

The Good News

"To know the love of God in Jesus Christ, and to share that love through word and action."
January 2024

Pastor Robert's Reflections

Siblings in Christ,

2024 is an election year, so get ready for an over abundance of fear mongering to be coming our way as both the parties use the predominant fears that plague their core constituents (according to market data) to "inspire/guilt" people into voting for their candidate (no I am not jaded at all about our political process).

The spreading of fear has been a regular practice here in the US causing us to believe things are worse than they seem. Yes, horrible things are going on in our country, and there are things that we should do about it, but statistics show that it is actually safer to live in most areas of our country now than in decades past. Violence and drug use (two things that go hand in hand) per capita are actually on the decline and have been for quite some time in almost every corner, and demographic, of our country. Statistics show that despite what many people believe it is far safer to live in the US today than it has been in the past several decades.

While we may be inundated with headlines reading "most gun/drug/etc.. deaths than ever before" these headlines leave out that the populations of these areas have also massively increased. This is not to belittle the horrible things that are happening in our country but only an attempt to put things into perspective.

Spreading fear has become much easier due to the rise of social media which has become many people's main source of information regarding the world around them. This is dangerous because these outlets are not well regulated, and misinformation, propaganda, and overexaggerating hot button issues has become rampant, while other real issues are ignored for various reasons.

Whatever fear you may have regarding the world can be easily fed by your media of choice whether it is network news, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (sorry it's X now), Reddit, Tik Tok, movies, TV shows, etc... many of these outlets have little to no supervision regarding the content that is on their sites, and what little supervision that they do have is often easily subverted by those who know how to work the system.

The easiest way to spread fear is to relate whatever you are talking about to people's finances. People can yell about guns, human trafficking, reproductive rights, disease, Immigration, gender or climate change all they want, and it may cause anxiety amongst different portions of the population, but it is when these hot button issues threaten our pocket books that people really stand up and take notice, or at least it is when people make us believe that it will affect our pocket books that we stand up and take notice.

I can't count the number of times that I have heard people say some variation on this statement, "I don't like what that person/policy/business/etc... does, but I support them/it because it helps secure my investments/bank accounts/job."

Fear, particularly around money keeps the vast majority of our country/society from taking chances and acting boldly. Taking chances rather than doing things the way we have always done them introduces the risk that we might lose whatever level of wealth we have been able to accumulate, and that can be terrifying, even if it means continuing to do things that may directly or indirectly hurt others.

Yet what we are also noticing is that by staying safe and relying upon the same ole things that we have always done is resulting in

diminishing returns and what was once safe is no longer true. This can be seen in many different areas.

One recent example has been the movie industry. For the past two decades big budget comic book based movies have been extremely profitable. Even the ones that were bad based upon critic scores or audience reactions managed to make a profit for the studios that produced them. In the last couple of years leading up to the Pandemic multiple comic book movies made over a billion dollars each with a couple of them making over two billion dollars. It seemed as if these movies would soon be the only movies in theaters due to how profitable they were.

This all changed these past couple of years, where multiple comic book movies from different movie studios flopped, resulting in these studios losing over two billion dollars combined, has led to in an uncertain future for these companies and types of movies. (This was further emphasized by a recent box office report, where the number one movie of the weekend was a relatively small budgeted cartoon from Japan rather than the two comic book movies that were also playing in the same theaters).

People's tastes and desires regarding what they want and/or need is changing and the fear that leads many of us to do what is safe is actually hurting us. Many of the organizations that have flourished in the past are growing smaller as members grow older and younger generations seem uninterested.

As Congregations we need to let go of the fear that keeps us from being bold and taking chances. We need to be willing to try new things, welcome new ideas and empower our members who have these ideas. These things might fail, people might leave but if we don't open our hearts and minds to the bold and new ways that God is leading us than we consign ourselves to slowly fading away.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

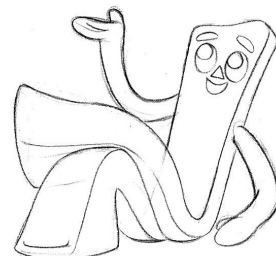
Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

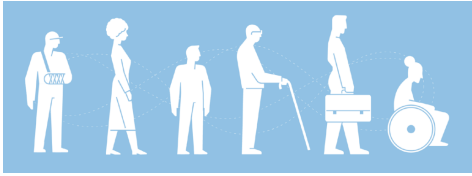
Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:19-34)

Be Bold, open your hearts and minds to where God is leading you. Don't be afraid, know that God is with you no matter what!



Email Pastor Robert at gumby523@yahoo.com



Accessibility

Thank you all who spoke to me about accessibility during worship and how to make it better for this aging community. The Worship Committee talked at length about reading at the pulpit, difficulty picking up cups from the communion trays, and exiting the communion rail.

