

# The Good News

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

October 2023

## **Pastor Robert's Reflections**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In February of 2022 I was reminded of just how much things have changed in Portland over the last couple of decades. I moved away from Portland in the summer of 2005 and the city I left was very different than the one that I had now returned to. Over the 17 years that I was away I had visited the Portland area many times, often two or three times a year, but when visiting I wasn't able to fully comprehend just how much the area was changing.

As I was growing up in the Willamette valley, I recognized the various changes that were occurring as the population grew, new industries moved in, and how technology was gradually changing the way we lived. Yet nothing prepared me for just how different things were when we moved back here after being gone for so long. It was a stark reminder that the world is changing, because not only had things changed here, but things were also changing in Madison, WI where we had just spent the last seven years.

Meanwhile I was getting continuous reports and essays regarding just how much the ELCA and other church bodies had changed and were changing. When we look out and see all the changes around us it's easy for us to blame it upon the pandemic, yet when we reflect back, we see that many of the changes we are experiencing now were present before the pandemic. It's just that the events of the last couple of years have accelerated things that were already in motion, particularly around technology, human behavioral patterns, and how we process and disseminate information.

While I may not be able to fully comprehend what the long-term effects of this social change are, I

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## **News from the Call Committee**

Thank you for your continued prayers and patience. We remain faithful to the process and are getting closer to being ready to accept candidate names.

We've met with Rev. Melissa Reed, Associate of the Bishop. She assures us that she will bring names when the time is right. Hopefully mid to late October. We must remind you that this doesn't instantly mean we'll have a new pastor in November or even December. Interviews (at least two), scheduling travel if a candidate is out of town, etc. takes time. And, this committee still has more work to do.

Leaning on the Holy Spirit to show us the way.

Bev Spilseth, Chair  
Sarah Wheeler, Kevin Hormann, Julie Schedler, Kay O'Dea, Joyce Johnson

## **Temple Talk October 1st. Mission Endowment Fund**

On Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> Beth Adams, Gift Planner-ELCA Foundation, will give a brief presentation at the end of our service on the benefits of our membership in the Mission Growth Fund. Beth Adams is our area contact with the foundation in the Northwest Region which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

*James Tyler*

Chair Mission Endowment Fund Committee

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have done a little bit of research on churches and their historical patterns.

In 2012 Phyllis Tickle published "The Great Emergence" a book about how the church is changing. The thesis of this seminal work is centered around the idea that about every five hundred years the church goes through a foundational shift and we can see this throughout the history of the Christian church. It begins around 500CE when Constantine made the Christian church the official church of Rome forever changing its identity as a minority belief system within the Roman empire to the dominant faith in Western Civilization.

Around 1000CE the Western Roman Catholic church and the Eastern Orthodox church officially split creating two distinct branches of Christianity. Around 1500CE we have the Protestant Reformation which set up the wildly divided Christian church that we live in today.

In 2012 Phyllis Tickle recognized that the Christian church was changing and that the church our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents had grown up in was quickly fading away and something else was growing up in its place. Recent events, especially around the pandemic, have caused an acceleration of patterns that were already in motion over a decade ago.

This leaves us with the question, What is going to happen next? Churches no longer hold that central spot in the community that they once held as recently as 20 years ago. Yet this does not mean that the church is dying, yes in general churches are losing members but what we are also seeing is that those who are attracted to churches are far more dedicated to their faith and are not just there because society expects them to be.

Denominational lines are starting to gradually break down as more and more churches are deciding to share communion and pastors with each other. Unfortunately what we are also seeing is a division growing along political lines with churches aligning themselves with the left or the right as more and more social issues are

turning into political issues.

Today we are seeing a trend amongst most people under the age of 40 that provides a lot of hope moving forward. Most people in this demographic have a strong pull to be part of something that they know makes a difference, and are more dedicated to community service than previous generations.

This trend is something that churches can help facilitate since we preach a Gospel that helps remind people that they are part of something bigger, now we just need to make sure that our actions back up our words. We live in a world where words are everywhere, in order to inspire people we must also continue to put those words into action, and to find new ways to serve our neighbors.

