

MESSENGER

A Newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool

“WORSHIP ❖❖❖ CONNECT ❖❖❖ SERVE”

January/February 2021

Fearless

“Don’t be afraid.” Jesus spoke these words 21 times in the Gospels. In fact, it is the one statement he made more than any other. He uttered these words to an anxious parent (Luke 8:50), to a paralyzed man (Matt. 9:2), to angst-ridden crowds (Matt. 6:25) and to his closest friends during a fateful midnight boat trip (Matt. 8:26). Clearly this was something he did not want his followers to miss. Jesus waged war on fear any chance he got.

Think about your life. We exist in a culture of fear that is constantly fed by news reports, notifications on our devices, and the ever-present challenges of COVID-19. To top it off, we all have voices in our heads that consistently pose unsettling questions. Am I good enough? Will I have enough? Will I be safe? Am I loved? Perhaps most unsettling is our tendency to pass our fears on to future generations. It has been said that ordinary children today are more fearful than psychiatric patients in the 1950’s.

Fear is like a spiritual straitjack-

et. It strips us of our ability to think clearly, to pray boldly and to dream big. When fear gets a foothold in our lives, we no longer expect good things to happen and we have a hard time recognizing them when they do. Fear plunders any courage, confidence and joy we build up. What’s more, it has a near certain tendency to turn ordinarily kind people into irrational creatures who lash out at others with fangs bared and weapons at the ready. No wonder Jesus pleaded with us to kick our “fear habit.”

The greatest news of this or any other year is that Jesus’ perfect love for us has the power to drive away our fear. We can do amazing things, impossible things, when we allow his love to evict the fear that has taken up residence in our hearts and minds. Jesus didn’t make the long journey to planet earth to bring us contentment and happiness; he came to make us fearless.

The more I think about the current state of the world with the pandemic, the potential of political-

ly motivated violence, an economy that only works for some plus racial injustice, the more I know deep within that I need an overwhelming dose of the fearlessness Jesus offers. As we struggle to discover what our future holds and how we can renew our ministry to impact the people in our community with Jesus’ perfect love, we have no other choice than to let go of our fear. It is time to rise above anything that holds us down — even the fear that has settled deep within so many of us over the past 10 months. After all, we are a mission center, not a museum.

This will require many changes, both large and small, and we all know that change is almost never easy. There will be times when our fear raises its ugly head and threatens to stop us in our tracks. In these moments, remember Jesus’ often-repeated words and make them your living legacy — “Don’t be afraid.”

Thankful for you,
Peace,

Pastor Rick

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 11 a.m. (Live or on Zoom)

Join us as we chart the course for POP’s future during our annual congregational meeting. We will consider a budget for 2021, elect officers for the Church Council and receive a report from the POP Foundation. You can participate live in the church sanctuary or on Zoom. Details will be delivered mid-February. Please consider making this a priority in your schedule.

Worship Update

Prince of Peace continues to offer several options for worship each week:

1. Live worship in the preschool courtyard, every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
It is getting warmer! Join us for singing, prayers, scripture and Holy Communion
2. Online worship on POP's Youtube Channel (begins at 7 a.m. every Sunday)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnpUHEhWBOLMSiCiQADPgSw>
<https://zoom.us/j/6769895071>
Meeting ID: 676 989 5071
Password: Grace2020
3. Holy Communion on Zoom, every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Engage in online worship and then join us for a time of Holy Communion and conversation

Prince of Peace plans to have our live worship service outside through April or until Arizona's COVID-19 metrics take a sharp downturn.

Worship texts for January/February

- January 24 – Psalm 62:5-12, Mark 1:14-20
- January 31 – Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28
- February 7 – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Mark 1:29-39
- February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday) – 2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9
- February 21 – TBD (Lent)
- February 28 – TBD (Lent)

Ash Wednesday — February 17

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It falls 40 weekdays before Easter (Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent).

Ash Wednesday takes its name from ashes, a traditional sign of penitence. During this special worship service, ashes are placed on the foreheads of worshipers with the reminder that, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." It is a time to remember that our life on earth is short but our life with God is eternal.

