

The Good News

"To know the love of God in Jesus Christ, and to share that love through word and action."
August 2023

Pastor Robert's Reflections

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let

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Pause & Ponder Corner

Month-Long Opportunities to
Broaden Your Perspectives
By the POL Social Justice Committee

August is International Peace Month

August 6 and 9th. Remembering the detonation of two atomic bombs, killing 129,000---226,000 Japanese civilians. Debate still roils about the ethical and moral implications. August 29 is International Day Against Nuclear Tests (adopted unanimously by the U.N.)

Aug.12: **International Youth Day**- Did you know half the people on our planet are 30 or younger? More than two thirds (69%) of people across all age groups agree that more opportunities for younger people to have a say in policy development/change would make political systems better.

August 26: **Women's Equality Day** (U.S.) Commemorates the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment. States and the federal government are prohibited from denying a citizen's right to vote, based on gender. "Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women."---Maya Angelou

August 28: Fifty years ago, **Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I Have A Dream"** speech. It continues to ring in the heart. Read it here.

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/i-have-a-dream/>

In closing, take note of our place in the Universe with these amazing images of the birth of stars (captured by the Webb Space Telescope), and rest assured the Creator of all knows our problems and hears our prayers for our struggling world.

<https://jwst.nasa.gov/>

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anyone with ears listen!"-Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

This is one of those passages that bothers me a lot and I constantly find myself going back and looking at it because there are a few different ways to look at it. The typical Lutheran way of understanding this passage is to say that we are both weeds and wheat aka sinner and saint. This is based upon Martin Luther's idea that human beings are capable of not only terrible acts of cruelty and hate but also profound acts of love and care towards those around them. There is nothing wrong with that interpretation, I love it but I would like to look at it in a slightly different way.

Are there people in this world that are truly unredeemable? If so how should we as people react to them? As we have looked deeper and deeper into the study of the human mind we have deduced that there are human beings that could be considered evil, or at least manifest traits that make them unable to empathize with others and instead only look upon other people as things to manipulate and control.

Yet if we proclaim that there are people among us that are evil and therefore without redemption then we risk falling into the trap of casting judgment on others by giving ourselves an excuse to dismiss those whom we find unworthy of our attention.

Unfortunately throughout the history of the Christian Church, all the way up to today, there have been those who have used passages such as this to justify either casting out those who they disagree with, or passing judgment upon those who are different.

As a teenager I witnessed a pastor out a gay man in front of the entire congregation asking him to repent then and there. Feeling publicly humiliated the young man not only left the building but would subsequently denounce his Christian faith. During my Internship a man requested communion after beating his wife and child in front of several witnesses without remorse.

The pastor reluctantly gave the young man communion deciding that it was not up to him to pass judgment. One pastor took it upon himself

to serve as judge while another left that role to God.

Each of us is truly a unique child of God and each of us looks out at the world in our own unique way. This is something to be celebrated yet we are constantly putting each other into categories related to different degrees of right and wrong, based upon our own unique perspectives of what constitutes right and wrong.

As some of you may know, I was not always the nice little goody two shoes you see before you my past is a little more colorful. Yet am I pure evil? I don't think so.

In the same way I have known people throughout my life who were pretty bad when I met them yet ended up good, or were good when I met them then later did some pretty bad things based on my own perception of right and wrong. This could be said about most people depending upon when and how you met them. There are People who always did good and helped others, then one day turned selfish and destructive toward those around them, and people who lied and cheated then turned into honest and fair later in life. So how are we to judge who is truly evil?

In our Gospel lesson God promises us that in the end those who are evil will be separated from those who are good. As human beings we should recognize our limited abilities in perceiving the entirety of a person. For while we may be able to set up laws to punish people for their actions it is not our place to judge another person as evil, we can only see their actions not the entire person and trust that in the end just as the Gospel says those who are truly evil will be judged just as those who are not will be judged as well.

In the meantime the only thing we can control is ourselves and how we interact with the world around us, and we are called to interact with that world in a positive way.

Peace and Blessings

Pastor Robert

**Email Pastor Robert at
gumby523@yahoo.com**



Seeking Grant Recipients

Hello My Church Family,

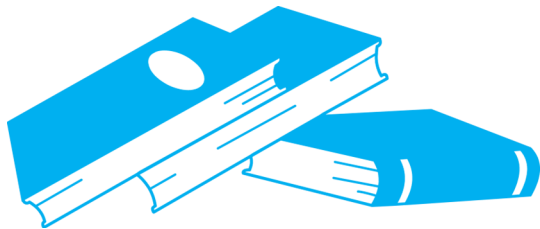
The Mission Endowment Committee is seeking applicants for grants for the year. Applications are due Sept. 1st.

Application forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you know of a ministry that is local, and in line with our mission encourage them to apply.

