Michele Pester - 28th



BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

All are invited to join the congregation in celebrating October Birthdays with us **Sunday, September 27th** with cupcakes and snacks in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We are looking to celebrate monthly birthdays in the congregation at the end of the prior month. The Light Keepers (youth group) will be taking the lead on hosting these events. If you're interested in helping please reach out to the church office.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



FIND YOUR PLACE AT PRINCE OF PEACE

The first day of fall is just around the corner, and we hope you've had a fantastic summer filled with great times and treasured memories!

As the weather begins to change, it's the perfect time to come Back to Church and to FIND YOUR PLACE at Prince of Peace. You are warmly invited to join our Back to Church celebration on September 13th. Reignite your spiritual journey by joining our worship services, grow in learning at Sunday School, and after the worship service, delight in our Fellowship Luncheon. It's the perfect chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, grow in faith, fellowship, and enjoy delicious food.

As we gear up for the fall season, prepare your hearts and minds with our Bible Studies, Ministry Groups, and new exciting Get-togethers and Activities. There are so many ways to get involved and make a meaningful impact on our community. Invite your friends and neighbors to discover the connection, support, and hope that Prince of Peace offers.

Bring a friend and, Come... Be A Part Of Peace at Back To Church Sunday!



Remember to bring a can of food to support our 2,500 Can Food Drive. Your contribution will help provide for our neighbors facing food insecurity and display the spirit of giving and compassion from God through our church.

We can't wait to see you there, sharing in worship, education, and fellowship!

George Pester



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER MISSION

Benefitting
Barnabas
CENTER
Food Pantry

Join Our Mission and Help our Neighbors!



Every Sunday, we invite you to bring non-perishable canned food to church as part of our mission to make a difference in the lives of those struggling with food insecurity. We are on our way to achieving our ambitious goal of collecting 2,500 cans. Our heartfelt gratitude to all our members for your incredible generosity. We also offer special thanks to Johnson, Kendall & Johnson for their generous \$500 contribution and to Harris Teeter for donating food gift cards. Be sure to watch our progress every Monday in the "This Week at Prince of Peace" update.



Join us at Publix and Walmart on September 18th & 19th to further our Can Food Drive mission. We will ask community members to donate food as part of our mission and the ELCA's

"Gods work. Our hands" days of service to neighbors' initiative. Sign-up in the narthex or at the Fellowship Luncheon at Back To Church Sunday on September 13th. All participants will receive a free Prince of Peace - God's work. Our hands. t-shirt. Come... join in the fun and help people in need.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



August and September Mission will be a special two-month mission.

We will combine the ELCA Synod's "God's Work. Our Hands" initiative with Back To Church Sunday!



Hope everyone had a fun summer! We're looking forward to the change in seasons with fall colors, and some cooler weather! Autumn is an exciting time for our church too! We have begun our special **August and September mission** combining the Synod's "God's Work Our Hands" efforts with Back to Church Sunday! This is a two month mission benefiting Barnabas. We are bringing food items to church every Sunday during the months August and September to help families experiencing food shortage. We are off to a great start with 583 items donated so far! Our goal is 2,500 items! A requested food item list is available in the narthex. We will also be involving the community on the 18 th and 19 th of September. Food items will be collected in front of the Fernandina Beach Publix from 11am -5:00pm on Friday Sept 18 & Saturday Sept. 19 ,and we will be in front of the Fernandina Beach Walmart from 11am -5:00pm on Friday nSept 18 Harris Teeter has offered to donate a gift card to help with our mission. Johnson, Kendall and Johnson, an independent, employee- owned insurance brokerage and risk management firm has generously donated a check for \$500.00 to help us reach our goal. A big thank you to George Pester for his time and effort to enlist their help and support. Signup sheets will be in the narthex for people to man the tables at Publix and Walmart, and T-shirts to commemorate this will be available for all those who sign up! This is a wonderful way to help families in need and show them they are loved and cared for.

Back to Church Sunday will be celebrated on September 13 with inter-generational Sunday School at 9:00 and a breakfast of biscuits and gravy. There will be a special message from Pastor Ben, and bell choir performances during church at 10:00, and a luncheon at 11:00 after the service. One out of every four children and one out of every six adults face a shortage of food every day. Come help us celebrate this special time while helping us meet our goal of at least 2,500 cans of food! Your compassion and generosity will make a difference to those who need it most.

IDN dinner was held Monday, August 3 at 3:30. Fourteen volunteers from prepared a meal of cheesy chicken bean burritos, rice, corn, cookie, banana and water. 89 adults and 15 youth totaling 104 meals were served at Hope House. We sent leftovers to the men;s shelter.