Ash Wednesday at Prince of Peace

Please note that Prince of Peace will not be hosting live Ash Wednesday services this year.

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Drive-Up Ashes in the front parking lot from 6-10 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. We will conduct the importation of ashes for the community using innovative health and safety protocols.

Prayers for Healing

"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me." Psalm 30:2

Whatever you are dealing with, prayer can help. The simple act of turning your worry and pain over to God is wonderfully powerful. You are invited to the holy experience of healing prayer. Pastor Rick and Pastor Paul are praying daily for the congregation and community. If you have a specific prayer request, please let us know and we will be thrilled to pray for you or with you. Contact Pastor Rick at 408.472.0529 or pastorrick@popphoenix.org.

THE MESSENGER is printed monthly for the purpose of informing members and friends of upcoming events, for sharing good news about our members and for sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through word and action.

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Steve Edgar, President-Elect
Tracy Fish, Vice President/Personnel
Abby Brown, Vice President/Preschool
Kris Kainass, Secretary
Tony Hammond, Treasurer
Nancy Stevens, Financial Secretary
Martha Weld, Brenda Johnston
Gwen Jacobs

Meetings on Zoom

✓ **Theology Pub**

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Study the scriptures with a beverage in hand. Two options to join — meet in person on the first Tuesday of every month at Fate Brewing on Scottsdale Rd. or join on Zoom. Pastor Paul & Dena Welch-Rowland are currently leading this ministry.

ZOOM “meeting ID” 953 1912 0349.

✓ **Women’s Bible Study (M&M’s)**

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Mary and Martha’s Bible Study is ZOOMING into the new year. Our virtual gathering is on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11. We have just begun to read and learn from Paul’s letter to the Galatians. So grab your Bible and a cup of coffee and join us. Please e-mail Paula Sturgeon at thegimpygal@gmail.com to be included in the weekly Zoom invite.

Food for Kidz Packathon

The Sixth Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021, at Prince of Peace. Sign-ups will start in September. Beginning next year, we hope to get back on schedule with a packathon every March.



COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance

Do you have questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine? Do you need help with scheduling your appointment? COVID-19 vaccine scheduling is now open to Phase 1A and Phase 1B candidates. Please contact Angela (angela@popphoenix.org or 480.947.1530) for assistance in navigating the scheduling process. Visit www.maricopa.gov for more information.

Bashas’ & Fry’s Programs

Thank you to everyone who helped generate grocery store rebates for Prince of Peace’s ministries during 2020. If you are not participating in these programs, the church would love to have your help in 2021.

Instructions for participating in the Fry’s program are posted on the church’s website (www.popphoenix.org) under the Serving tab. If you need a new reloadable grocery card from Bashas’ (which is also accepted at AJ’s Fine Foods and Food City), please let me know.

Our Fry’s rebate for 9/1 – 11/30/2020 was \$44. Our rebates from reloading Bashas’ cards were \$48 for October, \$35 for November, and \$14 for December.

Steve Crofton

Coordinator, Bashas’ & Fry’s grocery store programs
602.463.7175, Stephen.Crofton@gmail.com

✓ **Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Join Pastor Rick as we look at the assigned scripture readings for the following Sunday. This is your opportunity to help create a sermon! All are welcome.

Two options to join:

1. On ZOOM (meeting ID: 676 989 5071, PASSWORD is Grace2020)
2. Live by appointment – join Pastor Rick in the office conference room. Space is limited so please RSVP to Pastor Rick if you are interested!

News from YAGM Senegal

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, YAGM Country Coordinator

When I returned to the United States in March, 2020 due to COVID-19, I expected to be in the U.S. for only a couple months. As with most expectations around COVID, my expectations were stretched by reality as I continue to live and work in the United States ten months later. And so it is with great joy and some trepidation that I am excited to be returning to Senegal in February.

Please continue to keep our sisters and brothers in Senegal and myself in your prayers. Senegal is currently responding to a second wave of COVID infections. Masks are mandatory, an evening curfew is in place, and large gatherings are not allowed. The government of Senegal is hoping to begin COVID vaccinations in March, as part of the COVAX initiative. COVAX is part of a partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunizations) “with the aim of providing innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines... in order to ensure that people in all corners of the world will get access to COVID-19 vaccines once they are available, regardless of their wealth.”

