

The Good News

“To know the love of God in Jesus Christ, and to share that love through word and action.”
April 2025

Matthew 13:31-32 (NRSV)

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

As we come into the season of spring, nature is moving into its cycle of rebirth. Flowers are awakening and pushing up, trees are sprouting buds and growing fresh greenery.

We find ourselves in the middle of the movement of Lent when we are journeying with Jesus ever closer to the week of His Passion and the Cross. We have been experiencing small movements in our prayer hearts during Wednesday Lenten Prayer services. There have been prayers to heal spaces and places of tenderness and wounding through the small phrases of the Ho’oponopono practice (I am sorry, Forgive me, Thank you and I love you).

Many of us have experienced that movements of any size bring with them seasons and moments of change. Change, when seen in any place of our lives, can be challenging and exciting all at the same time. Haven’t we in this beloved community we call Prince of Life, experienced this in the few weeks I have been here with you officially? Changes, challenges, excitement and new beginnings – all wrapped into a tiny package of a few short weeks!

Out of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches, in His parable of the mustard seed, about the nature of movement. As JR Woodward shares in The Church as Movement. “It starts small and

becomes significant over time. It starts with a mustard seed and ends with a tree. In our current culture we mock and are unimpressed with the small. We’d rather have fast, furious, fantastic growth. yet we must pay attention to the small if we want to recover our “movemental” beginnings. It’s within the small that disciples are formed and are sent into neighborhoods for the sake of God’s mission. Within the small, communities learn to gather under the essentials of being the church.” We need to water the small, over and over, and allow God to bring fruitfulness. The power of movement/change is in the power of God’s Spirit blowing on the smallest embers.

We are, like the natural world outside, always pushing into the space of God’s eternal promise of change, movement and new beginnings.

As your Pastor, I am always seeking to balance the shepherding, the equipping and the challenging roles that I am awed daily to be called into. And, when I fail, when we fail, God gathers, and enfolds, and calls us back toward God, to try again to grow within God’s plan!

Because, beloveds, when we find ourselves living in communion with God – inside the world, for the sake of the world and in the Way of
(Continued on page 2)

Holy Week April 13-20

April 13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am

April 17 Maundy Thursday Limited service at Noon • Full Service at 6 pm

April 18 Good Friday Limited service at Noon • Full Service at 6 pm

April 19 Easter Vigil, Sanctuary open 10 am to 4 pm

April 20 Easter/Resurrection Sunday 9:30 Worship followed by Easter Brunch

**Special Pastoral
Hours
Every
Wednesday
Noon - 2 pm
March 5th thru
April 9th.**

Fill the Altar For Lent

Here at Prince of Life it has become our custom during Lent, to fill our altar with food for our local food bank:

Your contributions of boxed, canned and packaged foods around our altar during Lent help feed our neighbors in need.

Please bring your contributions to church on Sundays in Lent, March 5 through April 13 (Palm Sunday).

Let's work together to help our



New Mail Box We have a new locking mail box and will no longer be using the Post Office Box. From now on, please address all mail for Prince of Life to 13896 Meyers Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

Lenten Wednesday's Evening Prayer Service Continues thru April 9

**Noon and 5:30 pm
Ho'oponopono -**

The Ancient Hawaiian practice of Forgiveness and Healing.
Schedule -

4/2 - Reconciling with the Church

I love you...

4/9 - Reconciling with the World

I am sorry, Forgive me, Thank you and I love you

(Continued from page 1)

Christ – nothing is *too small*. Not stardust, not mustard seeds and not even baby chickens hopping in the fresh, dewy grass.

We *will* make small movements into larger movements and sometimes we must grow larger movements down into smaller ones, only to grow outwardly again in new ways.

One thing stays the same! Change and movement builds the Kingdom of God one small piece at a time, and I am so very happy to be traveling along the Way with each and every one of you!

Continued Lenten blessings of alms, prayer and fasting be with you now and until we gather together at the empty tomb!

Pastor Sena Norton ✝

Easter Brunch

Cub scouts will be serving our Easter Brunch this year again for us on April 20 after the service. They always do a great job! Your monetary contributions help them get to camp and fund other activities.

We do need to bring food to serve. There will be a sign up in the narthex in early April

Items requested are: cooked breakfast casseroles, cut up fresh fruit, pastries, milk, juice, and other breakfast and/or brunch items.

Thanks everybody!

May will Highlight Prayer...

- Restart POL Pray Chain
- Focus on Prayer as faith practice and worship act
- Engagement opportunities for new prayer focus in your own life.
- Experience Prayers of the People in new ways.
- Prayer Chain leaders Barbara Renkin and Mary Swanson

Quarterly Sunday Servant Training

May 28th after worship

- All those currently serving or interested in serving on Sunday or for special events.
- Let's continue our learning and fellowship together
- All are welcome.

Our last training was a huge success with over 20 people.



