

# POP NEWS BLAST



## Reminders

Follow us on social media and sign up for POP's weekly emails.

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[www.facebook.com/popphoenixaz](https://www.facebook.com/popphoenixaz)  
[www.instagram.com/popphoenix](https://www.instagram.com/popphoenix)  
[office@popphoenix.org](mailto:office@popphoenix.org)

3641 N. 56th Street, Phoenix AZ 85018 | 480.945.9537

## 2023 - READY SET GO!

*And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17*

I believe two things happened when Jesus popped out of the water on his baptism day. First, he knew, beyond any doubt, who he was. He was God's son, and he was loved. Second, he knew he was on the right track. His heavenly father was pleased with him. Jesus' identity and his purpose in life came together in one moment as all the other future moments of his life were bathed in blessing. What a moment of encouragement!

Whenever we celebrate a baptism, we proclaim that the individual who is washed in God's waters is now part of God's family and has a new and wonderful identity: Child of God. We also celebrate that the individual has work to do, holy work of delivering God's love to the world. Identity and purpose are given as gifts from God's hand. However, each baptism also gives something else, something we often forget as the years go by. As each of us emerges from the waters of baptism (or have our foreheads dried with a little cloth), we are given the gift of possibilities. We can be whoever we want to be and can do whatever we want to do with our lives.

Some of life's pathways are beautiful and easy to walk. Others are jagged and broken and require courage and stamina to travel. The promise of baptism is that God is with us each step of the way no matter what, smiling with us or crying with us.

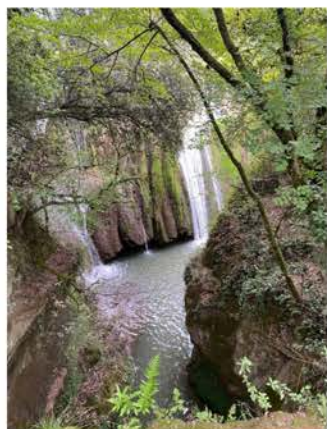
As we move into a new year and celebrate the gift of Jesus' baptism once again, the question that sticks with me is this: What new "coming up from the water" possibilities are before me? Better asked, what new challenges can I tackle? Even better asked, how am I changing as God continues to mold me like human clay each day? Sometimes I find myself in an extended rut and no longer believe I can change. And God laughs. There are so many new, exciting, love-giving possibilities before me. And before you. And before Prince of Peace.

We are all part of God's family and that never ends. What could end is our reluctance (or outright fear) of living into the new possibilities God has already placed in our lives. We can see them, we can dream about them, but they must be grasped and lived if we are to move forward in any real way. I believe God is calling us as a community of faith to tell our story, to support each other and to put our best foot forward in true welcome to our neighborhood. I believe we can do all of this and make measurable progress in 2023.

Ready, set, go!

Peace in the new year,

*Pastor Dick*



# Prince of Peace Preschool Main Campus

We were so excited to have many grandparents and even great-grandparents join us for our first ever Grandparent's Week at POP! This week provided so many beautiful opportunities for our children to build memories with cherished grandparents, and it was a wonderful way for our POP community to connect with families and share who we are. Grandparents joined us throughout the week at the Scholastic Book fair and tile painting on the deck, they joined us for Music class with Ms. Kristen, and many attended Chapel with Pastor Rick! It was incredible to see the joy on the children's and grandparents' faces through this special week at POP! Throughout the month of December, we celebrated Advent in our classrooms and welcomed all of our families to enjoy our beloved Christmas programs. Teacher Alice's class did a fabulous job of helping to tell the Nativity story as they have for many years running. There is something truly amazing about hearing sweet children's voices sing about the birth of our Savior, and all who attended were filled with the Christmas spirit!

**Nicole Hilden**  
**Preschool Director**



# Prince of Peace Preschool Main Campus



**Sunday School  
Christmas Program-**

**Grandparents  
joined us  
throughout the  
week at the  
Scholastic Book  
fair and tile  
painting on the  
deck**



**POP Youth Christmas Party**



# Prince of Peace Preschool Intergenerational Program at Hospice of the Valley Campus

This past year was a year of “firsts” for POPPING (Prince of Peace Preschool’s Intergenerational). It has been wonderful to plan and carry out new traditions. In December, we held our first annual Christmas Program with our neighbors in the Adult Day Program. It was amazing to watch the kids and our neighbors perform together, as well as witnessing their interactions in the courtyard with Santa and all of our families. Our one-year anniversary is approaching, and we are beyond excited to see what the next year has in store for us.

