FEBRUARY BRINGS US TWO FESTIVALS OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD  Always observed on Sunday, February 2, the Presentation of our Lord takes us again to the infant Jesus and to the traditions of the Jewish faithful of that day. Mary and Joseph bring their newborn son to the temple in Jerusalem “to present him to the Lord....” There they encounter two prophets, Simeon and Anna, each of whom speak strange and marvelous things about the tiny infant boy.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, is a day that marks the conclusion of the Sundays following Epiphany. While the magi followed the light of a star leading them to the newborn Christ child, three of our Lord’s disciples are nearly blinded by the light of his garments, when he is transfigured before them on the mountainside.
ASH WEDNESDAY

WED FEB 26 / WORSHIP NOON & 7PM
THE CROSS OF ASHES

Ash Wednesday is the most penitential day of the Church Year and draws us into a season of penitence—a season, in fact, of turning aside for prayer, fasting and almsgiving (justice toward our neighbors). On Ash Wednesday we receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads reminding of our own dusty origins and destination. But the cross of ashes more importantly helps us recall Whose we are in this challenging age and how through our risen Lord we are forgiven. Come to this blessed time of worship.

Bring friends to join us on our journey of faith that takes us in the coming 40 days to the Holy Center of the year and on to Resurrection Day.

WED FEB 12 / 7:07PM
PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

A reflective time of prayer becomes a centering time of worship at midweek. After our Wednesday meal and learning time, we gather in the sanctuary around a cross lying on the steps. Gentle song, prayer, scripture and silence mark this meaningful time together. Throughout this time any who are present may light candles and place them near the cross, as they lift to God a concern or burden for themselves or another. Let’s join in a quiet time of prayer together.

WORDS FROM FAYE

On Sunday, January 19 POP honored the retirement of Faye Belskey and her 32 years of service on our staff. Faye asked that we share the following with you:

“There are no words for me to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for all the love, hugs and overwhelming support I have been shown by you all. From the outstanding, amazing and awesome reception, to all the wonderful cards and kind thoughts. The truly beautiful necklace will be treasured as it lays close to my heart and the generous check too. Wow! I am feeling so very blessed. God is good and so are you. Thanks be to God!”

TUES FEB 25 / 6PM
SHROVE TUESDAY

This day before the disciplines of Lent begin is a traditional day of feasting. On Mardi Gras at PoP, we’ll continue our traditional way of marking this feast time by serving pancakes and everything you might imagine would accompany such a meal. The feast begins at 6pm. Don’t forget the children will also be burying their Alleluia banner as a part of the celebration and will wait to “resurrect” it on Easter Sunday. All donations from the meal will help our youth go to camp this summer.
TUESDAYS / MAR 3 - MAY 12
OPENING MINDS THROUGH ART

Ruth’s Promise is excited to start the second 10 week session of the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program at Prince of Peace. The program is free and open to the public but registration is necessary.

OMA is an award-winning, evidence-based, failure-free, intergenerational art-making program, providing opportunities for creative self-expression and social engagement for people with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

We are thrilled to again have outstanding students from Largo High School as volunteer partners. Each elder is paired with a trained student volunteer who provides guidance during the art-making process but who makes no aesthetic decisions for the artist.

SIXTY YEARS OF MINISTRY IMPACT
OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

We have entered our 60th year of ministry in Christ Jesus. What blessings and opportunities our Lord has shown us!

Serving our Lord in a myriad of ways has been a part of our DNA as a congregation over the decades. Whether we are at work in efforts here at PoP, through community agencies or ministries or in our neighborhoods, the Lord has equipped us to serve in Jesus’ name. In this anniversary year we are trying to reach 60,000 hours of serving our Lord. Have you turned in a yellow card this week?

We are also hoping to receive addition financial gifts in this anniversary year for 3 purposes:

- To replace well-worn tables and chairs in our Parish Hall.
- To perform the first major maintenance on our organ in the 18 years we have had it.
- And most importantly, with the majority of the funds we will support a Faith Build through Habitat for a family whose home was declared environmentally unsafe.

What better way to continue our 60 years of giving and serving than to help provide a safe, healthy home for a family in our community!