There is approximately \$1500 available in grant monies. We look for applicants that are within Prince of Life, the Oregon City area, Clackamas and the synod.

If you have any questions please contact a committee member:

James Tyler jgtbt2@gmail.com
 Sue Stark rockingcowgirl39@gmail.com
 Cathy Warner clwarner@bctonline.com
 Lyle Wiese pumptest@gmail.com



2024 Offering Envelopes

It's that time of year again for ordering next year's offering envelopes. You all have been great at using up all those old envelopes at home and church, and now is your opportunity to get your very own box complete with your very own identification number.

I plan to order boxes by mid-August for those members who used an offering envelope in the last two years. This saves ordering boxes that are not used. Of course, if any one would like a box who had not been using envelopes, please drop me a line and you will receive one.

I plan to change vendors this year as the one we had been using for years sort of left us in a bind last year.

If you want to make sure you receive a 2024 offering envelope box just drop a note with your name in my church mailbox or email me at the address below or call anytime.

Thank you for making our church community financially sound!

Dan Hughson, Financial Secretary
dhughson55@gmail.com 503-310-1016

New Church Directory

Members, please check your mailbox: Quarterly giving statements and our *New Church Directory* were printed and distributed recently.

Large-Print editions of our directory are available upon request. Contact Edith in the church office at PLLCC@PrinceofLife.org to request a large-print binder-sized version.

Edith's regular office hours are Tuesday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm. The office phone number is (503) 657-3100.



POL member Sarah Wheeler snapped this photo of her sons, Christopher and Nathan, in the our HOPE garden which their family helps to tend.

Congregational Photos

In this monthly newsletter, or on our new website, photos tell a story that words never can express.

What kind of photos?

Congregants worshiping and communing.

Musicians and others praising God with songs and hymns.

Fellowship at coffee hour, game night and other social events.

Volunteers working on Backpack Buddies, Start Right and our Hope Garden.

Email your photos to the church office at pllc@princeoflife.org

We appreciate your photos. All photos may not be able to be used or fitted into the new site.

Edith Sanguinetti Alben,
Prince of Life Office Coordinator

Hope Garden Happenings

Our goal is to grow, harvest and prepare the food for the Climate Cafe Kid's Kitchen Cafe event hosted by Prince of Life on September 23, 2023.

Volunteers are needed to join our Garden and Climate Cafe Kid's Kitchen Planning Team. Please contact Tyleen Conrow if you are interested. Email: tyleendream46@gmail.com or call/text 503-860-1438.

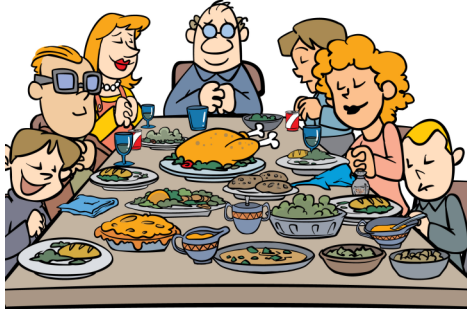
Climate Café Events

July 31-August 4 Harvesting at Acres of Abundant Grace, 7221 S. King Rd. in Canby

Saturday August 5, noon, Climate Café "Pop-up" at Cedar Hills UCC in SW Portland.

Check out our Website:
www.climatecafe.com

Fun, Fellowship and Ministry at Prince of Life



Another Congregational Potluck August 13

We are going to have another Sunday dinner (potluck) on August 13th right after church! Bring your favorite potluck dish and join us for fun and fellowship!

Questions: cindyborders24@gmail.com



Green Planet

Forest fires are on our minds this time of year. The planet is getting drier and hotter. Are wildfires inevitable? Are wildfires necessary? The attached article is one Oregon ecologist's take on the subject.

Wildfires aren't necessary': Ecologist promotes unconventional approach in Oregon
https://www.newsbreak.com/clackamas-county-or/3072922763456-wildfires-arent-necessary-ecologist-promotes-unconventional-approach-in-oregon?s=dmg_email_bucket_13.web2_fromweb?s=ws_em?s=ws_em

Take care of yourselves and our planet.

Love and protect our planet.

Peace,

Carol Bresky

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

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.



Child, Youth, and Family Service Committee

The big news this past month is that we learned that the Clackamas County Children's Commission (HeadStart) is still willing to explore the possibilities of partnership in building a childcare facility on our site. You'll remember last month that temporary use of our building for classes did not pan out.

A five-member group was able to meet with the Executive Director Darcee Kilsdonk on Zoom to confirm this and lay out next steps. This process is likely to take till 2025 to see construction start on our property. That would be if everything pans out.