Making summer plans?
Check out Camp Lutherwood at:
<https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/>

Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents

*Exploring Creative and Meaningful Worship-
Ancient Practices, New Possibilities*

April 24- May 22, 2025, 6:30-8 pm on Zoom

Details at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YhOs3UApZdN40Q7kicS1ZVjGqtzIYefQfQA_AoxBoF8/edit?tab=t.0

Oregon 2025 Assembly

May 30-June 1, 2025

Anam Cara:

Soul Friends in the Spirit of Jesus

Prince of Life will be represented this year by Pastor Sena, Kay O'Dea and Paul Rickey.

More details about the Assembly at:

<https://oregonsynod.org/index.php/about/assembly/>

This year's Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Columbia River, seven miles from downtown Portland. The hotel has been renovated since 2017 Assembly was held there (formerly Red Lion). Amenities include a: fitness center, pickleball courts, outdoor pool and hot tub and an onsite restaurant with views of the river.

Room reservations can be made here :

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50909040/owner/4387/home>

Book by May 7 and mention the Oregon Synod to get the discounted group rate.

HELP WANTED

Prince of Life is hiring both a Music Director and a Church Administrator

If you know anyone who might fill either of these positions please encourage them to apply on Indeed.com

Questions? Ask anyone of the Staffing Committee: Kay O'Dea, Marsh Gross, Melissa Martenson and Pastor Sena

Walking With Our Immigrant Neighbors
January 2025
A Statement on Immigration from the ELCA Region 1 Bishops

As Lutherans, we are called to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed strangers and emphasized love, mercy, and justice for all people. We believe that every human being, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, is created in the image of God and has inherent dignity and worth. This foundational truth compels us to approach the issue of immigration with compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Scripture repeatedly instructs us to love our neighbor and show the stranger hospitality. God commands the people of Israel, “The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself” (Leviticus 19:34). Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) shows us that caring for people in need is central to who we are as Christians. The parable also challenges us to acknowledge the goodness in all people because the “foreigner” in the story is the one who acts in the most Christlike way. In light of these teachings, we advocate for an immigration policy that reflects Christ’s love, recognizing that all people deserve respect and protection.

The Lutheran tradition emphasizes both mercy and justice. Justice requires everyone, including immigrants, to be treated fairly and equitably. While upholding the rule of law is important, it must not be done in ways that dehumanize or exploit vulnerable people. We are especially concerned about the possibility that places of worship, hospitals, and schools could be the target of deportation raids. A policy that allowed such raids would increase the suffering not only of undocumented people but also of many people who would fear being unjustly targeted and thus avoid those places. Denying people the opportunity to attend worship, be educated, or receive medical treatment violates individuals’ fundamental rights. We urge those in government and law enforcement who are responsible for the detention or deportation of undocumented persons to consider how their actions might be seen in the eyes of God.

We are all members of the same human family. Therefore, we approach immigration not merely as a political or legal issue but as a matter of human solidarity. The health and prosperity of the United States are intertwined with the contributions and lives of immigrants. Immigrants bring diverse gifts and play an essential role in our communities and economies. Our immigration policies should reflect a commitment to the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable.

As people who have received God’s mercy and grace, we are called to extend that same mercy and grace to others. This means offering opportunities for new beginnings, particularly for those already present in the United States without legal documentation. A just immigration policy would provide pathways to citizenship for those who have lived in the U.S. for years, contributing to the country and integrating into our communities. It should also guarantee protection for those fleeing violence or persecution, ensure that immigrant families remain united, and make sure that children are not punished for their parents’ actions.

We are called, as individuals and as a society, to remember that the immigrants among us are not intruders or enemies but bearers of the image of God, deserving of our care, respect, and advocacy.

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod

The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod

The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop, Montana Synod

The Rev. Laurie Larson Caesar, Bishop, Oregon Synod

The Rev. Dr. Meggan Manlove, Bishop, Northwest Intermountain Synod

The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, Bishop, Alaska Synod

A Note from Pastor Sharon

To the people of Prince of Life
In these past couple of weeks, I have had time to ponder the times we had together. My time with you was full of joy. Confirmation, baptism, even funerals were full of your caring attitudes. To top off the ten months, you all organized an amazing farewell party. It was a wonderful party during which I wandered from table to table, sharing stories, memories, and laughter. I am treasuring the variety of cards, and appreciating the messages you added to them. At the end of the party, Annie handed me a box full of those cards. An amazing surprise when I opened them at home was the discovery a great variety of dollar bills that were tucked in between the cards! Thank you for your generosity. I thank you for the reception and the gifts. Even more I thank you for the variety of worship services we shared. May God's blessings rest richly among you as you discover the future that God holds for you.
Pastor Sharon

Social Justice Child, Youth, & Family Service Committee

At our March 16th meeting of the Child Care Forum, we agreed to start looking into several possibilities to spread the word.