**Shara Jones**  
**POPPING Director**

Intergenerational Caroling!



Santa visit!



Celebrating with our neighbors in the Adult Day Program at the Hospice of the Valley Campus. We are so blessed to be a part of this incredible program!



# Reverse Advent Calendar Recap



The 2022 Reverse Advent Calendar food drive benefiting Nourish Phx was a big success! Participants collected non-perishable food items according to an Advent calendar and dropped they food at the church office. They were then distributed to needy families. Thanks to everyone who participated in this outreach effort!

## **From NourishPhx:**

*We wanted to thank you for the donations that you made to NourishPHX in 2022. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission. In fact, your gift has allowed us to provide over 17,000 individual families with 3.8M pounds of food an over 354,000 pounds of clothing this year. Again, we thank you for supporting our mission to provide an immediate response to basic human needs.*





# December 2022 Outreach Recap

We all know how great it feels to receive gifts, however, the joy of receiving is short-lived. Truly giving from the heart fills your life with joy and nourishes your soul. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "To find yourself, lose yourself in the service of others." It has been my experience that when you're focused on giving to others, you're less likely to become consumed by your own concerns and challenges. Giving provides an opportunity to look beyond our own world and see the bigger picture. A great perspective can be achieved by stepping out of our own world and venturing into the world of other people. Your worries and challenges may not seem as significant when compared to other people's situations.

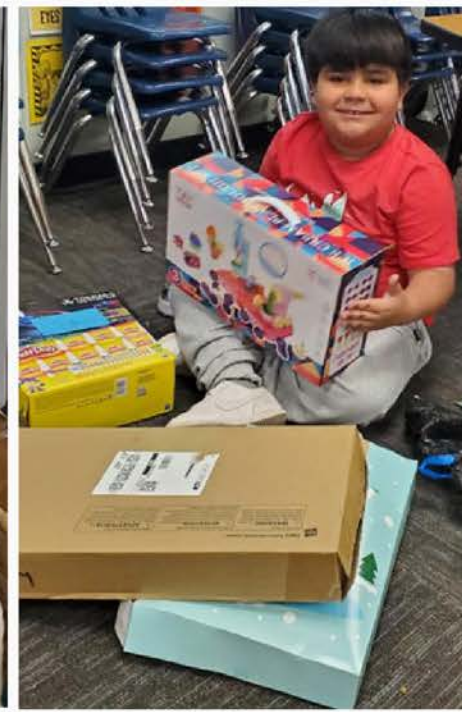
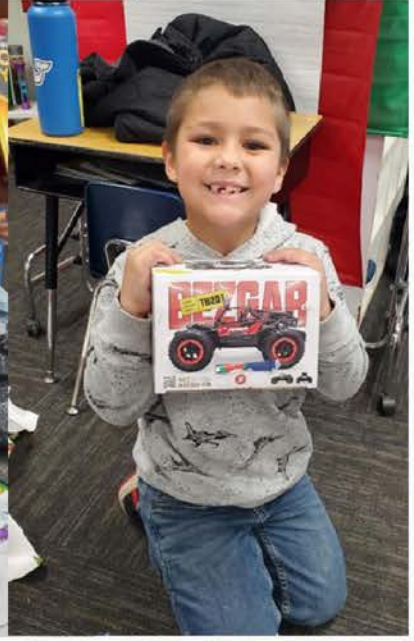
This was truly my experience in doing our December 2022, outreach. None of the great joy could have happened with out the giving of our church and preschool families. So from my heart to yours, Thank you for the gift of your time, toys, and money. The children and families of Sequoia Elementary, the teens from Vista Del Camino, and the teens from Oasis Food bank are forever changed by your generosity.

Peace & Blessings,  
Jessica Wernau  
Assistant Director, Prince of Peace Preschool



The children of Sequoia Elementary had lots of smiles, surprised faces and heartfelt "thank you's"

Here are a few Thank you letters.



