Reminders
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3641 N. 56th Street, Phoenix AZ 85018 | 480.945.9537
Hope (n): A wish or desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment

Over the past month (years, really) our nation has experienced too many incidents of gun violence, natural disasters, economic uncertainty and so many more heart-rending moments that leave us shaken. Often we aren’t directly impacted and yet we still carry the emotional scars inflicted by another resounding example of the brokenness of our world.

Of course, this is nothing new. It seems that every month brings another public tragedy that makes the news and millions of private tragedies that don’t. Suffering is inevitable. It is as much a part of everyday living as eating and sleeping. It seems to me there are three main ways we deal with this constant companion. Some choose to ignore the suffering all around us. This usually works pretty well until tragedy comes knocking at our doors. Whenever I see someone who responds to a terrible loss with a cry of “Why me?” or “I can’t believe this has happened!” I know they have been living with blinders on. The truth is that life is hard and there is no way around it.

Some choose to wallow in suffering and never find their way out of it. They live with a proverbial dark cloud over their heads until they can no longer see the good in anything or anyone. They emit sadness like a celestial star emits light – constantly and without end.

Followers of Jesus Christ choose door number three. We fight through our suffering until we find hope. The Apostle Paul (no stranger to really awful days) wrote:

“...We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” Romans 5:3-4

It’s a pretty simply formula:
Suffering produces endurance – Think like a runner. If you want to run faster or longer, the only way to do so is to push through your perceived limits and keep pushing. Gaining endurance is hard work. The more we face our suffering head-on, with prayer, grit and tears, the better we will deal with the next challenge life throws at us.

Endurance produces character – We talk a lot about character (morals and values) in our culture. We expect it out of our leaders, hope that our children “acquire” it in school or church and point fingers at those who seem to have lost it altogether. What we don’t often admit is that character is forged in tough times. For instance, we develop compassion for those in need when we live through hardships in our own lives. When we face our suffering today, we are better equipped to help those who will suffer tomorrow.

Character produces hope – Nothing magical here. When we raise our sights from selfishness to compassion, from cynicism to understanding and from sadness to joy, we discover God’s gift of hope. It is suddenly everywhere around us. We see it in tomorrow’s sunrise, in the changing of the seasons, in faces of people who smile through tears, in first responders who rush into collapsing buildings, in the cry of a baby, in...everything.

The Apostle Paul goes on to remind us that:

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:5

When we feel deep down in our bones that God loves us and God’s embrace is eternal, hope is always a good thing. We are never truly defeated and never stop moving forward with confident expectation that something good is on the horizon. When life knocks us down, we expect that our next comeback is around the corner.

We can’t simply “put on a happy face” and manufacture hope when suffering comes our way. Believe me, I’ve tried. What we can do is fight for it by moving through suffering until hope is all that remains. It is a battle worth fighting.

Happy fall. Or better yet, hopeful fall.

Pastor Rick
YOU’RE INVITED!

Sunday School Kickoff Celebration and Family Blessing Worship!

September 10 at 9:30am

Immediately following service, our older youth will be flipping and serving fresh pancakes and fruit! (p.s. There will be a bounce house!)

POP OUTREACH AT A GLANCE

The entire POP Community (Preschool and Church) are teaming up for monthly outreach projects. More details to come.

- **August**  Lutheran Disaster Response for Maui Wildfires
- **September**  Community Shredding hosted by POP for POP Preschool Scholarship Fund
- **October**  Olive Branch Community of Hope Food Closet (Mt. of Olives)
- **November & December**  Angel Tree /Sponsoring of Sequoia Title One Elementary School classrooms
- **January**  – Hope Women’s Center (Women’s and Teen Shelter)
- **February**  – Prince of Peace Packathon
- **March**  – Yavapai Elementary
- **April**  – Helping Hands
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool is hosting a

FREE Community Shredding Event

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

All Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted and will benefit the Prince of Peace Preschool Scholarship Fund

On site shredding done by by Assured Document Destruction

Assured Document Destruction specializes in secure shredding services. All materials are shredded into small particles by one of our on-site security specialists, returned to our secure facility, compressed into 1,500 lb bales, and then whenever possible, recycled into low grade paper products such as paper towels, tissue, and napkins.