Please volunteer to read the lessons or prayers from the pulpit. There is a step and soon will be a handle to help you up and down. Please adjust the microphone. We all need to hear and some of us have trouble without the amplification.

If you have trouble with the tiny communion cups, stay in your seat, let the usher know you want communion brought to you, and Pastor will come to you. You may drink from a chalice or use intinction. Speak to Pastor beforehand and let him calm your troubles.

Confusion exiting the communion rail has become a problem for folks a little unsteady on their feet. If you are communing on the right side of the rail, exit to the right even if you are seated on the left. And if you are on the left side of the rail, exit to the left even if you are seated on the right side of the sanctuary. Yes, you will have to walk a ways.

The committee suggested the ushers telling folks which way to exit, but an usher has a better solution. The ushers will wait until the rail is clear before letting folks proceed to the rail.

Thanks again!
Linda Wiese, Worship Committee Chair

“Intersectional” Justice

On April 20, 2023, the nationwide ELCA Church Council adopted social message on Climate Change. Referencing Biblical tradition alongside the latest scientific reports on earth’s current climate crisis, it spoke of the urgent call to address “the grave dangers posed to present and future generations” by our human unwillingness to change the destructive patterns of our current lifestyles.

Moreover, pointing to the connection between climate disaster and the social and economic injustice of our present way of life, the report stated: “there is the matter of *intersectional justice*. That is, how does climate justice intersect with historical injustices related to race, class, and gender?”

Our own local church community here at Prince of Life has tended to sequester itself from much exposure to the issues which we as a society sooner or later have to face head on. We busy ourselves with studies, tasks, and gatherings which mostly avoid confrontation with the problems our larger society deals with.

How have we reached out to systemically address the chem trails in our skies, the riots in our streets, the homeless at our doors? How have we translated our prayers into action?

Christ invites us to dine at the table of Grace—a table that is not ours alone but which belongs to the whole wide world. We have “the riches of grace that God has lavished upon us.” (Ephesians 1:10). We partake of the earth’s bounty alongside folk who don’t look like us, who don’t always speak the same language as we do, who have perspectives different than ours.

Our Oregon Synod calls us to “sacred organizing” for genuine change. Can we in the coming New Year as a congregation consider how we intersect—to engage in climate resilience, rather than climate disaster? May we learn to fast and to feast, repentant of our greed and responsive to the need of our neighbors— young and old, gay or straight, rich or poor!

For the Love of All Creation!

Contact

Bonnie Fackre-Cochise

at futureshine@earthlink.net

for more information.



Prince Of Life will again be providing meals for the SON program starting January 8.

I will be asking volunteers to make or deliver meals 3 times a week to, (right now) 3 families, for 2 weeks.

That number of families could change but no more than 4.

Thank you for helping, the families are very grateful.

Thank you for all your generous help. Questions/Comments? Contact Karen Steiner, 503 657 4534



The Love, INC pantry is always in need of the following items:

- Conditioner
- Shaving Cream
- Hand Sanitizer in small bottles.
- ChapStick
- Children's toothbrushes
- Hairbrushes
- Comet w/bleach
- Window cleaner
- All purpose cleaner (liquid)
- Rubber gloves
- Laundry Soap

Just bring them to church and place them in the "Love, INC" box in the narthex. We'll make sure they are taken to the Love, INC office here in Oregon City.

Good News: Updated Giving Options!

I am happy to announce that, along with our traditional giving options, the updated Prince of Life website includes a donation link that works and is easy to use. It allows for the user's control over electronic giving directly from their financial institution or credit/debit card with just a few steps. This gives donors full control over their giving without having to go through the financial secretary, although your financial secretary is always happy to assist.

To use the website link, one just searches for the <https://princeoflife.org/> website then scrolls to the bottom of the page. There one finds "Ways to Support This Work" and either creates an account or logs in with an already existing account or just donates without an account or logging in (though having an account is encouraged if setting up multiple donations over time). The only account contact information needed is your name, email address, and your personalized password. Once logged in, click on "see all" which opens all seven of the most used church funds including: General Operating Fund, Building Fund, Bunkbed Ministry, Mission Endowment Fund, Start Right Ministry, Backpack Buddies Ministry, and the Quilt Fund. One can select multiple funds, if desired, and can select how much and how often to make either single or automatic scheduled electronic donations. Selections are under the total control of the donor and can be adjusted at any time. If an adventurous soul wishes to "play" with the site, it allows for practice right up to the last step of submitting a payment and all can be canceled by just clicking on "remove" in the "basket" page.

Of course, your financial secretary is available to help if you run into problems using the system or to continue making Simply Giving changes for you if you wish to keep things just the way they are.

