

May 2023



# POP NEWS BLAST



## Reminders

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



## **BLAZING HOT SUMMER (IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE)**

Summer is almost here! While the rest of the country celebrates the first day of summer on June 20, we know that summer arrives in Arizona on or around May 15. While the temperatures have been somewhat mild to this point, we all know what is coming. We are very nearly in blazing hot territory, where we learn once again that seat belts make very good branding irons.

However, temperatures are not the only things with the potential to soar after May 15. I invite you to turn up the heat on your spiritual lives this summer, wherever you are and whatever you are doing. What follows is a list of “grace-filled” activities for you to consider this summer that will both honor God and deepen your faith as you focus on the reality that God doesn’t take the summer off. What’s more, of the items on this list are designed to bring you joy.

1. On the Road with Prince of Peace – Before you escape for the entire summer or for your next vacation, pick up a laminated Prince of Peace placard (available in the racks in the church lobby). Then make a conscious effort to take a photo of you/your family holding the placard in whatever amazing setting you find yourself (be creative!) After you have taken the photo, spend a few minutes in prayer, thanking God for his many blessings and lifting up the ministry of Prince of Peace. Then send the photo to us to be included on our display board at POP. Wherever you are in the world, you can remain connected to God and your community of faith through the gift of prayer.

2. Worship God Wherever You Are – Include a visit to a local church in your travel itineraries. Be flexible and creative. Choose a different brand of Christianity and worship with them. Or choose a church with a visually stunning sanctuary and worship with them. Think of it as an opportunity to increase your exposure to the many different shades of Christianity in our world. Then bring back a worship program (AKA bulletin) from your adventure in ecumenism.

May 2023 - Pastor Rick Sherrill

3. Encourage People – Select some folks that could use some encouragement. It could be the flight attendants on your next plane ride, nurses/doctors/office workers at your next medical appointment or even leaders at random churches/homeless shelters/social service agencies wherever you find yourself. Then deliver a small gift to the person leading that ministry. It could be anything (but you can't go wrong with a Starbucks gift card!) The most important thing is that you thank the person for the work they are doing and let them know you will pray for them (and then do so). Imagine the look on the person's face when you make this small gesture of encouragement. Even better, select a few small gifts before you travel and challenge yourself to give them all away before you return. Together we can bless people wherever we find ourselves and have fun doing it.

4. Develop Your Own Ritual Prayer Moments – Challenge yourself to pray at certain times or when certain things are happening. For instance, pray on arrival in airports, towns, hotels, etc. Or pray at departure. Or pray at sunrise or sunset. Or pray when you are stopped at red lights. Develop an easy to remember prayer ritual and stick to it. No grand prayers are needed. Simply thank God for his presence and you will discover you can feel his presence more deeply. If you have a family, include them in the challenge (little kids are great at reminding us to do things!)

As always, if you are in town, I'd love to see you at Prince of Peace, either on Sunday mornings or for an iced coffee on a random weekday (just call ahead). Together we can heat up our spiritual lives with intention and joy. Have a "grace-filled" summer.

Peace,

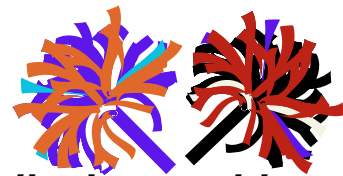
*Pastor Rick*



# Summer Worship at Prince of Peace



## JUNE - SPIRIT MONTH



*We celebrate the joyful spirit of God moving among us with lively worship services and themes each Sunday.*

**June 4** is Sports Sunday – wear your favorite sport's teams' apparel (Cardinals, Suns, Diamondbacks, Oh my!)



**June 11** is Aloha Sunday – wear your favorite Island apparel (loud Hawaiian shirts encouraged)

**June 18** is Father's Day/Dad Joke Sunday – On Father's Day, being your best, yet appropriate, dad joke for a special offering



**June 25** is Favorite T-Shirt Sunday – wear your favorite, yet appropriate, shirt (wittiness is encouraged)

## JULY- CHURCH MASHUP MONTH

*We join forces with Shepherd of the Hills UCC for combined worship services with a joyful flair. All three pastors will be involved as we sing, pray and celebrate together.*