Our **July mission** was a success with many Thank You cards sent to veterans. Thank you to all who signed, Robin Howell for her help with this, and Bill Hansberry for providing additional cards. It is a privilege to honor the special people who have sacrificed to keep our country safe and free. One hundred seventy five beach safety fliers were delivered to various hotels and a rental agency.

Future Events

An **October mission** with Lutheran Services Florida is being planned.

Another **November mission** is being planned with Barnabas to provide ten families with Thanksgiving dinner supplies.

The **December mission** will again be the Advent Tree, providing Christmas gifts for a families. We will begin this in November.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

Sue AB Hildebrand

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Communications ministry helps Prince of Peace members and friends informed and involved.

Check our website at www.poplcweb.com. It has updated information about our ministry activities and events. Stream worship service when unable to attend on Sunday's by clicking the link on our home page.

Join our followers on Facebook. The POP Facebook page is regularly updated. Please Share & Like posts to further our ministry - www.facebook.com/POPLC2. and remember to please take photos and send them to George Pester (gpester1@comcast.net) for additions to our church's Facebook pages when you attend an event.

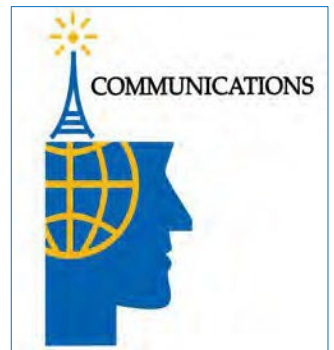
Let us share all the good news and happenings at Prince of Peace!

Linda Pesante

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

September is still very much summer. We will not be planning a campfire or even a picnic out on the lawn. All will agree, it is just too hot. The big event for September, however, is a really big event: "Back-to-Church-Sunday"! on Sunday, September 13. Our goal is to include everyone, especially new members and even any visitors from here or far away. Everyone is encouraged to take part in the worship as well as a great pot-luck luncheon. Sunday School will have resumed by the 13th, so we will need to have your wake-up coffee or juice ready then, plus something to hold you over until the real meal immediately after the worship service. We will have some activities planned to keep you busy too at this time. We'll need some help pulling all this off, so please sign up to do whatever you can. If someone asks you "please," the correct response is "I'd love too." Better yet, come be a part of Peace by working with the fellowship team as we plan and execute all the upcoming events.

Bill Hansberry



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sunday School Happenings for September! Sunday School Returns!

Sunday school resumes at 9 a.m. on the 6th of September in the POP Fellowship Hall. This fall we will use an intergenerational approach, with all age groups gathering together to look at the day's scripture readings and, then, going off to do crafts and activities appropriate for the age group. If you would like to participate as a teacher or leader, just show up on the 6th and we will put you to work!

On Tuesdays in October (6, 13, 20, 27), we will be meeting for an adult Bible Study at Holy Grounds Coffee House on Amelia Parkway at 3:30 p.m. Holy Grounds is located right behind the Speedway Gas Station at the corner of 8th and Amelia Island Parkway, but the entrance to the complex is actually on Amelia Island Parkway,

We will be studying a book from the wisdom literature that those of you of a certain age and who are Roger McGinn and Byrds fans will instantly remember. Pete Seeger incorporated chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes into his famous "Turn! Turn! Turn!" folk song in 1959 and the Byrds made it famous way back in 1965! Ecclesiastes is attributed to King Solomon, although it was actually written during Israel's post exilic period (550-450 B.C.E.). The book reflects the wisdom that Solomon has obtained over a very long life and has some very provocative poetry that evokes a response from its readers no matter what their age or where they are in their faith journey. "Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity." Be with us on Tuesdays in October and we shall see!

John Harris



SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST!

We're excited to announce that breakfast will be served during Sunday School at 9:00 AM, beginning Sunday, September 6th!

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and a great start to your Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you there! If you would like to help with breakfast, please see Andi.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT

IT Committee Report – September 2026

Here is update/status for this month – active work.

1. The new Assisted Listening System has been installed.

We were having issues with the iPhone / Smartphone option since it relies on the POP wireless internet system. This wireless system did not appear to have enough bandwidth to function during Sunday services. Comcast has upgraded the bandwidth from 0.5 GIG to 2.0 GIG.

2. We are working out some issues with the new Comcast system related to the Sunday service facebook live streaming. After that is solved we will be able to test the new Assisted Listening System.