# January 2023 Outreach

## BLESSING BAGS DRIVE



*Pres children will put the bags together to be distributed to the homeless*

Collecting the following items through January 31

- BOX OF ZIPLOCK GALLON BAGS
- SOCKS
- TRAVEL TOOTHPASTE
- TRAVEL MOUTH WASH
- MINI WATER BOTTLES
- TRAVEL DEODORANT
- TRAVEL SIZE WIPES
- PROTEIN BARS
- SANITARY NAPKINS/TAMPONS
- TRAVEL KLEENEX

*Please drop items off in the narthex, Church or Pres offices*

## Lent 2023 - February 22

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian season of Lent.

# Ashes to Go

February 22 Ash Wednesday

7a-10a

3p- 6p

*Prince of Peace Church  
(56st/IndianSchool)*



12:00p

6:30p

*Service - Prince of Peace Church*

*Service - Shepherd of the Hills Church  
56th St/Lafayette*

# HELLO FROM ACCOUNTING!



Kriscina Guana  
Accountant

It gives me great joy to be part of such a cohesive team working towards the same goal which is to streamline processes and provide timely financials that have been approved by a 3rd party auditor. Accounting work is tedious, and the positive supportive environment at POP has allowed me to prepare and provide the necessary financial reporting POP now needs with all the growth that this organization has experienced this past year. It has been an extensive process with many pieces that have come together like a puzzle, and could not have been done without a team effort from everyone. I feel extremely blessed to be able to say "I love coming to work!" and fully meaning it.

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

**Prince of Peace Church and Prince of Peace Foundation will be holding their annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Please plan on attending. Any questions contact the church office or a church council member.**

**Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, February, 26, 2023  
after 9:30am worship**

# SAVE THE DATE!



## ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE SEVENTH ARCADIA CARES FOOD FOR KIDZ PACKATHON IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3-4 AT PRINCE OF PEACE.**

To volunteer to assemble meals, sign up via our website starting on Sunday, January 29.

[www.poppohoenix.org/news-events-blog/arcadia-cares-food-for-kidz-packathon](http://www.poppohoenix.org/news-events-blog/arcadia-cares-food-for-kidz-packathon)

# SIGN UP TODAY! RESERVE YOUR SPOT



## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Tel Aviv - Caesarea-Mt.Carmel- Nazareth-Cana-Tiberias - Caesarea Philippi - Golan Heights - Mt. Arbel- Sea of Galilee - Magdala Capernaum - Mt of Beatitudes Agusta Victoria Hospital - LWF - Mt.of Olives - Mt.Zion - Local farm - Wadi Qelt - Jericho - Qumran - Dead Sea - Temple Mount - Pools of Bethesda - Via Dolorosa - Holy Sepulcher - Tel Aviv - Jordan Valley - Jacob's Well - Shepherds Field - Bethlehem

**OCT. 16-25, 2023 | PCKG \$3,990/LAND ONLY \$2,840**

**MORE INFO:** *Direct Message Pastor Paul on Facebook*

call 480.945.9537 or email [office@poppohoenix.org](mailto:office@poppohoenix.org)

WITH REV. RICK SHERRILL, REV. PAUL NELSON AND PASTOR ROCK FREMONT

## **Join us for Bible Study!**

- *Theology Pub in person - February 14th at 7pm at Fate Brewery, S.Scottsdale*
- *Tuesday Women's Bible Study 9:30am in the church office conference room. All ages welcome!*
- *Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Rick 10am in the church office conference room.*



PRINCE OF PEACE  
FOUNDATION WILL BE  
HOSTING

# Bumped Up Brunch

Sunday, February 12  
immediately following Worship

The graphic features a light blue background with various food items: a cinnamon roll, a stack of pancakes, a fork and knife, a plate of fruit, and a wooden spoon.

*BQ's Next Meetup*  
**Friday, January 20th**  
**5:00 PM**  
*at the Kauffman Residence.*

*Potluck*  
Bring your favorite dish to share & BYOB  
**GOOD FOOD. GOOD COMPANY.**

## **Arcadia Citrus Drop off locations:**

**Contact locations directly to confirm details.**

*Shepherd of the Hills; Feb 4, 11, 18 from 9a-3p. [sohucc.org](http://sohucc.org)*

*St. Mary's Food Bank; Now through April 30 8a-3p. [firstfoodbank.org](http://firstfoodbank.org)*

*St. Vincent de Paul; Mon-Fri 8a-5p. [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)*

*Via Linda Senior Center; Jan and Feb only, Mon-Thurs 8a-5p  
[scottsdaleranch.org](http://scottsdaleranch.org)*



# ARCHANGEL RESTORATION COMPLETE!



Archangel Gabriel, the angel mounted over the exterior entrance to the Sanctuary, has been restored to his original glory. The inspiration for Gabriel came from a tiny Christmas ornament and a sketch by an unknown 18th Century Italian artist.