**July 2** - Worship @ Shepherd of the Hills UCC

**July 9** – Worship @ Prince of Peace

**July 16** – Worship @ Shepherd of the Hills UCC

**July 23** – Worship @ Prince of Peace

**July 30** - Worship @ Shepherd of the Hills UCC

*Shepherd of the Hills UCC 5524 E Lafayette Blvd, Phx (56th St and Lafayette)*

# AUGUST CELEBRATION MONTH

*We have so much to celebrate so we are taking some time during worship in August to do just that!*

**August 6** – Celebration of Service / Christmas in August

**August 13** – Celebration of Students / Blessing of the Backpacks

**August 20** – Celebration of Educators / Installation of POP Preschool Staff

**August 27** – Celebration of Grandparents



## ***Easter at POP 2023!***



# Prince of Peace Preschool Main Campus



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR WONDERFUL FAMILIES FOR SUPPORTING US AT OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER! THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED, ROOM PARENTS AND DONORS FOR PUTTING TOGETHER AMAZING BASKETS!



HELLO  
SPRING



**ROOM 8 CREATED THEIR OWN VEHICLES DURING THE WEEK OF TRANSPORTATION DAY.**

**THEY SHOWED OFF THEIR WHEELS BY HAVING A PARADE THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS!**

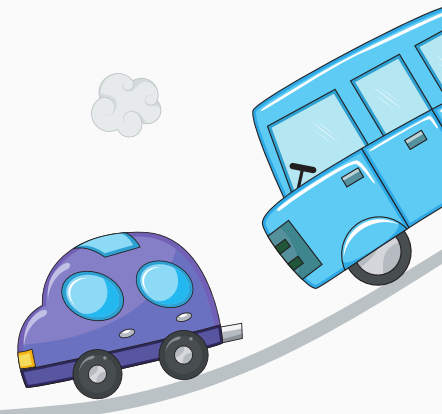
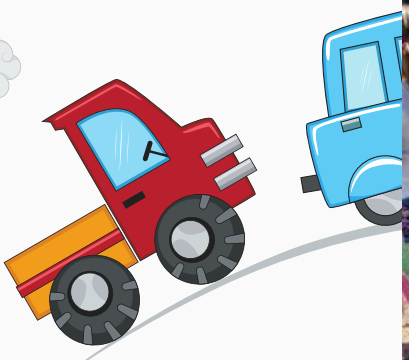
***“IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, you can do it.”***  
— Walt Disney



Transportation

Day

fun!





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



This month at HOV we incubated eggs and they hatched into chicks!



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



**"IT IS IN PLAYING, AND ONLY IN PLAYING, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD OR ADULT IS ABLE TO BE CREATIVE AND TO USE THE WHOLE PERSONALITY, AND IT IS ONLY IN BEING CREATIVE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL DISCOVERS THE SELF." ☆- D.W. WINNICOTT**



# May Outreach

## Water Donations for the Heat Respite Program

**You may drop off water or money donations to the Preschool office, Church office or church on Sunday.**

**You may use the QR code for a donation towards the bulk purchase of water.**



*We are collecting water to donate to Grace Lutheran to help support the heat respite program.*

*Every summer Grace Lutheran Church Grace Lutheran Church has been part of this network, beyond providing hydration, respite and wellness checks during the summer months. In line with the mission of Grace, the Heat Respite program aspires to reach out to not only the physical needs of all those who come through the doors, but to their fullness as human beings. They serve 80-150 people per day.*

# PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND WITH *Pastor Rick, Pastor Paul, and Pastor Rock*

**There is still time to sign up!**

**Contact Pastor at [office@popphoenix.org](mailto:office@popphoenix.org) or  
480.945.9537**

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



## **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

## **Prayer Warriors**

Join the community of Prayer Warriors!