First step is to nail down the building size possibilities and meet with the City of Oregon City Planning Department to see if they will allow it and make sure they will approve a zoning change for that building. The best person to do this is the contracted architect for HeadStart, Tim. He will solicit our help in doing this, but with his other projects for HeadStart, noticeable progress won't occur till September.

We have hope that this will continue to progress and we will keep you apprised of the progress.

New Clackamas County-Wide Community Planning Project

As a result of the CYF Committee's participation in the Clackamas County Childcare for All Coalition, we were approached to participate in the Clackamas County-Wide Community Planning Project sponsored by the Clackamas County Workforce Partnership.

Our CYF Committee and Council President John Mohlis agreed that this was a good thing to do, so the information about the project was forwarded to the POL Church Council ahead of their scheduled 7/2023 meeting. The Church Council approved our participation and agreed to have Janet Mann serve as POL representative, with no decision-making authority for our congregation. The Church Council will make the ongoing decisions about our participation in the project.

What is this? The Clackamas Workforce Partnership is not part of the county government. Clackamas Workforce Partnership a non-governmental, non-profit that receives and disperses funding from the Federal Government for Workforce Development in Clackamas County. They have a board made up of community volunteers that oversees this process and supervises the disbursement and use of funds to accomplish their goals. Clackamas

Community College, apprenticeship programs, and various other groups actually receive and use the funds.

As part of the process, they need to survey the needs in the community every 3 years. This time, Bridget Dazey, their Executive Director, decided it would be a good idea for all groups that do the same surveying for their own programs collaborate on the surveying. Then, each group will take the information gathered and use it to develop their own plans.

In our case, we need to know what all our community members are happy about or concerned about to develop our plans for ongoing mission. We have done this on our own before with varying results. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone help in the information gathering? This means one person helps with this other group instead of our forming an active committee at Prince of Life when we are focused on getting a permanent pastor.

What you will see sometime between October and January is a survey to fill out on what you love about our broader community (not Prince of Life), what needs to be changed, and what do you need now.

August Celebrations! Birthdays

- 1 Melissa Martenson, Colin Bowyer
- 3 Paul Rickey
- 6 Suzanne Wood
- 7 Kyle Anderson, Tanner Brady,
Margaret Bowyer & Raymond Renken
- 8 Jim Dahl, Derek Kruse
- 9 Susan Thornhill
- 10 Todd Greiser, Wayne Wilson
- 11 Jonathan Reno, Nathan Reno
- 15 Scott Salter, Kim Tambling,
Ryane Wiese, Richard Sternberg
- 16 Aaron Vaca
- 17 Bennett Moran-Brown
- 19 Nancy Jacobson
- 23 Christopher Wheeler, Dona Williams
- 24 Clara Neubert
- 25 Sue Stark
- 27 Debra Daniels, Randall Wood
- 28 Shannon Murphy
- 29 Clyde Tambling, Lennie Torgerson
- 31 Ashlii Szocinski

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Sally & Scott Worthge
- 12 Ariane & Andrew Telligman
- 19 Mary Jo & James Tyler
Denise & Karen Menke-Bowers
- 23 Sandy and Arnie Anderson
- 24 Sharon & Wayne Wilson

God's blessings on your special day!

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
Oregon City, Oregon
Website: www.princeoflife.org

PO Box 264
Phone: 503-657-3100
E-mail: pllc@princeoflife.org

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

August Sermon Scriptures

August 6, 2023

Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2023

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2023

Genesis 45:1-15,
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2023

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Matthew 16:13-20

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.

August 2023 Calendar

For the most up-to-date calendar information,
visit our website: www.princeoflifelutheran.com.
You'll find our current calendar at the bottom of the page.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Please submit your articles for the September newsletter by August 15.		1 11 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Girl Scouts	2 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	3 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4	5
						
6 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour	7 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	8 11 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg.	9 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	10 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11 6 pm Scrap-Booking	12 9 am Scrap-booking
13 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Congregational Potluck 2 pm Girl Scouts	14 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	15 11 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am Material Girls Quilt Group Noon Retired Men's Lunch @ Wichita Pub 5 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Child, Youth & Family Service Com. On Zoom	16 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	17 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters Noon Backpack Buddies 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	18	19
						
20 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour	21 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scout Event	22 11 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Girl Scouts	23 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	24 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26
27 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Coffee Hour	28 4:30 Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Girl Scout Event	29 11 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Girl Scouts	30 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm Addiction Recovery	31 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts		

Borrowing Church Furnishings?

Now that we can comfortably gather together again, many church members are once again borrowing chairs or tables to use for their home events.

When borrowing these items, please use the clipboard above the chair rack by the back door to let us know who has what and when it will be returned.



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



Currently the most needed items at our local Food Pantry are:

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 food donations to church and put them in our shopping cart, next to the lift.



HELPING
OTHER
PEOPLE
EAT