

A Newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool

"WORSHIP *** CONNECT *** SERVE"

June/July 2020

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us — who was raised to life for us! — is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture.

Romans 8:31-35

As I walked out my front door this morning, I noticed the tree that straddles the property line between my home and my neighbor's home. I see this tree nearly every day and on most days my eyes move right past it as I walk by. Today it captured my full attention. I stopped in the driveway and stared. The tree is not the tallest or widest or most beautiful in my neighborhood. However, it is the oldest and sturdiest, most likely planted when the neighborhood was built over 50 years ago. As families move into and out of the neighborhood, as houses are remodeled and remodeled again, as yards are landscaped and newer foliage planted, the tree still stands. It still grows. It still thrives.

On many days what human beings need most is a reminder that certain things in life are solid and reliable. As the pace of change continues to accelerate in our world, we seek stability wherever we can find it. Sometimes we look to those closest to us or the laws that govern society or the strength of our convictions as places of shelter in the storms of change. Sometimes we look in darker places and allow distraction or self-medication or avoidance to capture our hearts and minds. However, there is one thing that stands above all the

rest. It is a promise, a divine promise, that has provided stability to human beings for centuries upon centuries. Like the tree I noticed this morning, this promise will never be flashy and is often overlooked as we run through daily life.

Nothing can separate us from God's love. Nothing. No virus of the body or mind. No moment of uncertainty about the future. No shame from our past. No amount of violence. No uncomfortable truth about ourselves. This divine promise is God's unwavering gift to us. No matter what each day brings, it still stands. It still grows. It still thrives.

And one more thing; this promise gives us courage. The courage to strive and sometimes fight for the common good. The courage to stand against fear and division. The courage to focus on uplifting the lives of others instead of focusing exclusively on ourselves.

We can, we must, tap into this God-given, always stable, never-ending ocean of courage right now. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to attack our physical health. Systemic racism continues to convulse the soul of our nation. Economic recession threatens to deliver an entirely new level of fear

in an era where income inequality is already out of control. Woven through it all, the divisions among us continue to grow and our capacity to listen to each other continues to flatline.

If a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, God's promise of unbreakable love gives us more than enough courage to take that step. Some will step into serving others. Some will step into protests that celebrate the value of every human being. Some will step into prayer for the sake of the world. Some will step into moments in which they listen more than speak. Some will step up to defend their neighbors from abuse and scapegoating. Some will step into an infectious joy that encourages those they encounter. There are many positive steps we can take but one promise that energizes them all.

Nothing can separate us from God's love. Let those words sink in. Look for reminders in your daily life that this promise is true. Look for your tree! Then take a step. And another. And another. Until the world has changed for the better.

Peace and more peace,

Pastor Rich

Worship during the Pandemic

Worship at Prince of Peace is online every Sunday. You may visit POP's website at www.popphoenix.org to access the link or become a subscriber to the POP YouTube Channel. The online worship focus for the summer is *Here We Stand: Thriving in Chaos*.

Holy Communion is on Zoom at 9:30 a.m.

Join the Prince of Peace family as we celebrate Holy Communion together on Zoom. Please have wine/grape juice and bread available and ready to use. Please don't use other elements for Holy Communion (please no Diet Coke and Oreos!)

The Holy Communion Zoom link is: https://zoom.us/j/6769895071 Or enter the meeting ID in your Zoom app: 676 989 5071

A Message from Pastor Paul

10 Things to Remember

- 1. Love is the answer. Always.
- 2. Vulnerability is not a weakness. It's a strength.
- 3. Your body is sacred. Cherish it.
- 4. Gratitude shifts everything. Be thankful.
- 5. Forgiveness sets you free. It really does.
- 6. You cannot change others. Only yourself.
- 7. Little acts of kindness are never little. Ever.
- 8. Fun is underrated. Enjoy yourself.
- 9. Age is just a number. It's never too late.
- 10. Life is precious. Live it now.

Ama Grace Taylor ANNAGRACETAYLOR COM Anna Grace Taylor

to a difficult time as we live each day. As I look at this list, it seems to me these are all things that can help us overcome the difficult and sometimes lonely times. Even though we are separated from each other we can still love and forgive and be thankful for all that we have been given by God. I encourage you to keep this list within easy reach so that you can refer to it often as you begin each day.