The only commitment is to pray daily for our friends, family and community that are requesting prayers. Please

email [office@popphoenix.org](mailto:office@popphoenix.org) to be included in the prayer request emails or sign up directly at [www.popphoenix.org/prayer-chain](http://www.popphoenix.org/prayer-chain)



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

- *Theology Pub in person - June 13th at 7pm at Fate Brewery, S.Scottsdale*
- *Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Rick 10am in the church office conference room.*



## *Women's Fellowship and Bible Study Group*

**Every Tuesday**

**9:30am - 11:00am**

**Church conference room**

*Welcoming women  
of all ages!*

**Any questions e/m [debnelson1@cox.net](mailto:debnelson1@cox.net)**



**Starting new book study!**



## ***BG's Meetups! Potluck Style:***



- *May 19th, meet at 4:00 pm at Carol Kauffmans' home.*
- *June 2nd, meet at 4:00 pm at Jana Petersons' home.*

***Any questions, see Carol, Jana or Pastor Paul***

# Partners in Ministry: Pastor Kristin



## Meeting the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Zambia

Since arriving in Zambia a little over a year ago, I have focused on meeting the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa), understanding the ministry of the church, and learning about and living into the diversity of cultures in Zambia. (There are 73 languages spoken here!) One of my favorite parts of being a missionary is listening and learning how culture and faith are put together and lived out in different ways in different places.



*During Holy Week, ELCZa congregations gather to worship and participate in workshops. In the Lusaka district, five congregations gathered together. These women are from the Kamwala congregation in Lusaka, which is a Swahili speaking congregation of people from Tanzania.*

My work in Zambia has three foci: supporting the administrative leadership, connecting ELCZa students studying on scholarships from the ELCA or Lutheran World Federation with the needs of the church, and partnering with ELCZa pastors to increase ministry capacity in congregations. In 2023, I will also begin working with Youth League leaders to develop their leadership capacity and long-term planning.

In this work, I often need to remind myself that progress is made up of many small steps. Please join me in celebrating both the small and big steps made in ELCZa this past year: the Church Council met for the first time since COVID began, we created the first ELCZa lectionary calendar, construction of the new ELCZa Church Center is 50% complete, and a recently ordained pastor revived and led Ash Wednesday worship in their congregation for the first time in 10 years.



*The ELCZa Church Council during Sunday morning worship following their first meeting since COVID began. ELCZa Senior Pastor is on the far right.*

## Accompanying Pastor Kristin

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! You can contact me at [kristin.engstrom@elca.org](mailto:kristin.engstrom@elca.org) and follow my blog at <https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com>. You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary [here](#).



**Pastor Kristin Engstrom**

I serve as the Facilitator for Leadership Development and Capacity Building with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia. From 2016–2020, I served as the Senegal Country Coordinator of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program.

I'm originally from the mid-western United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to serving with ELCA Global Mission.



## Ministry in Action

Often a photo helps tell the story of ministry and gives a glimpse into ministry in action, especially in different contexts. Here are some glimpses into ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia from the past couple months.



The three congregations of the Masuku parish gathered for workshops and worship in November 2022. Pastor Moonga (2nd from left) walks four hours every Sunday to reach these very rural congregations.



Youth of Chongwe parish discerning and sharing their gifts for leadership during Lusaka Easter gathering.



Youth of the Matero congregation confirmed their faith in March. Eight baptisms also took place in the same worship service. Rev. Mathilda Banda of the Matero congregation and ELCZA General Secretary (right), confirmation youth in purple.



Leading Bible Study on Intersectional Justice at the Lutheran Communion of Southern Africa (LUCSA) Christian Education Consultation.

Here in Zambia, I gathered with five congregations in the Lusaka city area for Easter weekend celebrations. There were workshops, shared meals, worship, singing, and on Easter morning, we even marched on the side of the highway in front of the church to share the good news that Jesus is risen! Yesu, a uka!

Pastor Kristin Engstrom

ELCA Global Missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia

# Prince of Peace / The Temple Theater Company Partnership

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Seussical Jr the May and final production of the season! Photo credit: Kimberly Matura





# Prince of Peace / The Temple Theater Company Partnership



The 2022-2023 season is over! We are so proud of the coordination and efforts of all involved in this partnership! We were able to put 500 young actors on stage! Thank you to all the actors, volunteers and leaders that made this freshman season a success!

The Theater group is on break for the summer and will resume in September for the production of Frozen Jr!

Visit [www.templeperformingarts.com](http://www.templeperformingarts.com) for information on theater summer camps and workshops!



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



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