Prince of Life has been through a lot these past few years, and I wish I could tell you that all your troubles are over and that everything moving forward is going to be absolutely perfect and everyone is going to be perfectly happy.

What I can say is that I see a community on the cusp of what could be a great new chapter in the life of a truly dynamic and loving community. The people I have met here over this past year are gifted in many different and amazing ways.

What you choose to do with these amazing gifts and this wonderful space, is up to you and I challenge you to continue stepping out of your comfort zone in order to discover where God is leading you next. Things may not be as they once were, but that does not mean that the future is something to fear, it just means that God has new and wonderful things in store for this beautiful and dynamic community.

Peace and blessings

*Pastor Robert*

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



# SON

## Supporting Our Neighbors

“SON program now stands for “**Supporting** Our Neighbors.” It has been decided by the four churches, to change the terminology since we no longer shelter the families.

SON will start at Prince of Life on October 30 delivering meals three times a week for two weeks to four families, as we have done in the past. I will be looking for volunteers to make/deliver meals, and as always I am grateful for your help.

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

## 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](http://www.princeoflife.org)

E-mail: [pllc@princeoflife.org](mailto:pllc@princeoflife.org)

Interim Pastor Robert Neubert

Director of Music Ministry: Jesse Cook

Office Coordinator: Edith Sanguinetti Alben

Council President: John Mohlis



Here in your church office, I'm always on the lookout for new messages for the sign out front.

Messages must be brief due to space limitations. People driving past have only a few seconds to glance at our message. What can we say to inspire, encourage and engage passersby?

Email me at [PLLC@PrinceofLife.org](mailto:PLLC@PrinceofLife.org)  
Or drop a note in the box on my office door.

*Edith Sanguinetti Alben*  
PLLC Office Coordinator

## Do you have an “Eye for Errors?” Join our proof-reading team!

Contents of our monthly newsletter comes from a variety of sources. Often, circumstances beyond the control of our contributors results in very late submission of articles, leaving scant time to format and proof the newsletter. But these articles are important and need to be in the newsletter, so I make time to fit them in at the last minute.

That is where our proofreading team come beside me to help. Before printing I email our team with a PDF of the newsletter. Each person proofs the newsletter and replies to my email with corrections. Each member of my team finds different errors, highlighting the value of working together.

If you would like to join the team, email me at: [PLLC@PrinceofLife.org](mailto:PLLC@PrinceofLife.org)

Thanks for your help!

*Edith* (POL Office Coordinator)

# Fun and Fellowship at Prince of Life

## All-Church Potluck

Our potlucks have been such a wonderful time to gather and have fellowship! We will continue to have them, so get out your cookbooks and casserole dishes! Our next potluck will be on Sunday, October 8th.

## 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.

## GAME NIGHT

## Game Night October 20th

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, October 20th, at 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. See you then!

Questions: [cindyborders24@gmail.com](mailto:cindyborders24@gmail.com)

"For where two or three are  
gathered in my name,  
I am there among them"  
*Matthew 18:20*



## Trunk or Treat

October is Halloween and we are going to have Trunk or Treat again this year on October 29, from 1-4.

We need people with decorated cars to hand out candy to our neighbors, friends and family.

A sign up board will be in the Narthex on October 1.

## Coming in November

November is a month of thanksgiving and blessings. On November 12, we will be having a special potluck and take time to honor our veterans, in our congregation and our extended families. November 11 is Veterans' Day, the day we honor former active duty service members who are still alive.

To celebrate this, if you are a veteran or have a veteran in your family or friends, we would like to make a display honoring them for our November 12, potluck. Some suggestions: a photo of the veteran, a short blurb about their service, branch, when they served, what their job was, years of service.

The November 12 potluck will also be about blessings ahead of Thanksgiving.

## Climate Café's Kid's Kitchen

Climate Café's Kids Kitchen inaugural meal and program was a great success. Thirty-one folks—young and old—partook of the low carbon footprint meal that was lovingly planted, harvested, prepared and served by children and families from several local churches. This was followed by a participatory program instigated by the youth.