3. Microsoft Publisher will not be available after October. The team filling in for the Office Manager is successfully working on converting from Publisher to using Microsoft Word templates for the documents such as the monthly POP News, This Week @ POP – Sunday worship version, This Week @ POP – Happenings version and the Sunday worship bulletin.

4. Pastor Ben is temporarily taking over responsibility for ensuring that the POP website has accurate and timely information posted on it. The new Office Manager will take over this responsibility.

Les Boette



CHURCH NEEDS

Our church is in need of
Counters. Training will be
provided.

Please contact
Barbara Ehrenberg or the
church office if you are
interested in helping.

Thank You!



Brother, can you spare some time?
Join in the fun with our Men's Property Group
The Nehemiah Bunch



Help keep the church grounds beautiful and welcoming for everyone.
"The Nehemiah Bunch" meets every Monday for a few hours to work
together in fellowship and care for our church property.
Your helping hands make an enormous difference!

For more information or to get involved, see John Mandrick or call the Church Office.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fernandina Rehab

Barry Moore



At Home

Michele Pester / Ted Wessel / Dawn Price / Darrell Heun / Claudia Kavan / Nick Ivanovic / Diane Demeranville / Alice Hansberry / Bill Mungo / Yvonne Bowman / George Pester / Rita Tiench / Bill Goldwire / Gary Dildine / Glenn Beyer / Karen Blair / Linda Vinditti / Blake Carter / Mike Johnson / Marsha Woleshin / Bob Vogel / Clay Chaffee / Gary Dildine / Jason Yungmann

Military

Commander Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, WMEC Spencer Ship, Ft. Smith, VA (grandson of Glen & Norma Beyer)

-Reid Stribling, US Navy (grandson of Gene & Victoria Kilcawley)

-Lt. Col. Eric Venditti, Army (son of Linda Venditti)

-Lt. Jared H. Poling, US Navy Pilot, Honolulu, Hawaii (son of Kurt & Lisa Poling)

-Lt. Col. Tim J. Martin, US Army, 1st Calvary Division Artillery, Fort Hood, Texas (son-in-law of Kurt & Lisa Poling)

Keeping Our Prayer List Up-to-Date ...

God's blessings to those who are no longer in acute need of prayer. Please let us know when a person no longer wishes to be included. Call the church office for those in need and they will be added so we can lift up a prayer for them.



Call our Church Office When...

You become Hospitalized, are Sick or Shut in. Have a spiritual question or need prayer. Moving, getting married encountering any other life changes or need information about events.

904-261-6306

POP VISITATION CARE TEAM PROGRAM



A need was recognized for an organized approach to visiting members of our congregation who are not able to attend church.

The visitation team visits and offers communion as desired to church members. The team is also developing additional methods to enhance our visitation outreach.

Any member of the church is in need or who knows a church member who would benefit from a visit (s) please contact the church office at poplc.office@gmail.com or call 904-261-6306.

Calling all crafters!

Do you crochet, bead, macrame, quilt, sew, knit, embroidery, cross-stitch? — do you make items that could be used to welcome a new family, for a baby baptism, a new home owner with Habitat for Humanity, or cheer a church member?



We would love for you to join us at Prayer Shawl Group on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm, meeting in the Narthex.

Questions? Please reach out to Robin Howell



The Potters Daughters Ladies Group has restocked a very needy first aid kit. Hopefully you will find what you need for your minor emergencies. It is on top of the freezer in the kitchen.

The Potters Daughters Ladies Group activities will return in October.

REMOTE WORSHIP

UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP IN PERSON?

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY'S AT 10:00 AM on Facebook Live.

Click the below button on Sundays to enter our livestream worship experience.



NOTE: You do not need to have a Facebook account to access the live and recorded services. If you have any issues please call the church office or Pastor Ben.

Our Mission

*To strengthen our faith in Jesus
through worship and fellowship;
to be the face of Christ for others*

POP WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Wondering what is Happening?

Don't miss all the great things happening at Prince of Peace on our website and Facebook. The sites are regularly updated with the latest events and activities.

Check our website by clicking www.poplcweb.com. The site can help you access a streamed Worship service, make a prayer request, contact a staff member or council member, make a financial gift, read our newsletter, read weekly scriptures and much more.

Click www.facebook.com/POPLC2/ to view our Facebook page. The page contains posts about events and activities, photos of activities and information about our ministry . Check it out, be informed, and enjoy the information!

