



PRINCE OF PEACE

Love God. Love People.

May 2 – 3, 2026

Friendship

1 Samuel 23:15-18



MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY

SATURDAY, 5:30 pm | SUNDAY, 10:30 am

Praise

This Is Our God

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

So So Good

CLASSIC | SUNDAY, 9:00 am

My Life Flows On

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Bells: Musical Offering

Good Soil

MESSAGE: Jill Bergman

COMMUNION: (all services)

LOOKING FOR PRAYER?

Prayer ministers are available after both Sunday services to pray with you in the lounge through the doors at the back of the sanctuary.

We offer prayers and sympathy for the family and friends of **Marlene Tollefson**.

Welcome to Prince of Peace!

We are an open and affirming community, here to love God and all people.



Connect with Prince of Peace!

Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.

Paper copies of this form are available at the Connect Desk.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Classic: Sun 9:00 am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm, Sun 10:30 am

Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links: popmn.org

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

Mother's Day Flower Sale | May 9-10 | Before and after worship

Support students heading to Camp Wapo and Wisconsin Dells! Hanging baskets: \$28. Patio pots: \$35.

Sharing Your Legacy | Tuesday, May 12 | 6:30 pm | 200B

Pastor Dan Nordin shares practical insights on talking about faith with children and grandchildren. popmn.org/register

Vacation Bible School | June 15-18 | 9:00 – noon each day

We're looking for adult, middle and high school volunteers to lead kids at this fun summer day camp! popmn.org/register.

Women's Ministry Fall Retreat | October 2-4 | Crosslake MN

Nancy Lee Gauche is the speaker during this weekend of renewal and connection at Boyd Lodge. Cost: \$225. popmn.org/register.

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!

Preserve • Open • Plant Capital Campaign: Fundraising for the Roof

Our sanctuary roof replacement has begun, which is an exciting step forward! To reach our goal and complete the project without outside financing, we still need \$106,000.

Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. We invite you to learn more about the capital campaign and this initiative by visiting popmn.org/preserve-open-plant. Thank you!



LEGACY EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

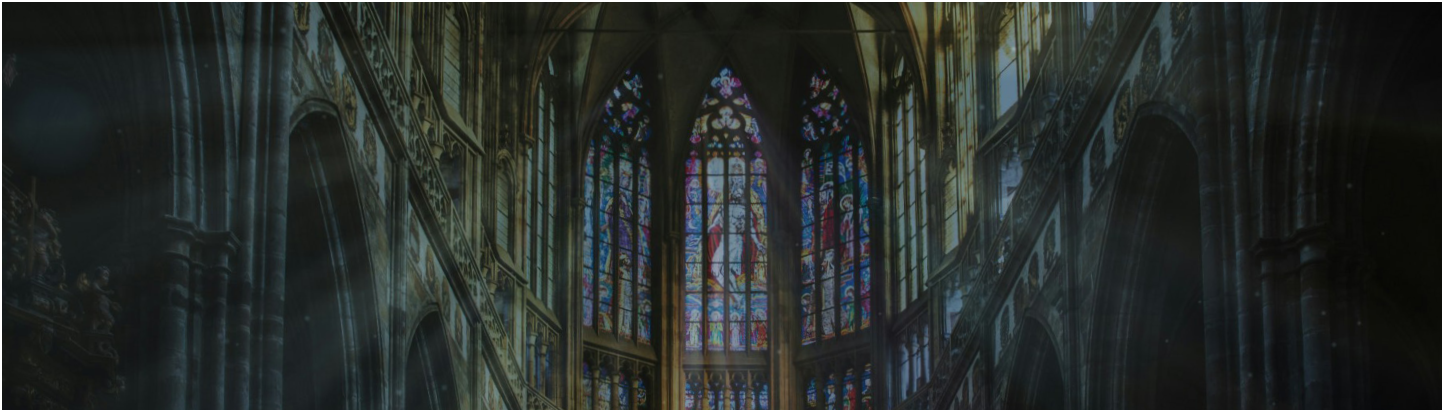
Sunday, May 10 | In Between Services | Chapel

An introduction to legacy giving presented by Scott Larson, PIM Portfolio Manager & Senior Wealth Advisor

Wednesday, May 20 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | Chapel

A deep dive into legacy giving presented by Tharan Leopold, St. Paul Area Synod Regional Gift Planner

Visit Legacy Committee members in the community room Sunday!



FRIENDSHIP

Think about a character from a book, television show, or your own imagination to which you have become attached. When did you first encounter them? How do you feel about them? Since birth, we humans have a penchant to become attached to personalities that either do not exist or do not know that WE exist. I'm thinking about our first comfort toy, a beloved character in a novel or a movie, or even the host of a podcast. For some reason, we tend to become emotionally attached to things that cannot love us back. I grieve every time I reach the final episode of *Schitt's Creek*, for example, because I miss the Rose family. This type of one-sided emotional bond is called a parasocial relationship. A parasocial relationship may be valuable for a variety of reasons but it's important to remember that it is not something reciprocated. When we find ourselves in need, these half bonds cannot help us.

One of the best things about a parasocial relationship is that they are completely without drama. The object of our affection becomes exactly what we want it to be. It doesn't judge us and always seems to be on our side.

A more difficult, but more potentially rewarding, relationship is forged when two complete human beings choose to enter into a real bond. A friendship grows when people continue to show up for one another over time. In such a situation we find ourselves supported, comforted, challenged and loved. This is the foundation of a relationship that brings life to us.

David and the son of King Saul, Jonathan, enjoyed such a bond. They were born to be natural rivals, yet their mutual affection and respect enriched and sustained both of their lives. After Jonathan was killed, David wrote the Song of the Bow and said this about his friend, *"I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women"* (2 Samuel 1:26). Later, this bond of friendship remained strong enough that it compelled David to show kindness to the disabled son of Jonathan, even though that young man was technically the son of an enemy.

Some of us are blessed to have found a friend like this in life. For that we can be truly grateful. However, at some point, even our very best friends have the potential to let us down. That's when we need to remember that we have a friend who loves us more than we can even love ourselves and who will never fail us. This friend, of course, is Jesus. Jesus said, *"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:13).

Our friendship with Jesus gives us unending forgiveness and life. How can we possibly reciprocate such friendship? Jesus asks us to love him back by loving others. Let us look for someone who needs a friend, a real friend, today, and reach out to them in the name of Jesus.