MAUI WILDFIRES

Lutheran Disaster Response

Gifts designated for a specific disaster are used entirely 100% to assist survivors. For specific ways and instructions on how to donate visit www.elca.org.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.
Angela Sherrill, Prince of Peace’s Children’s Ministry Coordinator and Preschool Infant and Toddler Care Coordinator, is embarking on a new challenge in the non-profit world and will be leaving her position at Prince of Peace on August 23, 2023. Angela has served Prince of Peace on both the church and preschool sides of our ministry since 2012. Her achievements and contributions at Prince of Peace are too numerous to list. However, Angela's most important legacy are the people she served; children who learned to love church on Sunday mornings, expectant parents who found a listening ear in the preschool registration process, teenagers who discovered their giftedness on summer trips and staff members who were uplifted and supported in numerous ways.

Though we are sad to see Angela go, we are happy for her as she transitions to her new position at Gigi’s Playhouse, an achievement center for children with Down’s Syndrome and their families. We wish her well and thank her for the many years of faithful and joyful service she has given to the Prince of Peace community.

Angela will continue to serve children and their families on Sunday mornings this fall as the interim Children’s Ministry Coordinator as we search for a new and wonderful staff person to join the team.

Peace,
Pastor Rick Sherrill and Nicole Hilden
Prince of Peace Preschool Main Campus

Petting zoo  Water Days  VBS

Summer at POP Preschool was filled with so much fun!

and Teachers prepped classrooms!
Prince of Peace Preschool's Intergenerational Campus located in the Dementia and Education Care Facility has spaces available now. We are currently accepting enrollment for 2, 3 and 4 year old children. All schedules available (excluding the 9-12 option).

If you know of anyone who is looking for childcare, with a play based curriculum and a unique experience, send them our way. Registration is available on our school website [Prince of Peace Website](#) or in person. We are also currently giving tours to prospective families. Please call 602.767.8340 to schedule a tour or inquire about our program!
Prince of Peace Youth - Summer trips!

Rock ’n‘ Water - CA & Campformation, AZ
Prince of Peace Youth - Summer trips!

Rock ‘n’ Water, CA & Campformation, AZ
Thanks for including POP in your adventures!

Join the community of Prayer Warriors!
The only commitment is to pray daily for our friends, family and community that are requesting prayers.
Email office@pophoenix.org to be included in the prayer request emails or sign up directly at www.pophoenix.org/prayer-chain
Join us for Bible Study!

- Theology Pub in person - September 12th at 7pm at Fate Brewery, S.Scottsdale
- Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Rick 10am in the church office conference room.
- Tuesday Women’s Fellowship and Bible Study with Paula Sturgeon
- Calling all women! Join us Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am for fellowship and Bible study. We meet in the conference room in the church office. September 12th, we will begin a study of the book of Acts. Paula Sturgeon leads us in study. Come join us—there is a seat saved just for you! For more information, email Deb Nelson, debnelson1@cox.net

BG's Meetup! Potluck Style:

- September 15th, meet at 4:00 pm at Jana Petersons home

Sew and Tie: is a service group whose goal is to create warm and comforting blankets to give to people in need. Using fabric remnants and sheets, we create quilts of various sizes which are sewn, filled, and then tied with yarn to hold the layers together. After completion, the quilts are given to charities. Most are given locally through Nourish Phoenix. This past year our diligent team made over 150 quilts. With more helpers, we could make even more blankets to keep others warm in cooler times of the year.

Beginning September 5, we meet on Tuesday mornings in the choir room from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. You don't need to be a “quilter” to join our group. You don’t have to know how to sew. There are many steps in the process of making a quilt which do not require sewing. We especially need people who can tie knots and almost anyone can do that! We also appreciate any donations of yarn, gently used cotton or cotton blend sheets, or remnants of fabrics. Please call or text Suzy Steinmetz at 480-332-8754 for more information.
Invisible neighbors feel safe because of you.

August 17, 2023

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
3641 North 56th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our invisible neighbors. Many people served by LSS-SW endure tough times trying to meet their basic needs. Sometimes invisible neighbors feel unseen and unheard. You shelter, feed, and clothe them and we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and generous contributions. Thank you for seeing invisible neighbors.