SAVE THE DATE!
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY
Sunday, May 10 / 10am (one worship time)
The Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop
Florida Bahamas Synod, ELCA

SAT FEB 22
GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER?

Whenever we stage a “Guess Who...” night, friends around talk of how they got to know folk they’ve seen and never had a chance to meet. We also share how tasty the meals were and who brought what. That’s the deal: Sign up whether you want to host 4 to 6 others at your home (you then would provide the main dish). Or you may sign up to attend (you’ll be assigned a side dish or dessert). We then set up each host with guests, but NOBODY know who is going where. Guests will simply learn the address and show up at the designated time. Surprise... for everybody! Sign up information coming soon!
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

WEDNESDAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ELEMENTARY YOUTH Elementary Children’s choir meets from 6:15-7:15 on Wednesdays. Our Parish Musician, Shawn Thomas, leads this wonderful opportunity for children to grow in faith and learn about music.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY Middle school youth gather on Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15pm upstairs in the COC. This year our 6th-8th graders are studying the New Testament.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH High School Youth are meeting for Bible Study and youth group on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:15 upstairs in the youth room in the COC. Join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE Elementary youth gather in the Learning Center and begin with music time in the Blue Room before heading to their classrooms. There is a Pre-K classroom, K-2 classroom and a 3-5 classroom.

Middle School Youth meet upstairs in the Community Outreach Center.

High school youth gather in the Youth Room upstairs in the Community Outreach Center. The Wired Word curriculum helps students to connect stories from the news with scripture.

**FRI FEB 21 / FRI 6PM TIL SAT 8:30AM**

PARENTS NIGHT OUT / ELEMENTARY NIGHT IN!

Join us for a night full of fun and a little learning as we make our infamous box cars to watch movies in drive-in style in the Parish Hall. We will talk about Lent and the importance of prayer. We will prepare the Alleluia Banner that will be buried on Shrove Tuesday. We will have pizza for supper and will serve breakfast on Saturday morning. Contact Pastor Adam: 727.585.9969 with questions. *We are in need of BIG boxes for our drive-in style movie for the kids – please drop one off to the Church Office if you are able!*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars. VBS will be the week of June 22-26. Invite your family and friends to be a part of this week of fun, Bible stories, singing, prayer, making new friends, and so much more! Registration information will come be out online in March. We need volunteers to help make this VBS meaningful for the kids... consider volunteering for VBS!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**ELEMENTARY YOUTH SCHEDULE**

FEB 21-22: Elementary Lock in
APRIL 11: Eggstravaganza at 3:30pm
JUNE 22-26: VBS save the date!

**YOUTH SCHEDULE**

FEB 9: POP’s Pork Picnic
FEB 25: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
APR 5: Palm Sunday Breakfast
APR 11: Eggstravaganza
MAY 17: Senior Recognition Sunday
MAY 29: End of School Lock in
JUNE 22-26: VBS
JULY 25-Aug 1: High School to Lutherock
UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY

**SUN FEB 2 / 8AM THRU 1PM**

**GIVE BLOOD. GIVE LIFE.**

OneBlood will be at Prince of Peace on Sunday, February 2, from 8am until 1pm. A critical number of voluntary donations are required every day to meet the need for blood, and we appreciate your life saving efforts. Prince of Peace has a goal of 10 donors. If you have been a donor in the past, we thank you and hope that you will consider donating again. If you have not donated, and you are able, please consider this life affirming gift.

**BEGINNS MON FEB 3 / ALL WOMEN INVITED**

**WOMEN OF ELCA BIBLE STUDY**

The winter Bible studies are titled “We Are Called”. The four-part Bible study written by the Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans will explore stories from the Old and New Testaments. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God’s call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us. The Naomi Circle Bible study meets on the first Monday of the month at 10:30am, and the Miriam Circle Bible study meets on the second Monday at 7pm. Call Jean Zoller at 727-517-9357 if you have any questions.