Pastor Rick's Virtual Office Hours on Zoom

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon

Join Pastor Rick to chat or pray or both! The link will be open the entire hour and you can join at your leisure.

The Pastor Rick Virtual Office Hours Zoom link is: https://zoom. us/j/6769895071 Or enter the meeting ID in your Zoom app: 676 989 5071

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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Please see the website for individual staff e-mail addresses.

This came to me on

my Facebook page. I

stopped, read it, and

then re-read it. I have

came to me. I share it

with you as a way of

navigating the days in

which we are living. It

read it several more

times since it first

is very easy to be-

come overwhelmed

by the issues of the

being able to meet

day. Staying at home,

sometimes alone, not

friends and family as

we formerly did, not

being able to worship

as we would like, are

all things that can lead

Messages from the ELCA Bishop & Grand Canyon Synod Bishop

from ELCA Bishop Eaton

"Out of my distress I called on the Lord." (Psalm 118:5)

We are a nation in distress. We are a church in distress. The coronavirus has killed 103,000 of us. The virus of racism has taken hundreds of thousands more throughout our history. Now these two deadly viruses converge. Under this distress the veneer of equality has cracked and we see the pain, anger and frustration of those who have been denied the rights and dignity so many of us expect and often take for granted.

I have heard it said that slavery ended with the Civil War. Why don't people of color "just get over it." Here is the question we need to ask, "How do you get over something that isn't over?" The extrajudicial killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd that we have seen have laid open the wound in our country that has never been fully dealt with and has never healed. The officer's knee suffocating the life out of George Floyd "reminds us that blatant acts of intimidation, hatred, and violence continue." (Freed in Christ social statement, page 3)

Continued peaceful protests, vigils and demonstrations are not only legitimate but essential to move this country and this church to honest and deep self-examination. Just as the body of Christ is COVID positive, so is the body of Christ infected with racism and white supremacy. We cannot turn away from this truth. To deny it is dishonest and dangerous.

Let us stand with those peacefully protesting and acting responsibly. Looting and destruction of property does not further the cause of justice. Government has a role to uphold civil order while also a role to respect peaceful protest. There are those in law enforcement who are acting wisely, even while others have acted irresponsibly. I ask you to support the many people, including those in our church, who are working to de-escalate tensions between law enforcement, protesters and the community.

Psalm 118 continues: "I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (21-24). Christ, the cornerstone, has already broken down the wall that divides us. The time is now. This is the day.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

from Synod Bishop Hutterer

I am aware that congregations follow their own unique paths forward. Some have begun exploring in-person gathering, including outdoor worship. As you plan, I encourage you to follow the directives of your state governor and health department, and guidance from the ELCA. While some people are eager for in-person indoor worship, others are reluctant and very cautious.

My counsel is twofold: err on the side of caution and proceed in a gradual phased-in approach. If I were serving in a congregation, I would choose to avoid in-person worship.

I suggest you carefully monitor coronavirus rates in your area and have contingency plans to return to online worship if your county becomes a hot zone of infections and deaths.

Holy Communion

Let me first begin by acknowledging how challenging this is for us as sacramental people. There is grief around not being able to receive communion. This grief is interwoven with our sorrow of not being physically together for worship, of not being able to mourn together, and now, our grief over the injustices we have witnessed around our country. We long for a healing balm, and in particular, a healing sacrament.

This topic has occupied my mind for many months. I asked—and many of you honored—my request to withhold from any practices of online or virtual communion. As a synod I hoped we would have time to learn, discuss, and engage in a more thoughtful approach before making decisions about practice. But, as the conference deans told me, "that ship has sailed." I do hope to find time in the future to review our Lutheran perspective of the sacraments.

I've become aware of a variety of thought by much reading and conversations with pastors of our synod, scholars, and several other ELCA Bishops. What follows are my recommendations for going forward with our Holy Communion practices in the Grand Canyon Synod.

From a theological and confessional point of view, I believe the only proper response during a pandemic situation is to wait, and not celebrate Holy Communion until we can hold in-person worship. In my reading, reflecting, and learning, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is an incarnational expression of Jesus the Christ embodied in the gathered assembly.