Handy Links

Barnabas Center

Helps neighbors in crisis (neighbors face unexpected illness, unemployment, fire, or a change in living status, with nowhere to turn), Food Pantry, and Health. www.barnabasnassau.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. www.elca.org

Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.com

Interfaith Dinner Network—IDN

IDN's mission is to feed the homeless, hungry, and lonely. www.idnweb.net

Luther Springs

Camp and Conference Center programs for children, youth, adults, and families. www.luthersprings.org

Nassau County Council on Aging

Advocate and resource for the elderly seeking information, counseling, assistance and referral to available services
www.nassaucountycouncilonaging.org



2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Les Boette

boette10@gmail.com

Carolyn Krause

Carolyn.Krause@poplcweb.com

Dana Sargent

dana_phillips@hotmail.com

Robin Phillips

phillirg@gmail.com

John Harris

johncharris72@gmail.com

Sue Hildebrand

susiehildebrand@yahoo.com

Linda Pesante

lhmelia@gmail.com

Garrett Price

ameliapri26@gmail.com

Dennis Purdy

dennis.purdy36@gmail.com

Duane Whitesel

ddwhitesel@outlook.com

2026 Congregational Financial Report

YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCOME VS. TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

Year To Date Income Thru July 31, 2026

General Contributions	\$228,776	
Miscellaneous Income	\$0	
Keep It Simple	\$1,841	
Rental Income	\$1,000	
Earned Investment Income	\$2,369	
Fund Fundraising	<u>\$0</u>	
Year TO Date SubTotal Income		\$233,986
Transfers from Savings to Checking		<u>\$0</u>
Year TO Date TOTAL INCOME ALL SOURCES		\$233,986
Year TO Date TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$222,918</u>
Difference Year To Date Income Vs. Expenses		\$11,068
Lightkeepers Fund Balance		\$7,672
Playground Fund Balance		\$230
BEAR Fund		\$10,995
Disaster Recovery Fund Balance		\$21,592
Mortgage Balance Remaining		\$121,770
Endowment Fund		\$116,065



Special Note From Church Council

1. Additional donations of \$1,250.00 have been applied to our Mortgage Principal in 2026.
2. Disaster Recovery Fund was credited with \$5,000 in March & June; Expensed to WIND/HAIL SELF-INSURANCE; No actual funds dispersed; Expense/Credit will occur quarterly.
3. Received \$120 donation for Lightkeepers Fund; Fund total of \$7,671.68 towards 2027 Nat'l Youth Gathering.
4. Received \$250 in Memorials and \$60 for B.E.A.R. Fund in July.



MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

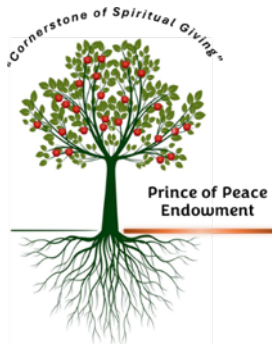
The Reduction Fund provides that contributions will be applied to the principle balance reducing mortgage debt.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, mark your check "MORTGAGE FUND" and contributions will be applied to the reduce the principle balance.

***Thank you for your support that continues
God's work!***

Offerings furthering our ministry can be made:

- à At Worship Service place envelopes in the offering plate, in the church mail slot, or mailing offering to the church office.
- à Electronic contributions can be made via or website at www.poplcweb.com . Click the "GIVE" tab & follow
- à instructions to set automatic contributions from account.



Grant Awards: At the August Endowment Board meeting, Susie Hildebrand, representing the Outreach Committee, presented nominations for this year's grant awards, which were unanimously approved by the Board. This year's grant recipients are **America's Youth** and **Micah's Place**, receiving **\$1,797** apiece.

America's Youth of Fernandina Beach is a nonprofit ministry providing mentoring, tutoring, summer programs, and faith-based leadership for local children. Micah's Place, well-known to Prince of Peace, continues its vital mission of supporting families affected by domestic violence and helping rebuild lives after broken homes.

The Endowment Board is pleased and proud to mark this as our first year of grant issuance, with many more opportunities ahead. These grants were made possible only through the generosity, support, and prayers of our congregation, which helped establish this endowment less than two years ago. It is no exaggeration to say, *this is just the beginning*. With God's help—and yours—we will continue to make meaningful, positive differences in our community for years to come. Imagine the many smiles we can brighten as we live out Jesus' command to "love our neighbors as ourselves."

Webpage: Although not quite ready for launch, we have developed an endowment webpage that will soon be accessible through the PoP Facebook page. The site will include information for donors from the brochure, historical financial growth, grant information, recipient records, and reflections from donors. An announcement will be made once the webpage is active.