The design was transformed into life through the hard work of the **PoP Art Guild**. **Designed by Diane Peterson, and ably assisted in fabrication by parishioners Dick Mercier and Marga Alseike**; the basic frame was cut using plasma metal cutting tools with many copper-coated pieces then bolted on. **The pieces were powder coated by parishioners LuAnne and Mark Brentlinger.**

Installed in 1997, Gabriel endured years of weathering in the harsh Arizona sun before needing a serious restoration. Thanks to a generous, **anonymous donation given in memory of Diane Peterson along with additional support from the Prince of Peace Foundation**, the restoration was completed in December 2022. Gabriel now shines bright again to welcome all to worship.

The story of Gabriel's creation is chronicled in the book "Bathed in Light", authored by Diane Peterson. The book, which is available in the church office, explains the background of many of the art pieces adorning PoP. This story is the first of many that is intended to remind long-time members and inform newer members about the rich heritage of art and parishioners' talents that make PoP special.

# 2022 Prince of Peace Foundation Scholarship Recipients!

- 2022 Prince of Peace Foundation Scholarship Recipients, Jacob Lara, Jordan Lara, and Madison Sherill will each receive a check for \$2,000.
- 2 - \$2,000 Scholarships awarded to the Prince of Peace Preschool



**Such an honor and a blessing to watch our kids grow!  
We are so proud of you!**



**Navajo Lutheran Mission Trip 2017**



**Jordan Lara**

I am currently in my sophomore year and studying biology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. After college, I plan to focus on wildlife and/or marine biology. I intend to study at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau because of its fisheries technology program. My long-term career goal is to become an ichthyologist (fish biologist) for a governmental agency and help to protect wild salmon populations. We, as humans, have done a major damage to our planet and I feel I can make a significant contribution in helping correct some of this damage. Thank you so much for supporting my education with this wonderful gift.





**Jacob Lara**

I am currently a sophomore at Arizona State University studying Criminal Justice and Criminology. Crossing my fingers, I am projected to graduate a year early. After college, I plan on heading straight into the police academy. It is my career goal to work for the Scottsdale Police Department or Phx Police Department as an officer in their SWAT division. After 7 or 8 years with a local police department, it is also my long term career goal to seek a position within a federal law enforcement agency such as the Secret Service or the DEA.

I would like to extend a special "thank you" to my Prince of Peace Family for selecting me to receive this generous gift.



**Madison Sherrill**

I am a sophomore at University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota studying biology and sustainability. My long-term career goal is environmental science and renewable energy, which most likely means graduate school is in my future. I studied in Rome during the fall semester and loved immersing myself in the culture and visiting Italian churches and archeological sites. I also was able to travel to 7 European countries. I hope to do research in Minnesota this summer on fresh-water sustainability.

While it is cold in Minnesota, my heart is warmed by this generous gift from my Prince of Peace family. Thank you and many blessings.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

# Ministries We Support

## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you for your partnership in our ministry! Thank you also for your gift of \$1000.00 for 2022. We are so grateful for all your support over the years. It is not any exaggeration to say we could not have done all we do without your partnership and support of our ministry.

It has been a good year. I am beginning to see things return that had not been here for a few years. We have two years of students almost entirely missing. That means no upper class students to model to the younger and newer ones some of the possibilities our ministry has to offer.

Yet, the young ones are now starting to figure it out! Lefse making and selling have returned. Only one student had ever done that before and the newer students really enjoyed working together to make just over 1,600 pieces of lefse!

During finals, students got together in our campus center to bake cookies and get away, if only for a few hours, from all the stress. More and more find our campus center a place to hang out, study, eat lunch, and feel at home.