These past 12 months, you have changed lives of the most vulnerable people in many ways by:

- **Hosting drives**: Your collections have alleviated the financial burden for low-income families through providing gifts for baby showers for individuals such as Gerth and Jennifer. When they received pajamas for Christmas, you made older adults and people with disabilities like Martha feel that they matter.

- **Expending services**: With your help, LSS-SW expanded the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) to Phoenix in 2023 to serve increased needs. In addition, because of you, LSS-SW Family Resource Centers expanded services to include families with older children.

- **God’s hands**: Your church members volunteer with LSS-SW in various ways, like welcoming refugees through co-sponsorship, which facilitates refugees’ adjustment. They help refugees navigate the public transportation system, take them to the library, and more.
- **Resettling refugees:** You resettled 130 Ukrainians seeking safety who had to suddenly flee their country due to Russian invasion. With your help, we serve people from various parts of the world seeking safety, including those from Afghanistan, Africa and asylum seekers who crossed the border.

Many people we serve expressed gratitude. Because of you their lives have changed, and they have hope for a future. Here are some of their messages:

"Thanks to you, I am safe here. It was a lot of explosions and constant fear in Ukraine, I was scared." Anna, Ukrainians seeking safety (pictured above).

"You change many people's lives; you save the lives of people like me and my nieces. May God bless your good heart. Life in the camp was rough, and now I am not worried about a daily meal here, because life here is better and I take good care of my nieces." Jolie, former refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I can't ever be grateful enough for what LSS-SW did for me. LSS-SW staff helped me with all I needed to get a job and cared for my daughter so I could focus on my job application without being preoccupied with other things." Martha, single mom who benefited from the Family Resources Center.

We cannot do what we do without you. Thank you for your continuous generosity and making a difference. We are blessed to have you as a vital pillar of strength in our mission.

In gratitude,

Connie Phillips  
President & CEO

Pastor Kevin  
Director of Philanthropic Engagement

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**2023 PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Thank you for spreading God's love and making a difference in the lives of people in need.

Connie Phillips  
President & CEO

Rev. Kevin Meyer  
Director of Philanthropic Engagement
August 25th, 2023

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Phoenix
Pastor Rick Sherrill
3641 N. 56th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dear Friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Phoenix,

Thank you for your sponsorship of Esther Lomnyaki and Sembeyo Loibangut. It's hard to believe 4 years have passed since Esther and Sembeyo started at MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). On October 28th, they will walk in their Form 4 graduation ceremony. This is a big day of celebration.

Graduating Form 4 is quite an accomplishment, especially for girls in Tanzania. Less than 30% of students reach this level of education. The achievement is only possible due to your support, the wonderful teaching at MGLSS, and the hard work and determination of Esther and Sembeyo. They are now eligible to enter into “A” Level education, which is the equivalent of 12th grade and a first year of college.

It is mine and the Executive Director's honor to represent OBA at the graduation ceremony and convey congratulations from sponsors as well as a small gift for each of your graduates. Please consider contributing $20 towards the purchase of a gift for each student. If you would like to send a graduation card or letter, I am happy to carry it. Please make checks payable to OBA or donate online at www.bootstrapafrica.org and include “Grad Gift” in the memo line. Any checks or cards should be mailed to the OBA office prior to October 10th.

The Form 4 class will take their national examination shortly after graduation. Once they receive their scores, graduates will know if they qualify to continue their studies this spring at MGLSS. If they do qualify, they will return to campus after a 10 month break. We will be in touch once we know your students' placement, and make sure you stay informed.

We appreciate the financial and spiritual support you have given Esther and Sembeyo over the years. You have made a difference for them, their families, and generations to come.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Briana Engh
Operations and Communications Specialist
Operation Bootstrap Africa
Prince of Peace / The Temple Theater Company Partnership

We are so excited for the second season of this partnership! First show of the season is Frozen Jr! Come support the youth actors and POP Youth and POP Ministries! You won't want to miss this show!!

You're Invited to

Presented by Temple Music and Performing Arts and Prince of Peace Youth

Disney

FROZEN JR.

7:00 pm

September 14, 15, 16

and

September 21, 22, 23

www.popphoenix.org or scan QR code for tickets