**SUN FEB 9 EAGLE LAKE PARK**

**POP’S PORK PICNIC**

Come on out and enjoy ribs, BBQ, and chicken right off the grill as we gather for a devotion and meal at Eagle Lake Park shelter 6. Tickets are on sale Wednesday Evenings and Sunday Mornings ($10 for adults and $5 for children). Bring a side to share. Lawn games will be provided, as well as Ten Commandments Bowling, a confirmation class favorite.

**SAT FEB 15 / 8AM**

**MEN’S BREAKFAST**

Join us for breakfast (pancakes, sausages and high octane coffee), devotions and program. Our program is by PoP member Rich Rayner, pianist extraordinaire, who will lead us through the popular music history of our lives. Think of it as a “Name That Tune” Saturday! So get out your old LP’s and 45’s and warm those musical memories beforehand. Bill Glasgow will lead us in devotions.
MORE FOR YOU

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

HUNGER TASK FORCE

POP Hunger Task Force has two special projects. Every Thursday evening, our team picks up the leftover bakery items at the Panera in Belleair Bluffs and delivers the items to one of two area facilities on alternate weeks, The Haven and the Homeless Empowerment Project in Clearwater.

Our second project is part of the Pack-a-Sack program which provides food and snacks for the weekend to children at one of the local elementary schools. The bags are packed by our Ruth’s Promise guests each week and delivered on Thursday for distribution to the children on Friday. We are currently supporting 65 students at Fuguit Elementary School.

We are blessed with faithful volunteers and grateful for the support of our POP congregation. If you would like to be part of this ministry, call the office at 727-585-9969 or join the task force meeting on Monday, February 3 at 3pm in the church office.

BEGINS THURS FEB 6 / 10-11AM

AGING CREATIVELY

As part of our Aging Creatively: Unique Activities to Bridge Dementia Barriers, Ruth’s Promise will hold a six week Improvisation Class for those with dementia and for caregivers. Improvisation is an excellent tool to help caregivers make meaningful connections with those with dementia in a way that uses creativity, play, humor and listening. Classes are led by Jack Holloway, Drama Department Director from Ruth Eckerd Hall’s Hoffman School of the Arts and are possible thanks to support from SunCoast Osteopathic Foundation. Classes held Thursdays 10-11am February 6 thru March 12, in the COC. The class is free but registration is appreciated. Contact Terri Ziegler at 727-365-1866 or tmsziegler@gmail.com.

SUN FEB 2

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.” It started with a simple prayer that gave birth to an idea of looking beyond ourselves, using a time of gathering, fun, football and food to unify our nation to collect money and canned food for those in need.

Please consider donating money and/or food on Sunday, February 2. Our youth will be on-hand to receive your donations which will benefit RCS, our local food pantry.

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Ken Abkemeier
Beth Behrendt
Michael Carmody
Kellie Dreger
Ashley Fields
Cynthia Gorski
Tony Hanson
Marilyn Holmes

Mary Kay Koch
Marian Kooiman
Cooper Koryn
Richard Landeen
Karl Mackus
Cailey Mateo
Elizabeth McEntegart
Jon Morris

Carol Murphy
Thomas Olson
Deloris Pudwill
Tim Riley
Debbie Storey
Casey Temple
Linda Tindall

FRI FEB 14 / 1:30-3:30PM

VALENTINE’S DAY EVENT

ALOA’s Lutheran Intentional Village of Upper Pinellas (LIV-UP) invites you to a Valentine’s Day celebration on Friday, February 14 from 1:30 -3:30pm at POP. This free event will celebrate our members, thank our volunteers, and inform friends of the opportunities provided by LIV-UP. It will also feature sweet treats and the opportunity to join in on love songs from yesterday-to-today with musical duo “Rick and Debbie.” LIV-UP is a volunteer organization that helps older adults stay in their own homes as long as possible. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. For more info call 727-378-2186.