Logo: As shown at the top of this article, the Endowment Board has adopted a new logo that will appear on all official endowment communications, reports, and materials. The logo provides clarity and a gentle distinction from general church business. Its symbolism reflects the mission and purpose of our endowment and will be explained in detail in the October newsletter.

Endowment Board



Prince of Peace Church Council Meeting Summary
August 17, 2026

- Called to order by Les Boette at 5:34 PM.
- The devotion was provided by John Harris.
- The Treasurer's report was approved.
- A donation of 10 shares of Microsoft stock was deposited into POP Thrivent Retail Brokerage account. The council approved leaving the stock in the account collecting dividends for the current time being.
- Five or six POP youth will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering 2027.
- Nine confirmands are on track for confirmation in October.
- Two final interviews for Office Manager position were conducted. The council approved making an offer to the primary candidate with a backup approval of the second candidate in case the primary candidate does not accept the offer.
- The work team of POP volunteers of Robin Phillips and Dana Sargent (and others) are successfully keeping the key office processes working. BIG THANKS to them.
- Polo shirts with a POP logo on them will be offered for purchase at \$35 each. There will be a signup sheet set up to order. God's Work / Our Hands tee shirts will also be procured.
- Three people have been approved for membership in POP.
- Efforts to find a cost appropriate source of gluten free communion hosts continue.
- The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival was approved for use of the Sanctuary on March 30, 2027.
- Back-To-Church-Sunday will be September 13 to be in harmony with the Synod's God's Work / Our Hands program. Food collection is going well.
- The process for developing the POP 2027 budget to be approved by the Council in September was outlined.
- The Comcast internet service has been upgraded to 2G.
- There were issues of the POP Sunday worship facebook live streaming on two Sundays in August. One Sunday was due to Comcast service in the Fernandina Beach area. The other Sunday was due to setting up the new Comcast service.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Submitted by Les Boette



All Committee Meeting Committees will meet on an as needed basis as called by the Council liaisons. ***NEXT MEETING is Sunday, October 4, 2026—After Worship.***

Below is a brief description of the purpose of each of the Committees and council liaison and/or contact person:

- **Education & Youth Ministry: John Harris**
Organize and promote Christian education activities/opportunities – including children, youth and adults.
- **Evangelism: Carolyn Krause/George Pester**
Seek opportunities to share the Gospel in the community
- **Public Relations: Linda Pesante**
Provide electronic and media support to share the ministry of POP
- **Fellowship Ministry: Garrett Price/Bill Hansberry**
Planning and implementing Congregational social activities
- **Outreach Ministry: Susie Hildebrand**
Seek opportunities or reach out and offer help to those in need.
 - Monthly Care Projects
 - Interdenominational Dinner Network (IDN)Prayer committee
Visitation Team
- **Finance/Stewardship Ministry: John Harris, Robin Phillips**
Monitor the financial condition of the Congregation including advisement on long-term investment of reserve funds and contract oversight.
Conduct an annual stewardship campaign
- **Information Technology: Les Boette**
Work with church staff to identify solutions for data and computer systems
Monitor hardware and software needs
Manage tele-worship, AV equipment support for worship and education
- **Property Ministry: Dennis Purdy**
Ensure the physical building and grounds of the property is well maintained.
Coordinating body for required contracted services or capital purchases related to maintenance of the building/property.
- **Worship & Music Ministry: Duane Whitesel**
Work with Pastor to plan and implement worship services.
Recruit, train and schedule the Worship support team including ushers & greeters, altar guild, acolytes, worship assistants and readers.

We would welcome and encourage your interest with any of the committees. Please contact either the Council Liaison, Council President, Les Boette or Pr. Ben.



Talents Needed!

A host of opportunities are available to put our talents to good use assisting in worship services, planning our ministry, and outreach missions.

Have fun when being a part of our worship service as a Reader, Worship Assistant, Usher, Greeter, musician, and choir member.

Lend your ideas to our ministry when participating and helping the Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Outreach, Prayer, Music, Property, Worship, or Altar Guild Committees. Consider and help set our direction on Church Council. Your talents and skills will make a difference!

See a Council Member or call our Church office to get involved.



Have Questions or Need Help?



Rev. John “Ben” Mandrick	ben.mandrick@popleweb.com	904-556-6687 (C)	Pastor
Tyler Odom	ctylerodom@gmail.com	904-206-1150	Choir Director
Solomon Johnson	solomon8992@gmail.com	904-583-8795	Organist
Les Boette	boette10@gmail.com	904-305-9618	Council President