This event took place in the context of a gift economy, where those who could afford more donated more, to pay-it-forward, so that others might enjoy the high quality organically, regeneratively, and locally grown produce that formed the basis of the meal. We believe that simply by changing the way we produce and consume our food will go a long way towards addressing the climate crisis that our world is facing.

While waiting for all to be seated, participants were invited to write a "love letter" to the future. Then, the young people who worked hard and long on this project introduced themselves and shared why they



felt it was important to be involved in a venture such as Climate Café. Those assembled shared aloud a Celtic "Rune of Hospitality" as a blessing. The menu itself started off with a mindful dish, that held a sprig of mint, an edible flower, a slice of cucumber, and a grape grown locally. Folks were encouraged to take their time to ruminate and savor the flavors.

The menu itself included a delicious fresh tomato soup, zucchini pizza rounds made with sunflower cheese and topped with basil and cherry tomatoes. Rutabaga "fries" (baked) and kale chips made with filbert, rosemary, lemon and miso were also on the main plate. Recently pressed apple juice and filtered water were the drinks, and all was topped off by a slice of "Mom's No-Bake Apple Pie" made the evening before.



Next came the program. A lament to the earth was sung, followed by a more hopeful sing-along for inspiration. Each youth leader then addressed their own sense of the current climate crisis our earth is facing. An inflatable globe which depicted the earth as it is, without boundaries, was tossed into the assembled group, and each person around the table shared something about their concern for the environment and their hope for the future. To close, everyone was invited to make a large circle while holding on to a rainbow scarf that was big enough to include everyone.



We were able to share a vision and activate a model of potential transformation, for the grave planetary situation we face. May we ALL come together to create that needed difference—for the Love of All Creation!

*Bonnie Cochise*



## **Child, Youth, and Family Service Committee**

We have eight Prince of Life members committed to representing us at the Head Start Clackamas County Children's Commission '**Chairs for Children**' Celebration on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Half are from our regular committee attendees and half from other members interested in Head Start. I'm proud that we have such varied participation.

I had contact with Darcee, director at ClackCoKids (what The Clackamas County Children's Commission calls themselves; think I will start using that title) yesterday. They are delayed in having their contract architect work on exploring our project. To give you an idea about how busy they are, they still don't have an occupancy permit for the Head Start program at Milwaukie Presbyterian despite working on that renovation for the past 18 months to 2 years! Teachers are hired and the kids are picked out and waiting. They have 4-5 inspectors from various agencies to view and approve it yet. ClackCoKids has been really busy this past month. They hired 47 new staff members this summer. For us, we need to practice patience over the long term.

I attended the Clackamas County Childcare for All visioning and planning all-day retreat during September. We developed 4 goals for the next 3-5 years that include WorkForce, Advocacy, Engagement, and Access.

Since ESD has programs in place to keep Access moving (working with new and existing providers and telephone connection between providers and families looking for providers) along during the next year, the Teams are going to focus on Advocacy (governmental bodies and representatives), Engagement (the general public in Clackamas County), and WorkForce (increasing and supporting qualified childcare workers) during this next year. I will be working with the Engagement Team.

If you have questions or would like to learn more details, don't hesitate to talk to me or any of our regular committee members including Rebecca Harms, Judy Cook, Sue Robinson, Kay O'Dea, Nick Dierckman, Annie Sakaguchi, and Bev Spilseth.

*Janet Mann,*  
Chair



# HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EAT

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.

## 2023 Project Start Right

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!  
As we wrap up this year's endeavor, our Start Right Project Committee wants to thank all of you for your support and encouragement.

With the amazing help of many volunteers and financial gifts, 1425 supply packs were assembled with basic school supplies, beginning with kindergarten and going through high school. These packs were delivered on August 17th to agencies in Clackamas County that distributed them to students and their families who needed assistance.

This ministry is made possible by the gifts of time, money and prayer support of so many people in churches, businesses and residence facilities throughout our area, including our congregation. We pray that the supplies that were packed and delivered have become a blessing to the students and families that received them and helped the students *start* their school year *right*.

Planning has begun for the 2024-2025 school year project. We look forward to your participation!