One is that we start looking into the possibility of writing a Resolution for the Oregon Synod Convention in 2026 on the need for a focus on solutions for child care needs in Oregon.

The Child Care Forum meets the 3rd Sunday each month in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour, that is Easter in April and the following Sunday is Pastor Sena's Installation Reception. So, stay tuned for the exact date.

Janet Mann & Peggy Vermaas

Fun and Fellowship

April 13

All-Church Potluck,

A monthly event following worship on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
This month we honor Pastor Sharon on her final Sunday with us at Prince of Life.

April 18

Good Friday

No Family Game Night for April

April 15

Men's Lunch

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



Green Planet

Climate change is at a critical point in time. Records are being broken in temperature, flooding, drought, I could go on. There are young people around the world who taking on these environmental challenges, doing their part to make a difference.

<https://www.rescue.org/article/12-climate-activists-inspiring-us-fight-climate-change>

There is no planet B. Take care of our planet, yourselves and each other.

Peace, Carol Bresky

All Church Work Party

Saturday, April 12.

Let's work together to "Spring Clean" our beautiful building and grounds. A task sheet is posted on the narthex Bulletin Board. Tasks may be completed in advance, or join us on April 12 for the work party and group lunch.

Sermon Scriptures

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14, and John 12:1-8

April 13 – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16,
Philippians 2:5-11, and Luke 22:14—23:56

April 17 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19,
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, and John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22,
Hebrews 10:16-25, and John 18:1—19:42

April 20 Easter

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
1 Corinthians 15:19-26, and Luke 24:1-12

April 27 Pastor Sena' Installation

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29,
Revelation 1:4-8, and John 20:19-31

Wednesday Morning

Bible Study Resumes April 23:

Join us each Wednesday morning at 10 am, to examine the scripture for the coming week.

April Celebrations!

Birthdays

1	Kari Gulwan
02	Livia Kruse
04	Seth Reno
05	Kathy Rickey
08	J. David Estola,
09	Susan Rodway
11	Jayden Daniels
11	Allen Taylor
15	Patrick Beyer
15	Makenna Wiese
18	Judy Cook
18	Sue Murray
20	Anabella Wilson
21	Molly Hulett
22	Rex Hagans
22	Brandon Wood
27	Betty Martin
28	Larry Murphy

Anniversaries

April 8 th	Derek and Connie Kruse
April 29 th	Paul and Kathy Rickey

God's Blessings on your special day!

Red Cross Blood Drives

Red Cross Blood has a continuous need for blood, platelet and other blood products . Even if the Blood Drive at POL doesn't work for you, there are many other times and locations.

It's very easy to sign up by going to [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org). You can sign up and fill out all the information quickly and easily. Use this link to sign-up on line:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> .

Prince of Life Lutheran Church
April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit our website: https://princeoflife.org/		1 6 pm Private Event 4 pm Worship Committee (Conf. Rm.)	2 Noon Lenten Prayer 4 pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	3 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4 Noon Scrap Booking Event.	5 9 am Noon Scrap Booking Event.
6 9:30 am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom Recording Available after noon 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting	7 4:30 pm Worship p Com. (Conf. Rm.)	8 6 pm Private Event 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg.*	9 Noon Lenten Prayer 4 pm Music Rehearsal 5:30 pm Lenten Prayer 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	10 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 9 am Social Justice & Learning Meeting 12:30 pm OC Women's Club 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11	12 9 am All Church Work Party
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom Recording Available after noon 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 am All Church Potluck	14	15 10 am Material Girls Noon Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 6 pm Private Event	16 4 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	17 Maundy Thursday Worship Noon & 6 pm 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	18 Good Friday Worship Noon & 6 pm	19 Easter Vigil 10 am—4pm 9:30 am DAR
20 Easter 9:30 am Worship Sanctuary & Zoom Recording Available after noon 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Easter Brunch	21	22 6 pm Private Event	23 10 am Bible Study 4 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	24 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26
27 2 pm Pastor Sena's Installation (no 9:30 am Worship) Reception to Follow	28	29 6 pm Private Event	30 10 am Bible Study 4 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	Please submit your articles for the May 2025 newsletter by April 15. *The Council meeting minutes are available on the narthex bulletin board.		

April 27 - 2pm *
Pastor Sena Norton's Installation
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar Presiding
Reception follows • Color of the Day is Red
 *No 9:30 am worship service

Prince of Life
Lutheran Church
13896 Meyers Road
Oregon City, OR 97045



“The Way in the Wilderness”
by Chris Brazelton



**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*



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Website: www.princeoflife.org
E-mail: pllc@princeoflife.org
Pastor: Sena Norton
Director of Music Ministry: OPEN
Parish Administrator:
Edith Sanguinetti Alben
Council President: Bryan Bowyer

Follow Prince of Life on Social Media



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.