Additionally, our worship should have open doors for all people. There are two other critical components of Christian worship: it serves as a counter-cultural voice to independent individualism, while also connecting us to hunger in the world, including a craving for justice. I'm not convinced that an online broadcast (assuming availability of internet access by individuals) accomplishes all of those markers, much less a few. I've read and heard the arguments in favor of digital communion. I've watched several versions from around the country and the Grand Canyon Synod. Personally, I'm not persuaded. However, I recognize that we are in unprecedented times, along with a diversity of perspectives.

Therefore, I offer the following options to consider, following a careful discussion and review by your congregation council:

In-person worship with a social distance form of communion conducted in a staggered manner throughout the day. This approach, along with 2 & 3 below, are described in detail here. We asked an immunologist to review these procedures. In-person outdoor worship conducted in a church parking lot with persons remaining in their cars with the distribution of communion.

In-person small group worship services with socially distanced communion followed by a distribution of the sacrament to the homebound.

Online service, with a preference for real-time and face-to-face interaction like Zoom or other applications. I view this last option as something in place only during this time of pandemic. I recognize that not everyone will agree with my recommendations. I also recognize that various congregations have already adopted different perspectives and made other choices.

continued on page 4

Bishops' Letters - *continued from page 3*

I believe the best option is to celebrate Holy Communion as a sacrament when we are able to gather as an in-person assembly. Christians have a long history of waiting, of anticipating the coming of something or someone. Perhaps we can embrace this time of waiting or longing as a time in eager anticipation of 'thy kingdom come.'

I thank God for you, your generous spirits, your openness to new learnings and deeper collegiality. The Holy Spirit is blowing and stirring in and among us.

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, Bishop

✓ Theology Pub Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Study the scriptures with a beverage in your hand from the comfort of your own home. ZOOM "meeting ID" 953 1912 0349.

✓ Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom Wednesdays, noon

Zoom ID 676 989 5017:

CONGRATULATIONS to Marilyn Schmidlin for being honored by Honor Health for reaching a service milestone — she was one of six volunteers who have collectively served Honor Health for 195 years! What a milestone and what an accomplishment.

Women's Bible Study (M&M's) Tuesdays on Zoom 9:30 a.m.

We meet via ZOOM every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Get comfy, grab a snack and let's connect. We'd love to have you join us! We are finishing up the book, *Honoring our Neighbors Faith*, and are developing a deeper understanding of other faiths and their traditions. We will begin a study of Romans soon.

This time of fellowship is led by Paula Sturgeon. Contact Janet DeJonge 763.513.7243 or Deb Nelson 602.690. 4508 for any technical assistance.

The Zoom link is: https://zoom. us/j/6769895071. Or enter the meeting.



THANK YOU to Beth Pachman, Hayley Pachman along with Cindi Bankert and team who have hand made and donated over 675⁺ masks for Mask Phoenix. They have also graciously provided some for POP office, preschool & AMA. Great teamwork!!!

Bashas' & Fry's Programs

We earned \$21 from the Bashas' chain (including AJ's Fine Foods and Food City) during February and \$31 during March. Our quarterly rebate from Fry's for December through February was \$48. Thank you to all the members and friends of our church who participate in the grocery store rebate programs!

If you need a new Bashas' card, let me know. Instructions for participating in the Fry's program are posted on the church's website (www.popphoenix.org). Click on the Serving tab and go to the Grocery Store Rebates page.

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

Youth & Family Ministry Director Sought

The POP Youth Ministry Transition Team is actively seeking a new Director of Youth and Family Ministries. We have launched a nationwide search and look forward to talking with prospective candidates soon. Questions or resumes may be sent to youthministry@popphoenix.org. There is a copy of the job description on the POP website

A huge thank you to the transition team consisting of Kris Kainass, Tracy Fish, Steve Edgar, Susan Robinson and Pastor Rick for spearheading the effort to identify the amazing person God has in mind for Prince of Peace.

If you know of someone who would be a great fit, please contact the transition team at youthministry@popphoenix.org ASAP.