Even as I plan my return to Senegal, the YAGM program is in the process of discerning the feasibility of this global program for 2021-2022. This discernment process includes

listening to our YAGM companions, researching COVID statistics and trends, and discussing and praying about how and if we can facilitate the YAGM program next year while also protecting and ensuring the health and safety of YAGM participants and companions. Once a decision is made about the feasibility of the YAGM 2021 -2022 program, it will be announced on the YAGM facebook page (facebook.com/ELCAYAGM).

Thank you for your continued support of the global church and of my work as a missionary during this time of uncertainty. I have been inspired and fortified by your faithfulness and your partnership in ministry. God be with you.

Children, Youth and Family NEWS!

The goal of Prince of Peace's Children, Youth and Family Ministry is to create space for Christ to work in the lives of all youth and their families. The space we focus on is faith formation, community building and service.



DONUTS. GAMES. SONGS.

SUNDAYS @ 10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM

contact: sam.garcia@popphoenix.org

Middle school youth are invited to Glaze + Praise every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room!

Note to the congregation! If you receive BoSa coupons in the mail but do not use them, please consider donating them to Sam to help keep costs down.

Lutheran Campformation Cancellation 2021

After much prayer and discernment, the Campformation admin team has decided to cancel camp for summer 2021. We originally had our week scheduled for July 5-11 but will no longer be attending. Visit <https://www.lutherancampformation.com/> for more information



Meeting ID: 676 989 5071

Password: Grace2020

QuaranTEEN is a new innovative high school youth group that is offered both in person or on Zoom! High school-aged youth are invited to join us for an hour of worship, games, Bible study, and fellowship every Sunday at 12 p.m. in the conference room.

Our next Confirmation meeting will be February 21.

Hope 4 Phoenix Super Service Weekend

The weekend of January 23-24 was our Hope 4 Phoenix Super Service Weekend! Thank you to Friday's Sew and Tie Quilters and the Saturday Quilters for donating warm blankets for people in need.

- ✓ On Saturday, the middle school youth made 150 bologna sandwiches and delivered sack lunches on the Hope 4 Phoenix bus.
- ✓ On Sunday, our high school youth cooked for and fed over 200 people living in the streets of downtown Phoenix.



✓ **Follow our Instagram @popphoenix for more Youth & Family updates**

Coping with the Stress of Covid 19

by Beth Schneider

Clinical trials are essential for the development of new drugs and vaccines, and volunteers to test the new treatments are essential



to clinical trials. To determine if the proposed drug or vaccine is safe and effective for everyone, thousands of volunteers may be necessary. For trials of drugs that are seen as the last hope for treating a particular disease when all existing treatments have failed, there are often more volunteers than available slots. Other studies have a more difficult time enrolling a sufficient number of qualified participants. Some trials have been canceled because there weren't enough volunteers. How are volunteers recruited? Many times doctors will refer patients to particular trials. Volunteers may also be recruited from ads in newspapers or through the Internet and other social media platforms. There are also companies that recruit volunteers for clinical trials

At one time clinical trial participants were all white, middle-aged males. The majority of researchers conducting clinical trials were men and it was assumed that women would have the same response as men. There was also the premise that women needed to be protected from any risks that might be part of the trial. Today, both theories have been dispelled. Although there are times when the nature of a study dictates that participants be of a particular age, such as children, now it is recognized that age, gender, race or ethnicity may affect the effectiveness of the drug or treatment and it is important that studies take these differences into consideration. Therefore, clinical trials are now required to recruit diverse populations. At times it is difficult to recruit some groups because of the negative experiences groups have had in the past.