Dan Hughson
Financial Secretary

Fun and Fellowship at Prince of Life

Game Night January 19th

Come play with your church family at our monthly game night. Bring a potluck dish and a board game! This is an activity for all ages to join in together!

Please join us on Friday, January 19th, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. See you then!

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com

January 14th All-Church Potluck

January 14th will have another All Church potluck.

There will be a sign up in the Narthex

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com

Retired Men's Lunch

Retired men in the congregation are invited to meet in Oregon City's Wichita Pub at noon each third Tuesday of the month for food and fellowship. If you need a ride, call Harlow Jacobson at 503-656-1616.



Green Planet

Hello 2024! Here are some new year's resolutions for a greener world.

<https://greenifyhub.com/green-living/8-green-new-years-resolutions-for-a-greener-future/>

Take care of each other and our planet.
Peace and joy,

Carol Bresky



Lillian Hulett joyfully prepares for
"Pancakes with Santa"
on December 9, 2023



LOVEONE

The Father's Heart Street Ministry
603 12th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

December 14, 2023

Prince of Life Lutheran Church
13896 Meyers Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045-7921

Dear Prince of Life Lutheran Church,

I wanted to personally reach out and thank you for your generosity. Gifts like yours allow us to make a positive impact on the lives of those living unsheltered. So many positive things have happened this year and I am excited to share a few highlights.

Father's Heart Street Ministry partners with LoveOne to tackle homelessness.

Father's Heart President Marty Gant has been spending extra time lately trying to find a permanent location for Father's Heart in Oregon City, [Clackamas County Human Services Deputy Director Adam Brown](#) said Oregon City is already home to Father's Heart and many other service providers who serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

and now...

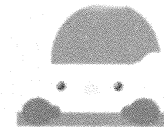
Clackamas County funds \$10 million for Navigation Center.

The former manufacturing facility, Miles Fiberglass is being purchased by HSCCC. The group then plans to renovate the building so that **Father's Heart, LoveOne and other service providers can move in by 2025.**

The resource center, which will open in 2025, will help people and families navigate the array of safety net programs and connect them directly with housing, services and public benefits. The center will be a one-stop shop for the services a person may need to exit homelessness, including physical and mental health care, employment, training, benefits enrollment, assistance applying for housing, rent assistance, counseling, supplying basic needs, addiction recovery services and more. **The \$10 million in funding for the resource center comes from the Supportive Housing Services measure.**

Since January 1, 2023, we have:

- Housed 92 hotel participants.
- 66 individuals sheltered in program (as of 12/6/23)
- Housed 12+ households in group housing or sober living as an alternative to hotel shelter.
- And recently housed 6+ households of 2 or more people using Rapid Rehousing money.



Sincerely,

Brandi Johnson
Executive Director
The Father's Heart Street Ministry & LoveOne



Bunk Bed Ministry

Our Bunk Bed Builders delivered another bed in December. This lofted bed was custom made for a teen-age girl. A quilt, pillow and stuffed animal were included in this gift.

Peace by Piece Quilters

We continue to meet Thursdays, 9-12, followed by lunch and conversation. There are many tasks that go in to making a quilt; many do not even involve a sewing machine. If you like color, fabric, and conversation, we are the group for you.

Please visit us! Margaret Bowyer,
bowyermk@yahoo.com 503-913-2678



Openings

POL seeks an additional **AV Tech** to operate our sound board and Zoom two Sundays each month.

Applicants should contact the church office at [PLLC@ PrinceofLife.org](mailto:PLLC@PrinceofLife.org).

A new council member is needed to fill the vacancy left by a recent resignation. Interested members should contact Council President, John Mohlis at 503-784-1566 or email mohlisconsulting@gmail.com.



Helping Other People Eat

As always, HOPE food pantry is always looking for the following donations:

Boxed Mac & Cheese
Prepared meals
Canned or boxed
Main Dishes

Many clients do not have access to a kitchen, so pre-packaged meals are always welcomed.

Please bring your shelf-stable, non-perishable food donations to church and put them in our shopping cart, next to the lift.

December Snap-shots



Christmas Pageant 2023

On December 3rd at 3 pm members of West Linn Lutheran Church joined us at Prince of Life to present our first, live, indoor Christmas Pageant.

Pancakes with Santa at Prince of Life

On December 9, POL was the site of "Pancakes with Santa" a Christmas event sponsored by NW Disability Support.



On that day children with disabilities and their families came to POL to sing songs in our sanctuary, eat pancakes and visit with Santa Claus. Approximately 200 people participated in this happy event in a carefully scheduled rotation.