SAT FEB 8 / 8PM

POPTART NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE CONCERT

Join us as David Jericko and his band, The Crew, pay tribute to Neil Diamond and his most well-known hits including Solitary Man, Cracklin’ Rosie, Brooklyn Roads, Love on the Rocks, September Morn, Sweet Caroline, among others. We’ll meet at the the Largo Cultural Center at 7pm. Tickets are $28.50. For more information, call Marilyn Peltzer 727-432.3740

JAN 2019

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

+ Approved description of staff position, Coordinator of Discipleship and Congregational Care
+ Received reports from Preschool and Ruth’s Promise
+ Tithed extra funds from 2019 and placed remainder in Memorial Fund to consider for future needs
+ Received report from 60th Anniversary Team regarding Habitat Build, directory, & celebration day, May 10
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<td>Presentation of Our Lord</td>
<td>10:30 Naomi Circle</td>
<td>All Day / Largo Learning Academy</td>
<td>9:15 Preschool Chapel</td>
<td>10:00 Ruth's Promise Improv Class</td>
<td>9:00 Prayer Partners</td>
<td>8:00 Men's Bible Study</td>
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<td>10:00 Education Hour</td>
<td>7:00 Commission Meetings</td>
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<td>7:00 Whispering Pines Girl Scouts</td>
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<td>Souper Bowl Sunday</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30 Parish Choir</td>
<td>6:30 Girl Scout Troop 42 Cadets</td>
<td>All Day / Largo Learning Academy</td>
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<td>10:00 Education Hour</td>
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<td>6:00 AFFS: Dueling Piano Dinner</td>
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<td>7:00 Compassionate Friends</td>
<td>8:00 AA, Peace</td>
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<td>7:30 Parish Choir</td>
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<td>1:00 POP's Polk Picnic</td>
<td>1:00 TOPS*</td>
<td>7:00 Bells Angels</td>
<td>7:00 Prayer Around the Cross</td>
<td>7:30 Parish Choir</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30 Parish Choir</td>
<td>4:00 Ruth's Promise Advisory Brd</td>
<td>All Day / Largo Learning Academy</td>
<td>9:00 Quilt Tying</td>
<td>10:00 Memory Cafe</td>
<td>9:00 Prayer Partners</td>
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<td>8:45 &amp; 11:00 Holy Communion</td>
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<td>9:15 Preschool Chapel</td>
<td>10:00 Ruth's Promise Improv Class</td>
<td>6:00 Elementary Lock-In</td>
<td>11:15 Homeless Empowerment Program</td>
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<td>10:00 Education Hour</td>
<td>6:15 Executive Committee</td>
<td>9:00 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:30 Ruth's Promise</td>
<td>3:00 Grief Group</td>
<td>8:00 Elementary Lock-In concludes Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</td>
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<td>10:00 Inquirers' Class</td>
<td>7:00 Congregation Council Meeting</td>
<td>6:00 TOPS*</td>
<td>6:30 Girl Scout Troop 1251</td>
<td>6:00 Sandpipers Girl Scouts</td>
<td>8:00 Elementary Lock-In</td>
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<td>3:00 Cancer Support Group</td>
<td>8:00 AA, Peace</td>
<td>6:30 AA, Our Common Problem</td>
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<td>6:00 Girl Scout Troop 1251</td>
<td>8:00 Men's Bible Study</td>
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<td>3:00 AFFS: Three-Organ Concert</td>
<td>8:00 Al-anon</td>
<td>7:00 Bells Angels</td>
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<td>4:00 AFFS Reception</td>
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<td>3:00 Richard Johnson Funeral</td>
<td>7:00 Co-dependsents Anon</td>
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**LEGEND**
- **TOPS**: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

**COMMUNICATION REQUESTS**
Please submit newsletter entries by the 15th of each month by email, mj@poplargo.org. Thank you!
SAT FEB 15 6PM
SPAGHETTI DINNER & HYMN SING
Join us for dinner and Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing with Shawn Thomas and John Lowe (music director at Holy Trinity Gainesville) on dueling pianos. Tickets: $15 (Includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert).

SUN FEB 16 3PM
THREE-ORGAN SPECTACULAR!
Festival choir performing Louis Vierne’s Messe Solennelle for choir and two organs, along with other music for three organs.

THURS MAR 5 7PM
THE CONCORDIA CHOIR
Conductor René Clausen conducts the 72-voice a cappella choir from Moorhead, Minnesota in a varied concert in his final tour before retirement. Free tickets are required. Call the church for info.