Update from Kristin Engstrom in Senegal



We have received a report from Kristin Engstrom, YAGM (Young Adults in Global Ministry) missionary in Senegal. Prince of Peace, as part of our

outreach program, has been sending support to Kristin. Kristin was due to visit congregations in the U.S. this summer, but due to COVID-19, plans changed and she was recalled home in March and is now living in southern Minnesota while the program is on hold. You can read more about Kristin and the program online at http://yagmsenegal.wixsite.com/blog/about. She is anxious to return to Senegal and meanwhile is thankful for the support Prince of Peace has given her.

News of Members and Friends

WEDDING

May 39 Carly Stevens to Phil Truax

DEATHS

April 3 Ron Swanson June 16 Joan Eckert

Hope4Phoenix

Using money rerouted from the Packathon, Lynne McGinley purchased 1800 food trays and delivered them to Hope4Phoenix. The picture below shows them as they are put to use!!



Boy Scout Eagle Project

It is with great pleasure that we share the completion of Matthew Goin's Eagle Scout Project as of Saturday, June 6! The project consisted of replacing all the ceiling tiles with new fire resistant 2x4 scored tiles in the Arcadia Room and several in

the Conference Room. Additionally, he replaced ten five- gallon Golden Lantana plants that had died. A total of 25 volunteers, including scouts, parents and friends of Matthew helped, for a total of 109 hours. We hope that you at Prince of Peace find this project to be as successful as we have.







First Week of Summer Camp

We have had a wonderful first week of camp! The theme this week was "Down on the Farm" — the children have been learning about farm animals, growing and harvesting foods, and some classes even made their own butter! Check these fun pictures from our classrooms.



Several of the pictures were taken in the Narthex and Arcadia Room 12 as they have been transformed into preschool classrooms for the summer in order to help spread the kids out due to cdc recommendations.









Homeless Food Distribution

by Jacque Lara

An affect of the pandemic has been a shortage of food for those who need it most. First Church UCC, 1407 N. 2nd Street, Phoenix, as long served the needs of the downtown Phoenix homeless. Volunteers make regular runs to pick up food donations from Valley restaurants which become a buffet feast each "Thankful Sunday" afternoon, as the meal distribution is called.

Prince of Peace's own youth group has frequently served and made sandwiches on Thankful Sundays. In March, when Arizona's shelter-in-place order went into effect, restaurant food donations stopped ... and the need to help the homeless became even greater. Diane Simon, coordinator of Thankful Sundays, reached out to Prince of Peace to help prepare from scratch meals in our big commercial kitchen. For the past ten weeks, members of our congregation have prepared and delivered over 3,500 meals to the homeless. The Prince of Peace congregation also donated 24 cases of water.

You can find out more about Thankful Sundays on their Facebook page, HOPE-4Phoenix -Thankful Sundays.









Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 3641 North 56th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85018 www.popphoenix.org

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID SCOTTSDALE, AZ PERMIT NO. 77

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

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MINI MESSENGER

Guide on staying connected at Prince of Peace during this time.

Covid19 Summer Edition 2020

Vol. 1

Prince of Peace is ONLINE!

Stay Connected as this is where we share the latest updates and news regarding POP! All links can be found on our website: **www.popphoenix.org**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/popphoenixaz

Instagram: www.instagram.com/popphoenix

YouTube (link on our homepage)

Subscribe to POP's email list (announcements & news) at office@popphoenix.org or by calling 480.945.9537

Offering: 3 Ways to Give



Mail in

3641 N. 56th St Phx AZ 85018



On our website

Click the "Online Giving" button on our website



TEXT 2 Give

Enter the \$ amount and text to 833-441-0048

ZOOM: VIDEO & AUDIO CONFERENCING PLATFORM



As a community we have had to adapt and find new ways to continue to interact and connect. Zoom Video Conferencing has been the best solution as "in-person" meetings are not available at this time. Here are some tips for new Zoom users from zoom.com: How to Participate in a Zoom Meeting using a cellphone/computer/laptop/ipad:

- When you join a Zoom meeting hosted by another user, you are considered an attendee
- Join a meeting by clicking on a Zoom link provided by the meeting host => follow the prompts to download and run Zoom => enter the meeting ID if prompted => click to join the audio conference.
- When you're in the meeting, you may click on the Start Video button to start your video.
- You can mute and unmute your microphone. The host also has the ability to mute you.
- You can turn your camera on or off with the Start/Stop video button. By clicking on the arrow next to the start/stop video button, you can change webcams, access your Zoom video settings, or select a virtual background (if enabled).
- If you click on Participants, you can see who is currently in the meeting.
- Chat with individuals or everyone in the meeting. Click Chat to open up the chat window and chat with other participants
- At the upper right of the Zoom window, you can switch between active speaker view and gallery view.
- Leave Meeting You can leave the meeting at any time by clicking on the Leave Meeting option at the lower right corner of the Zoom window.

As with any new formats there may be a learning curve or challenges. Please reach out to the meeting host for any help or you may always contact the church office for additional help! 480.945.9537/office@popphoenix.org



If you'd like to be on the call list, prayer list (would like to place someone on the prayer list), announcements (email/mail list) please contact the church office anytime!

office@popphoenix.org or 480.945.9537



Pastor Rick's virtual office hours:

Every Wednesday 11am-12pm

zoom id: 676 989 5071

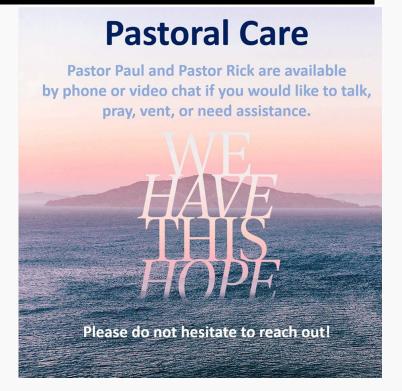
NO appointment needed.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Paul and Pastor Rick are available by phone or video chat if you would like to talk, pray, vent or need assistance.

Church office: 480.945.9537 or

office@popphoenix.org Or Pastor Paul: 602.740.7187 Pastor Rick: 408.472.0529





Every week Pastor Rick creates a YouTube video of worship for you to watch at home.

It is available at 7am every Sunday.

You may access it by clicking on the link on our homepage www.popphoenix.org or by subscribing to POP's YouTube channel.



Every Sunday at 9:30am

Every Sunday at 9:30am Pastor Rick leads the Prince of Peace family in Holy Communion on Zoom. Be sure to have wine/grape juice and bread available and ready to use.

the Zoom meeting ID is: 676 989 5071



WEDNESDAY'S AT NOON ON ZOOM

JOIN PASTOR RICK FOR A
30-MINUTE BIBLE STUDY
ON THE GOSPEL TEXT FOR THE WEEK.

Pastor Rick leads a "Lunchtime Bible Study" on Zoom every Wednesday at noon.

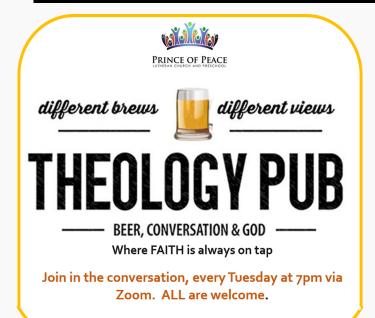
Zoom meeting id: 676 989 5071

Mary's and Martha's meet on Zoom every Tuesday at 9:30am! Get comfy, grab a snack and connect!

Contact Janet DeJonge 763.513.7243 or Deb Nelson 602.690.4508 if you have any questions.

Zoom meeting ID: 676 989 5071





Theology Pub meets on Zoom every Tuesday at 7pm.

Study the scriptures with a beverage in your hand from the comfort of your own home.

Zoom meeting ID: 234 950 8839 and the password is: 698567



Prince of Peace will be accepting food donations benefiting Vista del Camino Food Bank in the month of June: at the Church conference room Mon-Thurs from 9a-1p.

They are in immediate need of: bottled water, tuna pouches, small pop top canned meat (baked beans & hotdogs 7.75 oz, mini sausages 4.6 oz), cereal (individual bowls), peanut butter 2Go, boxed meals (Hamburger Helper), Gatorade, Socks, wash cloths, umbrellas, dental hygiene products (Toothpaste and toothbrush), bar soap, hand sanitizer. Only non-perishable food items. No citrus.