Children, Youth & Family Service Committee

We met in November and discussed next steps in our exploration of a childcare facility on our site. We continue to wait for ClackCoKids monthly and monitor the progress of our exploration with ClackCoKids for them to build a daycare structure on our property. We are waiting for the ClackCoKids requested cost estimate for their architect to complete a feasibility report on our property. As a result, the December meeting was canceled since we didn't have anything to discuss yet.

We also discussed the Economic Development plan for Oregon City at our November meeting. They definitely have childcare listed as a goal to facilitate workforce adequacy for Oregon City's businesses. It is interesting to note that Providence Willamette Falls Hospital and Clackamas Community College are the 2 biggest employers in our city. That means that childcare to help out smaller businesses might need a different approach than for the largest businesses. The formal in person meeting with Edward Graham, the OC Economic Development Director, and a subcommittee of the CYF committee has been postponed till January.

Janet Mann,
Chair

Community Planning Workgroup

Facilitated by Clackamas
WorkForce Partnership

You may remember that I became a member of the Community Planning Workgroup facilitated by Clackamas WorkForce Partnership. Their goal is to develop a County wide survey of all citizens throughout Clackamas County to find out what their primary concerns and accolades are for the county. They have finished developing the survey, both online and paper copies, and are starting to distribute it. We have been chosen as one of the first faith groups to get the survey to register our individual opinions. I will be distributing it to our members in paper form and supply those who prefer to fill it out online a link after the first of the year.

This is not something that you are filling out as a member of Prince of Life, but as a citizen of Clackamas County. The results are going to be compiled then distributed to all bodies that have a need for information about what the members of our communities think. This could be local governments, schools, non-profit organizations, and Prince of Life. In order for us to reach out to our neighbors, we need to know what our neighbors are thinking. This gives us the opportunity to get current data to update our own planning.

Janet Mann



January Sermon Scriptures

Revised Common Lectionary for January, 2024

January 1, 2023
Holy Name of Jesus
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7 or
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21 New Year's Day

January 6, 2024
Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Farwell to Pastor Rob

Be sure to join us on Sunday, January 28th at 11 am when we say farewell to Pastor Rob, who has served as our transitional/ interim pastor since October 2022.

January Celebrations!

Birthdays

2	Riley Schedler
3	Peggy Vermaas
4	Bev Spilseth
4	Ariane Telligman
6	Cherry Harris
7	Darin Thornhill
10	David Wheeler
12	Michelle Phillips
13	Ben Mohlis
15	Annie Sakaguchi
20	Aahron Martin-Monise
20	Denny Metzger
20	Melinda Salter
21	Paul Schedler
22	Katie Fray
24	John Anderson
26	Cindy Borders
26	Betsy Packer
28	Joyce Johnson
30	RayAnne Schedler

Anniversaries

- 1 – Paul & Julie Schedler
- 7 – Carole Hallen & Connie McFarland

God's blessings on your special day!

January Confirmation Classes

January 21 and 28
11:30 at Prince of Life

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p><i>For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit our website: https://princeoflife.org/</i></p> <p>Please submit your articles for the February newsletter by January 15.</p>						
	1 New Year's Day	2 11 am Staff Mtg. 7 pm Worship Committee	3 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 2 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	8 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	9 11 am Staff Mtg. <i>Noon PEO</i> 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	10 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	11 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 <i>Oregon City Women's Club</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	12 6 pm Scrap-Booking	13 9 am Scrap-book
14 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 11 am All Church Potluck	15 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i>	16 10:00 am <i>Material Girls</i> 11 am Staff Mtg. Noon Retired Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 7 pm Child, Youth & Family Service Com. On Zoom 7 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	17 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	18 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	19 6:30 pm Game Night	20 9:30 DAR
21 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 11:30 Confirmation Class @ POL 2 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	22 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	23 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	24 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	25 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	26	27
28 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Annual Budget Meeting 11 am Pastor Rob's Farwell	29	30 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	31 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>			



Prince of Life Lutheran Church
PO Box 264
Oregon City OR 97045



PRINCE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
*To know the love of God in Jesus Christ,
and to share that love through word and action*



13896 S. Meyers Road
PO Box 264
Oregon City, Oregon
Phone: 503-657-3100

Website: www.princeoflife.org
E-mail: pllc@princeoflife.org

Interim Pastor Robert Neubert
Director of Music Ministry: Jesse Cook
Office Coordinator: Edith Sanguinetti Alben
Council President: John Mohlis

Prince of Life's Welcoming Statement:

The love and mercy of God move us to welcome
all people,
including those who have ever felt excluded
because of race, sex, age, sexual orientation,
gender identity or expression,
physical or mental challenges, addictions,
imprisonment,
economic status, family status,
or anything that might divide us.

Whatever your country of origin or ancestry,
wherever you are on your journey of faith,
we welcome you.

Our unity is in Christ.