People who volunteer to participate

in a clinical trial do so for a variety of reasons. Some volunteer because of a desire to improve medical knowledge and care for future generations, even though

they recognize that they personally will not benefit. Others do so because of a personal or family connection with the disease being studied. Some do so in the hope that they will have access to a promising new treatment or because participation was recommended by someone they trust. A positive experience as a participant in one clinical trial may encourage volunteering for another. Those wishing to volunteer can go to <http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/> to learn about studies that are recruiting volunteers. Registering with the Clinical Research Volunteer Program, which matches potential volunteers to clinical research studies at the NIH Clinical Center, is another way to become part of a clinical trial. A call to the Patient Recruitment Office (800.411.1222) can begin the process. There are also reasons for why people don't volunteer. These include not knowing about the study; not meeting the trial's requirements; time or travel requirements are inconvenient; fear of the risks associated with the trial; and a general distrust of big pharmaceutical companies. In most clinical trials, half of the participants are randomly assigned to either the control or treatment group. Fear of receiving the placebo discourages some potential participants.

Once accepted into a clinical trial, participants are expected to comply with all of the protocols of the trial. Failure to do so may result in being removed from the trial. During a clinical trial participants should report any issues, concerns or adverse effects they experience. Participants may withdraw from the clinical trial at any time. A trial may be ended early if it is shown that the benefits of the drug or condition are clearly established and further research

is unnecessary or if numerous and/or severe side effects arise, indicating that the benefits are outweighed by the risks and continuing the trial puts participants at risk. Before agreeing to participate, volunteers should be told of the consequences if a trial is terminated early.

Whether or not to volunteer to participate in any clinical trial is a matter of personal choice. It isn't the right decision for everyone, or even for those who want to participate. Also not everyone who volunteers is enrolled. When trying to decide whether or not to volunteer, consider why you are thinking of volunteering; research the requirements of available trials; and talk to your health care provider and your family. After reviewing the pros and cons, make the decision that you consider best for you.

News of Members

BAPTISM

11/22 Jake Robert Denley

DEATHS

10/21 Ralph Esposito

12/12 Roberta Jeanne Chorlton,
AMA Instructor)

1/18 Carol Jensen

Pastor Rick's Office Hours

By appointment in the church office (Monday to Thursday).

Please contact Pastor Rick directly at 408.472.0529 or pastorrick@popphoenix.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	* Women's Bible Study- 9:30 am * Theology Pub- 7 pm	* Bible Study- noon			Quilters- 9 am
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Worship in POP Courtyard- 9:30am * Virtual Worship- 9:30 am Glaze + Praise- 10:30 am Quaranteen- - 12pm Youth Super Bowl Party- 4:30pm	Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	* Women's Bible Study- 9:30 am * Theology Pub- 7 pm	* Bible Study- noon			Quilters- 9 am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship in POP Courtyard- 9:30am * Virtual Worship- 9:30 am Glaze + Praise- 10:30 am Quaranteen- - 12pm	POP Newsletter Deadline Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	* Women's Bible Study- 9:30 am * Theology Pub- 7 pm	<u>Ash Wednesday</u> Drive-up Ashes 6-10 am & 3-7 pm * Bible Study- noon			Quilters- 9 am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship in POP Courtyard- 9:30am * Virtual Worship- 9:30 am Confirmation- 10:30 am	Boy Scout Troop #6- 7 pm	* Women's Bible Study- 9:30 am * Theology Pub- 7 pm	* Bible Study- noon			Quilters- 9 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship in POP Courtyard- 9:30am * Virtual Worship- 9:30 am Glaze + Praise- 10:30 am Congregational Meeting- 11 am						

FEBRUARY 2021
 AA, nightly, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Arcadia Room 12
 Survivors of Suicide,
 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Room 1, AMA Pod
 * indicates virtual only

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***Prince of Peace is on Facebook, Instagram, our own Website, YouTube ...
to sign up for our news, e-mail us at office@poppPhoenix.org email.***

Table of Contents

✓ Pastor Rick's Message/Annual Congregational Meeting.	1
✓ Worship Update/Ash Wednesday/Prayers for Healing	2
✓ Theology Pub/Women's Bible Study/Wednesday Bible Study/Food for Kidz Packathon COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance/Kristin Engstrom Update/Bashas' & Fry's Programs	3
✓ Youth News	4
✓ Wellness: Coping with Stress of Covid 19/News of Members and Friends Pastor Rick's Office Hours	5
✓ Calendar	6