In appreciation,  
Lori Downs, Cheryl Kelly, Kristen Paschall, Julie Schedler, Bev Spilseth, Mary Swanson, Pauline Vorderstrasse, Nancy Wheeler, and Lyle Wiese



At our monthly Pub Talk we will hear from representative from the Oregon Synod of the ELCA.

Join us on Zoom at 7 pm on October 25th. Watch for the link in the weekly email.



## 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](mailto:bowyermk@yahoo.com) 503-913-2678

Dear Quiltmakers,

I wish I could personally thank the person who made the beautiful passage quilt that was given to my mother shortly before she passed away on June 25th. The quilt had her favorite spring colors in it and it made her smile. I brought the quilt home after she passed and will keep it forever.

Thank you for making the quilt and for the good work you do. You are very much appreciated and blessed.

At a challenging time, your quilt made all the difference!

*Amy Johnson.*

(Daughter of Wilma Doll)

## October Celebrations!

### Birthdays

- 3 Becky Linke  
 5 Patrice Neubert, David Stark  
 6 Melissa Suzanne Sustello-Borders  
 8 Juliann Ellsworth, Lillian Hulett  
 9 Ryan Phillips  
 10 Julius Sandmann  
 11 Abby Thornhill  
 12 Pauline Vorderstrasse, Soraya Morgan  
 13 Ainsley Buchanan  
 15 Ed Minster, Mary Swanson,  
 18 Hanna Kruse, Doug Wood  
 19 Carol Bresky, Ann Buck,  
 Pastor Robert Neubert  
 20 Irma Peterson  
 22 Trevor Haunschild  
 26 Yvonne Sawtell  
 27 Joe Sawtell

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 27 Brett and Mary Wilson

**God's blessings on your special day!**

## October Sermon Scriptures

October 1

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15—2:10]; 3:1-15  
 Mark 12:26-27a

October 8

19th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9  
 Mark 12:28-31

October 15

20th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]  
 Mark 3:33-35

October 22

21st Sunday after Pentecost  
 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5;  
 Psalm 150  
 Mark 11:8-10

October 29

22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29  
 Mark 10:42-45

## Green Planet



How do we tackle the problem of plastic pollution? It seems overwhelming, doesn't it? The following video has some great ideas about what can be done and what is already being done around the world to help solve this global challenge.

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/can-the-circular-economy-solve-our-plastics-problem>

Be kind to each other and our planet earth.  
 Peace,

*Carol Bresky*



# October 2023 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed.	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Confirmation Class @ POL	<b>2</b> 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>3</b> 11 am Staff Mtg. 7 pm Worship Committee	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	<b>5</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 11 am All Church Potluck 11:30 Confirmation Class @ POL 2 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>9</b> 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>10</b> 11 am Staff Mtg. 4 pm Mission Endowment Com. 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm Property Committee Mtg. 7 Council Mtg	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	<b>12</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 12:30 <i>Oregon City Women's Club</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>13</b> 6 pm Scrap-Booking	<b>14</b> 9 am Scrap-book
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Confirmation Class @Zion	<b>16</b> 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i>	<b>19</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Game Night	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Confirmation Class @Zion	<b>23</b> 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>24</b> 11 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Music Rehearsal 6:30 pm <i>Addiction Recovery</i> 7pm Pub Talk on Zoom	<b>26</b> 9 am Peace by Piece Quilters 10 am <i>Backpack Buddies</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Sanctuary, Zoom & Parking Lot Worship Recorded Worship Available after noon 9:10:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Confirmation Class @Zion 1 pm Trunk or Treat	<b>30</b> 4:30 <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i>	<b>31</b> 11 am Staff Mtg.	<b>For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit our website: <a href="http://www.princeoflifelutheran.com">www.princeoflifelutheran.com</a>. You'll find our current calendar at the bottom of the page.</b>  Please submit your articles for the November newsletter by October 15.			

## Confirmation Class Schedule for October

October 1	11:30	POL	Ten commandments
October 8	11:30	POL	Ten commandments
October 22	11:30	WLLC	Ten commandments
October 29	11:30	WLLC	Luther & the reformation



Prince of Life Lutheran Church  
PO Box 264  
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***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.*