About 6 weeks ago we had the admissions director of PLTS in Berkley here. Three students cornered her for quite a while with all kinds of questions. After worship we even lit a fire in our outdoor firepit to continue the discussion. Currently we have four alumni in seminary. You help us make so much happen through this ministry. Thank you!!

On to 2023 and an even better year for Lutheran Campus Ministry and Prince of Peace Lutheran!

Gratefully in Christ,  
Gary N McCluskey  
Pastor, University Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Campus Ministry  
Arizona State University

[www.ulctempe.org](http://www.ulctempe.org)

**LCM video:**  
[youtu.be/fRhWMufA1UY](https://youtu.be/fRhWMufA1UY)

# LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual San Diego Retreat



LCM is S'More fun!



LCM Dinner at Church!



# Temple Theater at POP!

PoP and Temple Music and Performing Arts once again paired up in early December for the amazing Disney play, Mary Poppins Jr. 80+ kids, 4 shows in 3 days, an always fabulous VIP lounge highlighted this production. As busy as Prince of Peace might have been in December, our church found a way to make sure this wonderful community outreach was possible! Enjoy some pictures of our time together and previous shows! Don't forget to join us for Lion King Jr!



Disney  
**THE LION KING**  
JR

Tickets

**February 2, 3, 4**  
&  
**February 9, 10, 11**  
all shows start at 7:00 pm

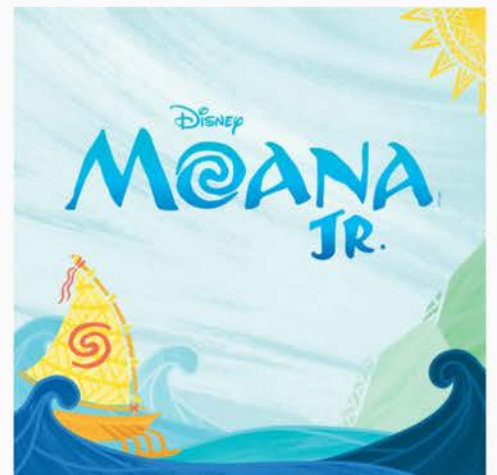
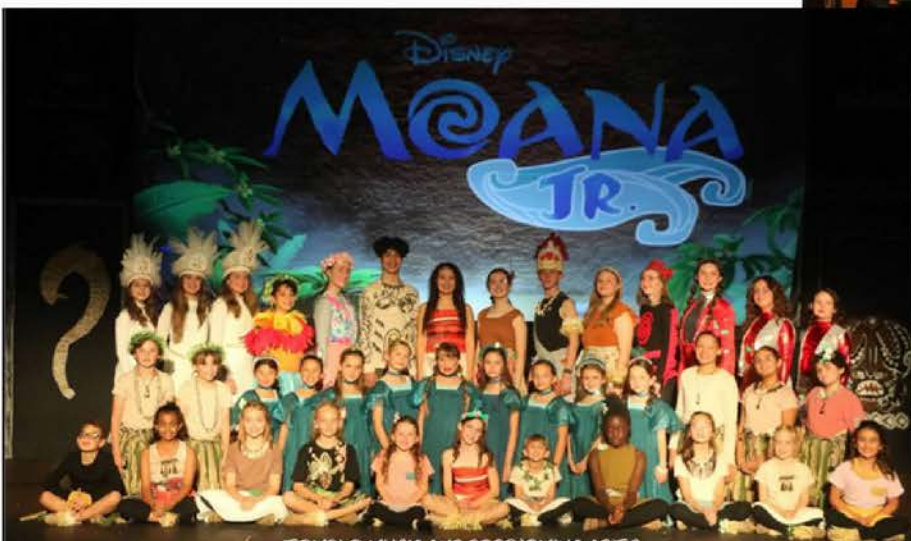
Ticket sales, VIP tickets, concessions benefit POP Youth and Ministries!

A promotional poster for Disney's "The Lion King Jr." featuring the title in large, stylized letters, a QR code for tickets, and performance dates. The background is yellow with illustrations of a lion, a monkey, and a cardinal.

# Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.



Youth in action!



# Marathon Weekend!

POP Water Station,  
Saturday worship and dinner!



Rain couldn't stop this crew!



Saturday fellowship dinner!



Combined POP and SOTH  
choir - led by Lynne McGinley



*Have a Blessed 2023*



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